

Course Information for AFA 2000: Introduction to African American Studies

Instructor: Crystal A. Felima, PHD | felima@ufl.edu



Course Description: The experience of Africans in America and the Diaspora is broad and deep. The study of that experience will be examined, beginning in Africa, the birthplace of civilization and humanity and will extend to the history of blacks in America. We will learn the historical and political origins and objectives of African American Studies and the early objectives of African American Studies in relation to the present goals of social justice. This class aims to explore the African American experience through an interdisciplinary approach—we will consider political, cultural, economic, artistic and social themes that illustrate the influence of the construction of African American realities in the past and present. Class sessions will be composed of lectures, discussions, exercises, film screenings including *Ethnic Notions* (1986) and *Slavery by Another Name* (2008), historical archives, and textual analysis. During the semester, think critically, ask questions, engage in productive conversations, read academic and cultural texts, and survey U.S. history and your everyday life through the framework provided by African American Studies. At the conclusion of the course, you will submit a writing assignment that highlights a topic of the African American experience by using ideas, concepts, and theories from Black scholars and/or Black intellectuals.

Student Learning Goals:

- 1) Obtain a general introduction to the origins of African American Studies
- 2) Identify theories and theorists of African American Studies
- 3) Demonstrate an understanding of basic concepts common in discourse about African Americans that includes beliefs, cultures and conditions
- 4) Be able to summarize a general historical overview of the history of African Americans
- 5) Explain some of the contemporary socio-cultural issues facing African Americans
- 6) Develop critical analysis and research skills

Required Course Textbook:

Franklin, John Hope and Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham. (2011). [*From Slavery to Freedom: A History of African Americans*](#) (9th Ed.). New York, NY: McGraw Hill. Book on (2 Hour) Reserve at Library West.

COURSE OUTLINE FOR INTRODUCTION TO AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES***Reading is found on Canvas, In the *File” tab*****This schedule is subjected to change.***

Schedule	Weekly Readings
Week 1: Introduction	Introduction of the Syllabus, Course Expectations and African American Studies
Week 2: Ancestral Africa and Africans in the New World	Chapters 1 and 2 Link: " The Atlantic Slave Trade in Two Minutes "
Week 3: The Institution of Slavery	Chapters 3 and 4
Week 4: The Paradox of Slavery	Chapters 5 Thomas Jefferson, "Notes on the State of Virginia" (Excerpt) Frederick Douglass - "What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?" (1852)
Week 5: The American Republic	Chapter 6
Week 6: The South and Antebellum	Chapters 7 and 8
Week 7: Abolitionism and the Civil War	Chapters 9 and 10
Week 8: Reconstruction	Chapter 11
Week 9: The Color Line	Chapter 12
Week 10: Self-Help and Democracy	Chapters 13 and 14
Week 11: Protest and the Arts	Chapters 15 and 16
Week 12: The New Deal & Double V	Chapters 17 and 18
Week 13: American Dilemmas	Chapter 19 and 20
Week 14: Black Power	Chapters 21 The Black Panther Party for Self-Defense Ten-Point Platform and Program
Week 15: The Present	Chapters 22 and 23
Week 16: Recap	Last Day of Class