

**African American Studies Senior Integrative Seminar (AFA 4936)**  
**Section 23466**  
**Fall 2019**

**Professor Rik Stevenson, PhD**  
**Visiting Assistant Professor of African American Studies**  
**University of Florida**

**Contact Information:**

**Office Hours: Tuesday 2:00-3:00 & Thursday 2:00-3:00**

**Office:** 63 Dauer Hall

**Meets in: McCarthy Hall B Room G086**

**Office number:**

**Email address:** [rstevenson2@ufl.edu](mailto:rstevenson2@ufl.edu)

**Class Meeting Times:**

**Tuesdays** 11:45am-1:40pm **McCarty B G086**

**Thursdays** 12:50pm -1:40pm **McCarty B G086**

**Course Description:** This interdisciplinary class is the African American Studies capstone that fulfills partial requirements for the African American Studies minor and/or major. This is a research intensive course that requires students to complete papers and a major research project. The course also seeks to develop in students an ability to apply concepts, methodology, and theories from more than one discipline in examining the issues, problems, and experiences of people of African descent in the Americas. During each class session, we will read scholarly articles that can be used as a format for writing the final paper. **This class fulfills requirements for social and behavioral sciences and the 6,000 word writing requirement.**

**General Education Objectives (Social and Behavioral Sciences):**

Social and behavioral sciences courses (S) provide instruction in the history, key themes, principles, terminology, theories, and methodologies of social and behavioral science disciplines. First, students learn to identify and to analyze social institutions, structures or processes. Second, social and behavioral sciences courses emphasize critical thinking by requiring that students use both qualitative or quantitative methods to understand the reasoning behind individual and group decisions in society. Finally, these courses emphasize communication skills because students learn to communicate their knowledge, thoughts and reasoning clearly and effectively.

The interdisciplinary African American Studies Senior Integrative Seminar course will meet these objectives by allowing students to learn and analyze research theories, issues, and methodologies in several social and behavioral sciences disciplines such as African American Studies, Criminal Justice, History, Education, Political Science, Public Health, Religion, Sociology, Urban Studies, and Women's Studies.

## General Education Student Learning Outcomes

Subject Area	Content	Critical Thinking	Communication
Social and Behavioral Sciences	<p>Identify, describe, and explain key themes, principles, and terminology; the history, theory and/or methodologies used; and social institutions, structures and processes.</p> <p>Students will identify, describe, and explain the history of the African American Studies discipline, theories and methodologies that have been used in African American Studies research.</p> <p>Achievement of this learning outcome will be assessed by student performance on short papers, a final original research project, a oral history project, and a digital assignment. The instructor will provide written feedback on these assignments throughout the course of the semester.</p>	<p>Apply formal and informal qualitative or quantitative analysis effectively to examine the processes and means by which individuals make personal and group decisions. Assess and analyze ethical perspectives in individual and societal decisions.</p> <p>Students will study articles that use both quantitative and qualitative research methodologies to examine the individual and group decisions made by African American citizens. They will examine ethical perspectives when issues such as racial microaggressions, interracial dating, and lgbtq issues. When discussing these issues, students will examine whether the views of African Americans and compare them to the views of other races of people.</p> <p>Achievement of this learning outcome will be assessed by student performance on their assigned date as the discussion leader and during class discussions in which they read and analyze interdisciplinary articles that are written by several African American Studies' scholars.</p>	<p>Communicate knowledge, thoughts and reasoning clearly and effectively.</p> <p>Students will communicate knowledge, thoughts, and reasoning clearly and effectively in forms appropriate to the subject area of African American Studies in directed classroom discussions.</p> <p>This learning outcome will be assessed through the instructor's formal observation of student discussions in the classroom. Second, at the end of the semester, students will present information from their final research project in a power point presentation.</p>

## Writing Requirement Rubric

The Writing Requirement (WR) ensures that students both maintain their fluency in writing and use writing as a tool to facilitate learning scholarship production.

Course grades have two components. To receive writing requirement credit, a student must receive a grade of C or higher and a satisfactory evaluation on the writing requirements of the course. The instructor will evaluate and provide feedback, on all written assignments with respect to grammar, punctuation, clarity, coherence, and organization.

Successful completion of these requirements will result in the student learning outcomes listed below.

	<b>SATISFACTORY (Y)</b>	<b>UNSATISFACTORY (N)</b>
<b>CONTENT</b>	Papers exhibit at least some evidence of ideas that respond to the topic with complexity, critically evaluating and synthesizing sources, and provides at least an adequate discussion with a basic understanding of the sources.	Papers either include a central idea(s) that is unclear or off- topic or provide only minimal or inadequate discussion of ideas. Papers may also lack sufficient or appropriate sources.
<b>ORGANIZATION AND COHERENCE</b>	Documents should include an outline. The paragraphs should exhibit at least some identifiable structure for topics. In the introduction, a clear thesis statement and research question(s) must be included. Each section of the paper should address the research question(s) and thesis statement. The conclusion ,should tie the previous information together and offer further research ideas.	Documents and paragraphs lack clearly identifiable organization, a thesis statement, and clear research questions. Sections of the paper fail to adequately answer the research question(s) and thesis statement.
<b>ARGUMENT AND SUPPORT</b>	Other scholarly sources, papers and written data should support the student’s argument(s).	Assignments include less credible (non-academic) sources. Student fails to include references to sources to support his/her argument.
<b>STYLE</b>	Documents use a writing style with word choice appropriate to the context, genre, and discipline. Sentences should display complexity and logical sentence structure.	Documents rely on word usage that is inappropriate for the context, genre, or discipline. Sentences may be overly long or short with awkward construction.
<b>MECHANICS</b>	Papers will feature correct or error-free presentation of ideas with few or no spelling, grammatical, and punctuation errors.	Papers contain many mechanical or grammatical errors and is poorly written.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY & CITATIONS

Should follow MLA or Chicago Style citations. See Kate Turabian for instructions.

### Required Text

McDougal, Serie III *Research Methods in Africana Studies Revised Edition*, Peter Lang Inc., 2017.

## Assignment Evaluation and Descriptions

Assignment	Percent of Grade
1) Attendance /Participation	20%
2) 4 Short Papers (worth 5% each)	20%
3) Content Analysis & Oral History Presentation	10%
4) Research Paper	40%
5) Paper Presentation	10%

### Attendance Policy and Missed Work

After three unexcused classes are missed, you will not receive the percentage points for class participation (and will not have the option of submitting an optional paper). It is your responsibility to sign the attendance roster that will be given out at the beginning of each class session. If you forget to, sign it during the next class. Also, try to get to class on time. The policy for missed work in this class is consistent with the university's policy (<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>).

### Class Participation and the Optional Paper Assignment

We will discuss a number of issues pertaining to African Americans and the discipline of African American Studies during the course of the semester. I understand that some students are more comfortable participating in class discussions than others but we will all have an opportunity of offer input.

If you participate verbally (or attempt to and I don't call on you for some reason), email me on the day that you've participated so that I can keep a record of it.

### Four Short Papers

Write a two page paper on the four topics below. In the paper summarize the main points the paper. Critique the methodology and explain why you think this method was successful. Your

paper will be graded on the basis of your knowledge of the video the author(s) support his/her arguments well? Your analysis should examine how these data have affected African American Studies and people of African descent socially.

**The first paper is due September 12<sup>th</sup>.** Write a 2 page paper on Film "Timbuktu Saving the World's Oldest Library." ( <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4pJTaiev8k&t=5s>)

**The second paper is due October 3<sup>rd</sup>.** Write a 2 page paper on "Black History before Slavery." (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1LRZjwCINy>)

**The third paper is due November 7<sup>th</sup>.** Write a 2 page paper on "Without Sanctuary." Please discuss the role of media and photography as means of collecting historical data. (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dGrXCOIx6QQ>)

**The fourth is due November 28<sup>th</sup>.** Write a 2 page paper "RECONSTRUCTION: America After The Civil War, Reconstruction Part 1." (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TiXxQpBLMuk>) Please emphasize how The Reconstruction affected the way history has been written and how it must now be written.

## One Oral History Assignment

Submit an approximately 4-6 page typed, double-spaced paper. In the paper, first, refer to the "Oral History and Qualitative Research" reading, and explain the benefits of using oral history research. What steps need to be taken to conduct an effective oral history interview? Second, what five oral interviews did you listen to? What did you learn from them? What additional questions could the interviewer have asked, if any? (<https://memory.loc.gov/mss/mesn/111/111.pdf>) **The assignment is due on October 31st.**

## Final Research Paper

Your paper must be an original research project and be a minimum of 8-12 pages of text, and a bibliography page. During each class session, we will discuss articles and book chapters that address a number of issues of concern to African Americans and the manner in which they are historically represented. These readings and lectures will give you ideas about possible topics, research questions, theoretical frameworks, outlines and methods for writing your paper. **The final paper is due October 24<sup>th</sup>.**

## Presentations

Beginning on **October 3rd**, each student must give an approximately 3-5 minute power-point presentation. In the presentation, describe your research topic, explain its significance to the discipline of African American Studies, provide a literature review, and explain the methods you used to acquire and analyze your sources. We will go in alphabetical order and you will receive

a zero if you are not prepared to give your presentation when your name is called. There will be three presentations per class until all have presented.

### **Grading Scale:**

94-100	A	90-93	A-	87-89	B+	84-86	B	80-83	B-	77-79	C+
74-76	C	70-73	C-	67-69	D+	64-66	D	60-63	D-	Below 60	E

A C- will not be a qualifying grade for major, minor, Gen Ed, Gordon Rule or College Basic Distribution credit.

### **Academic Dishonesty:**

Academic dishonesty includes plagiarism and cheating on examinations. The penalty for cheating is a grade of 0 on the assignment. In addition, the Dean of Student's office may choose to administer a harsher punishment such as a temporary suspension from this class or a permanent expulsion from the university.

### **Classroom Behavior (Cell Phones and Laptops):**

In the past, several of my students have forgotten to turn off their cell phones in class. *I am asking you to please turn off your phones before our class begins.* Remember, a student who takes his/her work seriously will make sure that his/her phone is off during class meetings.

Also, if you engage in behavior such as texting, browsing the internet, sleeping, loud yawning, or any other behavior that I consider to be disrespectful to me or to your classmates, you may not receive all of the percentage points for class participation. I expect you to pay attention at all times in class especially when films are shown. You do not have my permission to do the work in your other classes when films are shown. If I find out that you're doing this, I have the right to deduct points from your participation grade.

### **Disabilities Statement:**

Students requiring accommodations must first register with the Dean of Student's office, Disability Resource Center. The Dean of Student's office will provide documentation, which the student will then give to the instructor. For more information, see [HTTP://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc)

## Class Schedule:

Date	Lecture Topic	Flash Assignment	Vocabulary	Reading Assignment	Written Assignment	Due Date
8/22/19	Introduction to class & each other.		Tehuti, Sesh, Diaspora, Afrocentricity, Dr. Molefi Asante, Interdisciplinary, Timbuktu, W.E.B. DuBois	Read Chapter 1 of McDougal	Locate two different types of research methods identify the one or two you might use in paper.	8/27/19
8/27/19	What is the Relationship between, Race, Research and African American Studies?		Tradition, Authority, Common Sense, News & Media, Selective Observation.	Chapter 1 of McDougal, Con't.	Research methods identification.	8/27/19
8/29/19	Con't What is the Relationship between, Race, Research and African American Studies?		Epistemology, Race, Racism, White Supremacy Exegetical, Hermeneutic	McDougal, Ch.2		9/3/19

Date	Lecture Topic	Flash Assignment	Vocabulary	Reading Assignment	Written Assignment	Due Date
9/3/2019 No Class	Methodology in African Studies research & Outline, Development		Paradigm & Paradigm Shifts	McDougal, Ch. 2 Begin discussion on Ch.2	Write a brief discourse on (2) of the 9 paradigms mentioned.	9/5/19
9/5/19	Discuss Chapter 2	Discuss the reading		Discuss the reading	Discuss the reading	Discuss the reading
9/10/19	The Afro-centric paradigm	Developing the Outline	Watch: The Doll Test.	Chapter 2 p.37	In class writing assignment	In class writing assignment
9/12/19	Discuss the reading.	Discuss the reading			Discuss the reading	
9/17/19	Reaffirmation Recommitment and Renewal of Africana Studies.	Your assignment due next Tuesday, September 17th 2019. Please be able to discuss briefly what you intend to research and write about? Note that starting in October, you are required to make a presentation of your research paper before the class.	<b>Research papers proposal are due.</b>	AFRICANA STUDIES AT 40: REAFFIRMATION, RECOMMITMENT AND RENEWAL: <a href="http://www.us-organization.org/position/documents/AfricanaStudiesat40.pdf">http://www.us-organization.org/position/documents/AfricanaStudiesat40.pdf</a>	Read the article and write a 1 page summary	9/19/19
9/19/19	Discuss the reading			Discuss the reading	Discuss the reading	

<b>Date</b>	<b>Lecture Topic</b>	<b>Flash Assignment</b>	<b>Vocabulary</b>	<b>Reading Assignment</b>	<b>Written Assignment</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
9/24/19	REAFFIRMATION, RECOMMITMENT AND RENEWAL of Africana Studies. Con't.			AFRICANA STUDIES AT 40: REAFFIRMATION, RECOMMITMENT AND RENEWAL: <a href="http://www.us-organization.org/position/documents/AfricanaStudiesat40.pdf">http://www.us-organization.org/position/documents/AfricanaStudiesat40.pdf</a>	Con,t.Read the article and write a 1 page summary	
9/26/19	Discuss the reading	Discuss the reading		Discuss the reading	Discuss the reading	
10/1/19	Library Day			Library Day		Library Day
10/3/19	Discuss the reading			Ch.2 ,p.47-68 Applying Theory to Social Phenomena.	Discuss the reading	
10/8/19	Research Presentations begin.			Research Presentations begin.		
10/10/19	Discuss the reading			Ch.2 ,p.47-68 Applying Theory to Social Phenomena.	Discuss the reading	
10/15/19	Ch.3, Ethics in Research. P.80			Ch.3, Ethics in Research. P.80		10/17/19
10/17/19	Discuss the reading			Discuss the reading	Discuss the reading	

<b>Date</b>	<b>Lecture Topic</b>	<b>Flash Assignment</b>	<b>Vocabulary</b>	<b>Reading Assignment</b>	<b>Written Assignment</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
10/22/19	Ch.3, Ethics in Research. P.80					10/24/19
10/24/19	Discuss the reading			Discuss the reading	Discuss the reading	
10/29/31	Ch.4. Research Design.p.94ff			Ch.4. Research Design.p.94ff		11/5/19
10/31/19	Discuss the reading			Discuss the reading	Discuss the reading	
11/5/19	Ch.4. Research Design.p.94ff	The Purpose of Research.p.96		Ch.4. Research Design.p.94ff	The Purpose of Research.p.96	11/17/19
11/7/19	Discuss the reading			Discuss the reading	Discuss the reading	
11/12/19	Exploratory Research.p.97				Exploratory Research.p.97	
11/14/19	Discuss the reading			Discuss the reading	Discuss the reading	
11/19/19	Preperation for Final Exam			Preperation for Final Exam		
11/21/19	Discuss the reading			Discuss the reading	Discuss the reading	
11/26/19	Final Exam	Final Exam	Final Exam	Final Exam	Final Exam	Final Exam
11/28/19	No Class					
12/3/19	Last Day of Class					