

**AFA 2000 Online—Introduction to African American Studies**  
**Fall 2021**

**Dr. Courtney Moore Taylor-Instructor**

**Contact Information:**

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**Remote Office Hours via Zoom:**

Wednesdays: 9:30 am-10:30 am  
or by appointment

**Course Description:**

This course focuses on the origins and development of African American Studies. It begins by exploring the purpose and mission of the discipline and the leaders who fought to have it recognized on college campuses during the late 1960s and 1970s. The class also examines AFA's relevance to the academy both then and now. The course then explores the various disciplines that make up this interdisciplinary study such as history, sociology, anthropology, religion, and sports. By exploring these areas students will gain a foundational knowledge of this rich discipline, delve into current issues that relate to the Black experience, the academy, and larger socio-economic and political issues facing the Black Community. Students will analyze these people, events and concepts through lectures, class discussions, primary source documents, and audio-visual materials.

***Note: This syllabus is a general outline of the course, but it is subject to change. I will let you know if modifications are made.***

**General Education Requirements and Objectives:** (H) (WR).

The course fulfills the General Education requirements for the humanities (H) and writing (WR). It also fulfills the Gordon Rule requirement. This means that the major writing assignments will amount to a total of **4000 words**, and that students will receive feedback so that they can improve their writing skills.

Upon completing the course, students will:

- Be able to describe the origins and growth of the African American Studies discipline
- Learn about some of the theories and theorists of African American Studies
- Be able to name some of the key people who have shaped the discipline of African American Studies
- Be introduced to various disciplines and their work on the black experience that shaped African American studies
- Analyze some of the social, cultural, political, and economic issues that have shaped the African American experience in North America
- Better understand the history and culture of Africa, the African Diaspora and Africa's influence on America
- Demonstrate an understanding of basic concepts common in discourse about African Americans
- Enhance their critical analysis and research skills.

**Required Texts:**

Norment Jr., Nathaniel. *African American Studies: The Discipline and Its Dimensions*. New York: Peter Lang Publishing, 2019.

Articles will be assigned throughout the semester as well. Students will be expected to access those readings online or using the UF library catalog.

### **Course Assignments and Assessments:**

Online courses have firm deadlines for assignment submissions, exams, and course end dates. While most deadlines are 11:59 pm, **DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE TO SUBMIT WORK AS YOU RISK NOT HAVING YOUR WORK PROPERLY SUBMITTED FOR CREDIT.**

**Discussion Posts-(15%):** Each student is expected to participate in course discussions. You are expected to reply and respond to discussion questions assigned to each module. There are 5 required posts; each post must be a minimum of 150 words in length. **(Due: Varies by module)**

Please note responses are graded based on:

- Historical content incorporated
- Ability to critically engage the material & support argument with facts/contemporary examples
- Response to at least TWO of your classmates' discussion posts

**An AFA Degree and Me-(10%):** Compose a 600-900 word essay outlining the different careers an individual can pursue with an AFA degree in the global economy. In your paper feel free to engage key individuals who've majored or minored in this degree as examples of the myriad ways this degree can be beneficial. **(Due: Sept. 12th)**

### **Research proposal & paper (25%):**

**1. Proposal - 10%:** Select a topic and ask a research question related to some aspect of the African American experience. The proposal must include a.) tentative title, b.) a clear research question, c.) an outline, d.) bibliography with no fewer than six references – **only scholarly books and journal articles will be accepted.**

The finished product should consist of 300-600 words. (You may not change your topic unless you submit a new proposal and get clearance from the instructor) **(Due: September 26<sup>th</sup>)**

**2. Paper- 15%:** Research and write an informative and organized 1500-1800 word essay- not including the references. The final paper must include a cover sheet and no fewer than 6 references. Your paper will not be accepted if you have not turned in a satisfactory proposal. **(Date: October 31<sup>th</sup>)**

**Midterm- (15%)** The midterm will test your knowledge of various course material and chapters as we progress through the course. **(Due: October 17<sup>th</sup>)**

### **Learning in Action: Social-Community Responsibility Project (20%) (1500-1800 words)**

One of the missions of AFA is to commit itself to identifying and helping meet the Black community's needs. For this assignment you will create a plan that will address a need as well as practically implement it. Students will select from the following two options. **(Due: November 29<sup>th</sup>)**

#### ***Option 1: Take it to the Streets***

Create a community project that addresses one of the following issues:

- Black on Black Crime
- Voting Challenges in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century
- Health disparities
- Educational disparities

Projects must provide a detailed look at the current state of the issue, followed by a community program that will shed light and offer measurable goals and objectives for the community to strive to meet.

#### ***Option 2: African American Studies: It's Relevant in Our Schools***

Select one discipline of Black Studies and create a lesson plan for elementary, middle school or high school teacher to implement. The lesson plan must include resources (books, films) a lesson and age -appropriate group and individual activities for students to complete.

**Final Exam- (15%)** Exam will assess your knowledge of the material engaged over the semester. **(Due: December 14<sup>th</sup>)**

**Note: More specific guidelines for writing assignments will be given as their due dates approach.  
Make-up exams will be permitted ONLY at the instructor's discretion**

## **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.

## **Course Policies** (Policies adapted from <http://ufonline.ufl.edu/academics/>)

You should expect to devote as much time to this class as traditional on-campus students spend on their course work. This means that in addition to time spent on Canvas participating in online activities, students should expect to spend at least 3 hours of study time per credit hour per week. This includes reading materials (textbooks, eTexts, etc.), problem sets, researching and writing papers, and other assignments from your course instructor.

There are also documentaries and films that accompany each weekly module. It is imperative that you view this material as students will be tested on this information too.

**Attendance Policy:** While you have the flexibility to "attend" class whenever you have time, **I encourage you to log in daily as well as sign up to receive Notifications from Canvas** to ensure you stay abreast of all due dates and changes to the course.

**Communication:** Contact me through Canvas. I do my best to respond to your comments/emails in a timely manner during business hours (evenings are excluded). **Allow 24 hours** during the week for a response to course concerns/emails. ***Weekends, I do not check email, so it is imperative that you submit any questions to me before noon on Fridays.***

## **Written work format and submission:**

All assignments should be

- Written in standard English and demonstrate competence of grammar, sentence structure, and paragraph structure
- Typed, double-spaced with Times New Roman, 12 pt. font, 1" margins
- Information with your name, date, and course should be in the top corner, single-spaced, on the first page only or on a cover page
- **All work must be properly documented. Students may use APA, MLA, or Turabian.**

I will provide feedback on all written assignments; these comments are intended to strengthen your writing skills. They should be taken as constructive feedback, as I am evaluating clarity, content, structure, and sources.

**Gordon Rule:** "The Writing Requirement (Gordon Rule) ensures students both maintain their fluency in writing and use writing as a tool to facilitate learning." This is a Gordon Rule course with a 4000-word minimum writing requirement. Your writing will be evaluated and you will receive feedback on assignments that are intended to fulfill this writing requirement. You will be evaluated based on grammar, punctuation, clarity, coherence, and organization.

*According to University policy, a C- will not be a qualifying grade for major, minor, Gen Ed, Gordon Rule or College Basic Distribution credit.*

**Policy on late/make-up work:** Given the brevity of the term and the fact that all assignments are known well in advance, **LATE WORK IS NOT ACCEPTED UNLESS THERE ARE EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES** (i.e. death of a close family member or hospitalization). Documentation will be required to prove those circumstances.

**Academic Honesty:** UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." The Conduct Code specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. [Click here to read the Conduct Code.](#) If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor in this class.

**Extra Credit Policy:** Extra Credit opportunities are offered during the semester at the instructor's discretion. Reference course modules for specific activities. All extra points earned will be added to a grade the lecturer selects at the end of the term.

**Accommodations:** Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center. [Click here to get started with the Disability Resource Center](#). It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access

### **GatorEvals**

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>

### **Campus Resources:**

- *Counseling and Wellness Center:* [Visit the Counseling and Wellness Center website](#) or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.
- *Student Health Care Center:* Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or [visit the Student Health Care Center website](#).
- *Library Support:* Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.
- *Teaching Center:* Broward Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352- 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.
- *Writing Studio:* 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.

### **Course Expectations and Etiquette:**

Courteous and appropriate behavior is expected. Therefore, please be mindful that we are dealing with material that may be sensitive in terms of race, gender, class, sexuality, violence, and/or political perspective.

By remaining enrolled in the course, you are agreeing to complete all assignments and participate during discussions. **PLEASE KEEP THE DIALOG RESPECTFUL AND RELEVANT.** I encourage students to keep an open mind, and I expect you to **COMMUNICATE YOUR IDEAS WITHOUT HARSHLY OFFENDING YOUR PEERS. ALL ETHICAL PERSPECTIVES WILL BE RESPECTED BY THE INSTRUCTOR AND BY ALL CLASS MEMBERS AT ALL TIMES.**

## Course Outline

**Note:** Articles, documentaries, and films may accompany a weekly module.  
Consult the Canvas Modules for the exact titles.

- Week 1**      **August 23<sup>rd</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>**  
Course Overview  
**Introduction to African American Studies**  
Reading: Norment pgs. 3-17  
**Discussion Question (DQ)** Introduce yourself (**Due: 8/29**)
- Week 2**      **August 30<sup>th</sup>-September 3<sup>rd</sup>**  
**African American Studies: Purpose, Mission and Current State of the Discipline**  
**Reading: Norment pgs. 17-57;** “African American Studies and Racial Crisis in America” by Dr. Ashley Preston, March 2021 <https://thebestschools.org/magazine/importance-of-african-american-studies/>
- Week 3**      **September 6<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> (Labor Day Holiday, September 6<sup>th</sup>, College Closed)**  
Students & The Fight for Black Studies  
Reading: “The Black Campus Movement and the Institutionalization of Black Studies, 1965-1970” by Ibram H. Rogers (J. of African American Studies (2012))  
**An AFA Degree & Me Essay Due (Due: 9/12)**  
**Discussion Question (DQ)**
- Week 4**      **September 13<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>**  
**UF & The History of the Black Studies Program in Gainesville**  
**Reading: First in His Class by Ashley Lombardo, May 2015,**  
<http://thefineprintmag.org/first-in-his-class/>  
**From One Milestone to the Next by Andrew Doerfler** <https://news.clas.ufl.edu/from-one-milestone-to-the-next-african-american-studies-at-uf/>
- Week 5**      **September 20<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>**  
**African American Studies: An Interdisciplinary Field: History**  
**Reading: Norment Chapter 2**  
**Research Paper Proposals Due (9/26)**
- Week 6**      **September 27<sup>th</sup>-October 1<sup>st</sup>**  
**African American Studies: An Interdisciplinary Field: Literature/Anthropology**  
**Reading: Norment Chapters 3-4**  
**Discussion Question (DQ)**
- Week 7**      **October 4<sup>th</sup>-October 8<sup>th</sup> (October 8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> College closed for UF Homecoming)**  
**African American Studies: An Interdisciplinary Field: Sociology/Psychology**  
**Reading: Norment Chapters 5-6**
- Week 8**      **October 11<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>**  
**African American Studies: An Interdisciplinary Field: Religion\Philosophy**  
**Reading: Norment Chapters 7-8**  
**Midterm (Due: 10/17)**
- Week 9**      **October 18<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>**  
**African American Studies: An Interdisciplinary Field: Political Science/Economics**  
**Reading: Norment Chapters 9-10**  
**Discussion Question (DQ)**

- Week 10**      **October 25<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>**  
**African American Studies: An Interdisciplinary Field: Music/Dance**  
**Reading: Norment Chapters 11-12**  
Discussion & Topic Takeaways  
**Research Papers (Due: 10/31)**
- Week 11**      **November 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>**  
**African American Studies: An Interdisciplinary Field: Art/Film**  
**Reading: Norment Chapters 13-14**
- Week 12**      **November 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> (Veterans Day, November 11<sup>th</sup>, College Closed, No Office Hours)**  
**African American Studies: An Interdisciplinary Field: Education/**  
**Reading: Norment Chapter 15**
- Week 13**      **November 15<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>**  
**African American Studies: An Interdisciplinary Field: Science& Technology/Sports**  
**Reading: Norment Chapters 16-17**  
**Discussion Question (DQ)**
- Week 14**      **November 22<sup>nd</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> (College is closed for Thanksgiving Holiday November 24<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>)**  
**Work on Learning in Action: Social-Community Responsibility Projects**
- Week 15**      **November 29<sup>th</sup>-December 3<sup>rd</sup>**  
Begin reviewing for Final Exam  
**Learning in Action: Social-Community Responsibility Project Due**
- Week 16**      **December 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>**  
**African American Studies: Where do we go from here?**  
**Reading: Panel Urges UF to Connect More with the Community, Feb. 2020, by Cleveland Tinker <https://www.gainesville.com/news/20200220/panel-urges-uf-to-connect-more-with-community>**

**Final Exam:**  
**Due by 11:59 pm on Tuesday on December 14<sup>th</sup>**  
**Note: Students will be able to access the exam beginning on December 12<sup>th</sup>**