

AFA 4936 African American Studies Senior Integrative Seminar
Fall 2024
African American Studies Program – University of Florida
Dr. Alyssa Cole

Class Days/Time: M.W.F. 10:40 – 11:30

Class Location: MCCB 2102

Office Hours: MW 9:30-10:30 & 12:30-1:30

Email: cole.alyssa@ku.edu

Office: 1012D Turlington

Phone:

Catalog Description:

Course Description:

This course fulfills the requirement for minors and majors in African American Studies. Students must complete papers, and research, design, and develop significant research projects. The course seeks to enhance students' ability to apply concepts, methodology, and theories from multiple disciplines in examining the issues, problems, and experiences of people of African descent in the Americas. Students will develop major research projects on key themes or topics in African American Studies through readings, literature reviews, and class discussions. Additionally, students will engage with experts across the UF community in professional development workshops.

Course Objectives:

1. Describe major themes in African American Studies
2. Interpret documents and other forms of evidence
3. Formulate and support research questions
4. Employ multiple forms of evidence and articulate a well-structured argument
5. Conduct original research and develop a substantial research project/paper
6. Engage in an ongoing process of writing and revision and report orally on research

Required Books:

Research Methods in Africana Studies, Serie McDougal.

Requirements and Evaluation of Grades:

Assignment	Due Dates	Points
Research Project Proposal	9/16	150
Resume/CV	10/23	100
Book reports	/	100
Literature Review	10/2	150

Participation	12/10	250
Final Research Project	12/10	<u>250</u>
		1000

GRADE/POINT SCALE Grading Scale Score	Percent	Grade	Grade Points
934-1000	93.4-100	A	4.00
900-933	90.0-93.3	A-	3.67
867-899	86.7-89.9	B+	3.33
834-866	83.4-86.6	B	3.00
800-833	80.0-83.3	B-	2.67
767-799	76.7-79.9	C+	2.33
734-766	73.4-76.6	C	2.00
700-733	70.0-73.3	C-	1.67
667-699	66.7-69.9	D+	1.33
634-666	63.4-66.6	D	1.00
600-633	60.0-63.3	D-	0.67
0-599	0-599	E	0.00

REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION

Any use of generative AI in any of your work will result in an automatic failure of the assignment and a report to Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution. <https://policy.ufl.edu/regulation/4-040/>

Attendance and Class Participation: Students are expected to attend all classes. Absences count from the first class meeting. The university recognizes the right of the instructor to make attendance mandatory and require documentation for absences (except for religious holidays), missed work, or inability to fully engage in class. After due warning, an instructor can prohibit further attendance and subsequently assign a failing grade for excessive absences. <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>

Following two **unexcused** absences, each subsequent absence will result in a letter grade deduction from your final grade.

Students are expected to participate in each class. This includes discussions of readings, in-class work, and class visits to various campus programs. A participation rubric is included at the end of the syllabus.

Research Project Proposal: This assignment asks you to produce a formal proposal of at least 1200 words describing the research project you intend to pursue. **Paper format:** 1200 +words; double spaced; separate title page including name, title, and date; page numbers; in---Chicago Manual of Style citations and footnotes; 1” margins; visual evidence (as appropriate) with captions. **Grading:** This assignment is worth 15% of the overall class grade. Anyone who receives a grade below a B **must** resubmit this assignment one week after feedback is provided. Anyone who receives below an A has the choice to resubmit for a higher grade.

As a part of your proposal, you must submit a content advisor form. Identify a content advisor in African American Studies or affiliated departments/programs who can assist in reviewing the content you produce for your project. You must receive verbal approval from me prior to asking your advisor to advise your project. Your advisor must agree to advise your project, sign the form provided to you in class, and review your project prior to final submission. Additional details will be provided in class.

Resume/CV:

Book Reports: Throughout the semester, each student will be assigned a section of our required reading to report on during class discussion. Each student should come to class with three prepared questions on that day's reading. The discussion leader will present for 10-15 minutes, which will be followed by classroom discussion.

Literature Review: A literature review is a comprehensive survey of scholarly sources on a specific topic. It provides an overview of current knowledge, including substantive findings as well as theoretical and methodological contributions to a particular topic. It should critically evaluate and compare published material on your chosen topic in African American Studies. Place these works in conversation with one another, identifying their similarities or differences. You should evaluate how each author addresses your topic, how they fit into the larger field of African American Studies, and if they offer any suggestions for future research on the topic. Identify trends or gaps in the literature and elaborate on how these works provide context for your research project. Additional information and handouts will be provided in class. **Your literature review is due on October 2 by 11:59 pm on Canvas.**

Research Project: A Senior Seminar Research Project is a culminating academic endeavor that allows students to delve deeply into a specific problem or area of interest. This project is designed to demonstrate the integration and application of knowledge and skills acquired throughout their educational journey. Students are expected to:

- **Identify and investigate a unique problem or topic:** This involves selecting a subject that is both meaningful and challenging.
- **Showcase mastery of program goals:** Students must display a thorough understanding of the core objectives of their academic program.
- **Conduct comprehensive research:** This includes gathering and analyzing relevant information to support their project.
- **Synthesize and apply learned skills:** The project should reflect the culmination of the student's learning experience, integrating various skills and knowledge areas.

The capstone project is an opportunity for students to demonstrate their academic growth, critical thinking, and ability to conduct independent research. It often involves a written report, presentation, or practical application, depending on your discipline.

As a part of your final project, you are required to make an appointment with the UF Writing Program to review your final project draft. Please provide documentation once you have completed this aspect of your project. UF Writing Program Appointments should take place anytime between October 15 and November 15. Contact the writing center early to schedule your appointment. <https://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/for-students/schedule-an-appointment/>

Additional details will be provided in class. Your project is due on **December 10, by 12:00pm**. Late projects will be deducted a full letter grade each day it is late. After two days, late projects will not be accepted, and students will receive a 0 for this class assignment.

COURSE OUTLINE

Week one:

Friday, August 23: Course introduction

Week 2:

Monday, August 26: Reading – Research Methods in Africana Studies, Preface – Chapter 1

Wednesday, August 28: Reading – Research Methods in Africana Studies, Chapter 2

Friday, August 30: Reading – Research Methods in Africana Studies, Chapter 3

Week 3:

Monday, September 2: HOLIDAY – NO CLASS

Wednesday, September 4: **Library Visit – Jim Cusick** – Meet in front of Library

Friday, September 6: Reading – Research Methods in Africana Studies, Chapter 4

Week 4:

Monday, September 9: Reading – Research Methods in Africana Studies, Chapter 5

Wednesday, September 11: Reading – Research Methods in Africana Studies, Chapter 6

Friday, September 13: **SPOHP Visit** – Meet in front of Pugh Hall

Week 5:

Monday, September 16: **Research Project Proposal Due**, Reading – Research Methods in Africana Studies, Chapter 7

Wednesday, September 18: Reading Research Methods in Africana Studies, Chapter 8

Friday, September 20: Reading – Research Methods in Africana Studies, Chapter 9

Week 6:

Monday, September 23: Reading – Research Methods in Africana Studies, Chapter 10

Wednesday, September 25: Reading – Research Methods in Africana Studies, Chapter 11

Friday, September 27: Reading – Research Methods in Africana Studies, Chapter 12

Week 7:

Monday, September 30: Reading – Research Methods in Africana Studies, Chapter 13

Wednesday, October 2: **Literature Review Due**, Individual Meetings

Friday, October 4: Individual Meetings

Week 8:

Monday, October 7: Individual Meetings

Wednesday, October 9: **UF Career Center Visit – resumes and CVs @ Career Center**

Friday, October 11: In-class writing/Peer Review of resume/CVs

Week 9:

Monday, October 14: TBD

Wednesday, October 16: TBD

Friday, October 18: HOLIDAY – NO CLASS

Week 10:

Monday, October 21: TBD

Wednesday, October 23: **Resume/CV Due on Canvas by 11:59pm**

Friday, October 25: TBD

Week 11:

Monday, October 28: TBD

Wednesday, October 30: TBD

Friday, November 1: TBD

Week 12:

Monday, November 4: TBD

Wednesday, November 6: **Career Center Visit – Graduate School and Personal Statements – Michael Goldberg**

Friday, November 8: TBD

Week 13:

Monday, November 11: HOLIDAY – NO CLASS

Wednesday, November 13: TBD

Friday, November 15: Writing/Research Day

Week 14:

Monday, November 18: TBD

Wednesday, November 20: TBD

Friday, November 22: Writing/Research Day

Week 15: No class – Holiday

Week 16:

Monday, December 2: Final Project Discussions

Wednesday, December 4: Final Project Discussions

Tuesday, December 10: **Final Project Due by 11:59 p.m.**

CLASSROOM DECORUM

Students are expected to arrive to class on time and behave in a manner that is respectful to the instructor and to fellow students. Please avoid the use of cell phones and restrict eating to outside of the classroom. Opinions held by other students should be respected in discussion, and conversations that do not contribute to the discussion should be held at minimum, if at all.

COMMUNICATIONS

Please allow 24-48 hours during the week for responses to your emails. I do not check work emails during the weekend, so plan ahead. Emails sent on the weekend will be answered the next Monday or Tuesday. Again, manage your crisis by being prepared—do not email the night before or a few hours before a deadline, as you probably will not get an answer.

ATTENDANCE POLICY AND MAKE UP POLICY

Students are expected to attend all classes. Absences count from the first class meeting. The university recognizes the right of the instructor to make attendance mandatory and require documentation for absences (except for religious holidays), missed work, or inability to fully engage in class. After due warning, an instructor can prohibit further attendance and subsequently assign a failing grade for excessive absences. <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/> Following two **unexcused** absences, each subsequent absence will result in a letter grade deduction from your final grade.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center by visiting <https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/>. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA HONOR CODE

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 Honor Code (<https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel.

UF COUNSELING AND WELLNES CENTER

Contact information for the Counseling and Wellness Center:

<http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx>, 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

OTHER CAMPUS RESOURCES

Health and
Wellness

U Matter, We Care: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, 352-392-1575, or visit [U Matter, We Care website](#) to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.

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](#).

University Police Department: [Visit U.F. Police Department website](#) or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).

U.F. Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center: For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; [Visit the U.F. Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website](#).

ACADEMIC RESOURCES

E-learning technical support: Contact the [U.F. Computing Help Desk](#) at 352-392-4357 or via email at helpdesk@ufl.edu.

Career Connections Center: Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services.

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.

Student Complaints On-Campus: [Visit the Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code webpage for more information.](#)

On-Line Students Complaints: [View the Distance Learning Student Complaint Process.](#)

WRITING STUDIO

The new Writing Studio is committed to helping University of Florida students and faculty meet their academic and professional goals by becoming better writers. We support independent learning and encourage scholarship by providing one-on-one consultations, workshops tailored to specific classes (graduate and undergraduate), and faculty retreats focusing on publishing original research. [Writing Studio - University Writing Program \(ufl.edu\)](#)

COURSE EVALUATION

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/>.