AFRICANA STUDIES

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

Graduate Faculty:

Brown, Joseph A., Director and Professor, Ph.D., Yale University, 1984; 1997.
Caffey, Ronald A., Assistant Professor, Ph.D., Southern Illinois University Carbondale, 1996 (MBA), 2007.
Chipasula, Frank M., Associate Professor, Judge Williams Holmes Cook Professor, Ph.D. Brown University, 1987; 2005.
Gadzekpo, Leo K., Assistant Professor, Ph.D., American Cultural Studies, Bowling Green University, 1997, 1998.
Gitau, Peter., Associate Vice Chancellor and Dean, Ph.D., University of Kansas, 2000; 2008.

Courses (AFR)

410H-3 African Expressive Culture. (Same as Anthropology 410H) This course examines aspects of African expressive culture including the visual arts, music, dance, orature, cinema, drama, and ceremony from an anthropological perspective. Particular attention is given to analysis of African expressive culture in social context and the role of the arts in the practice of politics, religion, medicine, and other aspects of African life. Many of the expressive genres examined deal with historical representation and political resistance. Therefore this course provides insights into African history and politics through the creative representations of African artists.

416 Black Feminist Thought as Theory and Praxis. (Same as SPCM 416). Explore the roots, contemporary manifestations, and current embodiments of black feminist thought. Explore the works of black women to engage in critical thinking and thoughtful dialogue that positions the valuable knowledge, experiences and perspectives of women of color at the center of inquiry while simultaneously discovering spaces for multicultural alliances. Prerequisite: SPCM 301i or 341 or consent of instructor.

420-3 Themes in Africana Drama. (Same as THEA 460). Explores significant themes in African and African American drama, with special attention to performance styles and cultural issues.

447-3 Communicating Race and Ethnicity. (Same as SPCM 447). Via intercultural theories and methods, this course explores histories, relationships, interactions and recent events by positioning racial and ethnic perspectives at the center of inquiry. The course critically examines the complexities of race, racism, and ethnicity by focusing on how people communicate across racial and ethnic differences in different contexts. Prerequisites: SPCM 301i or 341, or consent of instructor.

449-3 Race and Media in United States History. (Same as History 449 and Mass Communication and Media Arts 449) This course explores the history of race in the modern United States by focusing on moments of racial crisis that garnered media attention. The course asks what these moments reveal about the shifting status of “race,” as well as how spectacles have changed with the transformation of modern media.

452A-3 Traditions of Uppity Women’s Blues. 452A-3 Traditions of Uppity Women’s Blues. (Same as MUS 452A, WGSS 452A) Examines the tradition of “uppity” women’s blues from the so-called “classic” blues singers of the 19th century (Gertrude “Ma” Rainey, Bessie Smith, Ida Cox, etc.) to the contemporary blues of Saffire, Denise LaSalle and others. Explores ways blues women challenge conventions of gender and sexuality, racism, sexism, classism, and homophobia. Restricted to junior/senior/graduate music major or consent of instructor.

452B- Blues and Boogie Woogie Piano Styles. (Same as MUS 452B) Traces the history, culture, and stylistic developments of blues and boogie woogie piano. Explores socio-cultural contexts and examines key players, pieces, and musical styles. Restricted to: junior/senior/graduate music major or consent of instructor.

458-3 Bantu Diasporas in Africa & the Atlantic World. (Same as HIST 458) This course examines the origins and development of Bantu language and culture groups in Africa and the Atlantic World from the first dispersal of Bantu-speaking people thousands of years ago through the end of slavery in the Americas. Additionally, the course explores the multiple methods and disciplines used to construct histories of Bantu language and culture groups.

460-3 Slavery and The Old South. (Same as History 460) This course examines slavery and southern distinctiveness from the colonial period to 1861. Discussion topics include
the plantation system, race relations, women and slavery, and southern nationalism.

461-3 Black Americans on the Western Frontier. (Same as History 461) This course examines the history of African Americans in the American West. Taking both a chronological and thematic approach, it begins with a discussion of early black explorers in the age of encounter, and ends with a focus on black western towns established in the United States by the 1880’s.

465-3 Governments and Politics of Sub-Saharan Africa. An examination of the impact of western colonial rule on the societies and politics of Africa, the method by which these colonial areas became sovereign states in the post-World War II era, the role of domestic political institutions, African political thought and behavior, and the development of foreign policies regarding relations with other African states, continental and international organizations, and international organizations, and non-African states.

472-3 Psychology of Race and Racism. (Same as Psychology 470) A review of the history and evolution of the construct of race as a psychological phenomenon. The persuasiveness of race in every sphere of life will be studied, from a multidisciplinary perspective.

473-3 Comparative Slavery. (Same as History 473) A comparative study of slavery from antiquity to its abolition in the 19th century with the differing socio-cultural, political and economic contexts; organized chronologically, regionally, and thematically.

475-3 Education and Black America. This course uses the scholarship of cultural anthropology and social studies to look at the history of education in the African American community; how public education affects African American families; how schools shape cultural change and how racial, ethnic peer group, and gender issues help determine curriculum issues.

491-3 to 6 Independent Readings in Africana Studies. Special topics, focused on research needs of students who are regularly enrolled in upper-division courses, especially graduate students doing research in Africana related topics in other departments and programs. May be repeated for up to six credit hours. By permission of the director of the Africana Studies program.

495-3 to 9 African Cultural Continuities: Study Abroad. Study abroad 4-6 week program is designed to introduce similarities in culture (food, dance, music, family traditions, religion) of people in Ghana and in the cultures of people in the African diaspora. Class begins on the SIUC campus and will re-locate to Elmina and Cape Coast, Ghana, during the first year of a three-year sequence. Other years will locate in areas of the West Indies, Caribbean & Central America. May be taken for graduate credit. Special approval needed from the instructor.

497-3 The U.S. Civil Rights Movement. (Same as HIST 487) This course provides an overview of the history of the Civil Rights Movement while engaging major debates in the field of Black Freedom Studies. Central themes will include the impact of the Cold War, the roles of women, and the relationship of civil rights to black power. We will also discuss the difference between popular memory and historical scholarship as well as the meaning of such discussions for contemporary issues of racial and economic justice.

499-3 to 9 (3 per topic) Special Topics in Africana Studies. Topics vary and are announced in advance. May be repeated as the topic varies.