Africana Studies
http://www.africanastudies.siu.edu/

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

Graduate Faculty:
Brown, Joseph A., Professor, Ph.D., Yale University, 1984; 1997.
Caffey, Ronald A., Assistant Professor, Ph.D., Southern Illinois University Carbondale, 1996; (MBA), 2007
Gadzekpo, Leo K., Associate Professor, Ph.D., American Cultural Studies, Bowling Green University, 1997, 1998.
Howze, Philip C., Professor of Library Affairs and Interim Chair, M.P.A., University of Nebraska, 1989; M.A., University of Iowa, 1990.

There is no approved graduate program in Africana Studies. Four-hundred-level courses may be taken for graduate credit unless otherwise indicated in the course description.

Courses (AFR)

410H-3 African Expressive Culture. (Same as ANTH 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.

416-3 Black Feminist Thought as Theory and Praxis. (Same as SPCM 416 and WGSS 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 SPCM 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.

452A-3 Traditions of Uppity Women’s Blues. (Same as MUS 452A, WGSS 452A) Examines the tradition of “upppity” 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-3 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 HIST 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 PSYC 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 HIST 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. Spe-
cial approval needed from the director of the Africana Studies
program.

494-3 Methodology Seminar in Africana Studies. This course
provides the theoretical framework for research in the field of
Africana Studies. Students will investigate the foundations
of the field of Black Studies, from the argument of Maulena
Karenga and Molefi Asante, to the challenges of scholars such
as Manning Marable, James Turner and other recent scholars.
Students will pursue individual research projects appropriate
to various academic disciplines which constitute the field of Af-
ricana Studies. May be taken for graduate credit.

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 SIU 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 In-
dies, Caribbean & Central America. May be taken for graduate
credit. Special approval needed from the instructor.

496-3 Slave Narratives. Using complications of the 19th and
early 20th century body work known as “Slave Narratives”,
students will organize research projects that discover selected
major themes of Africana Studies. The course will be useful to
students from various academic disciplines (such as psychology;
Music Sociology; History; Philosophy; Education; Literature;
and Theology, among others) as they place Slave Narratives in
the center of Africana and American studies scholarship. May-
be taken for graduate credit.

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 ra-
cial 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. No prerequisites.

499A-3 History of African American Philosophy. (Same as
PHIL 451) A survey of major thinkers and themes in the history
of African American Philosophy from colonial times to the 20th
century. Prerequisite: At least one previous course in Philoso-
phy or Africana Studies with a minimum grade of C.

499B-3 Philosophy of Race. (Same as PHIL 455) A survey of
critical examination of a range of theories on the nature and
meaning of “race”, the intersection of race with class and gen-
der, and the promotion of racial progress. Such theories include
racial realism and idealism, racial biologism, cultural race the-
ory, social constructivist theory, integrationism, separatism,
racial eliminativism, cosmopolitanism, and especially critical
race theory. Prerequisite: At least one previous course in Phi-
losophy or Africana Studies with a minimum grade of C.

499C-1 - 6 Topics in Africana Philosophy. (Same as PHIL 459)
A Seminar on varying topics, themes, and figures in African, Af-
rican American, American, and/or Caribbean Philosophy, e.g.,
“W.E.B. Du Bois and His Contemporaries”, “Pan Africanism”,
“Philosophies of Liberation”, “Black Feminism”, “Contemporary
African Philosophy” Philosophies of the Caribbean. Prerequi-
site: At least one previous course in Philosophy or Africana
Studies with a minimum grade of C.