CULTURAL HISTORY..... RACE, ETHNICITY AND GENDER IN AMERICAN CULTURAL ARTS DEVELOPMENTS

FALL TERM-1988

AMERICAN CULTURE 310 - AFRO-AMERICAN STUDIES 458
WEDNESDAYS 3-5 PM
INSTRUCTOR HAROLD W. CRUSE

458.2 Issues in Black World Studies (3) (S5) May be elected for a total of 6 credits

Section 002: RACE and ETHNICITY AND GENDER in AMERICAN CULTURAL ARTS: AFRO-AMERICAN CULTURAL history historically surveyed within the multiracial, multi-ethnic evolution of American cultural arts. Examined are the origins of cultural arts developments from Colonial America to the 20th Century related to Blacks, Indians and other ethnics. Beginning with Thomas Jefferson's views on Black and Indian "cultures" in the "Anthropological" sense of the meaning "culture", the creative and artistically interpretive perceptions of race and ethnicity are examined through the cultural arts. For example, the long range influence of "Negro Minstrelsy" in American music, dance and theatrical forms is examined as the root-origin of the "Negro Stereotype"; the influence of Harriet Beecher Stowe's "Uncle Tom's Cabin" on the literary genre of the white authors' approach to the Black and Indian music themes into American music composition, the Anton Dvorak-Jeanetta Thurber Thesis of the 1890's; the origins of the Ragtime-Jazz-Blues continuum in popular music culture; Puritanism, Africanisms and Americanisms in the evolution of popular American dance; Blacks (and ethnicity) in the modern American Theatre; the Eugene O'Neill thematic and dramatic revolution and the aesthetics of the Black image on the American stage as perceived by white (and Black) dramatists, 1917-1930; the Harlem Renaissance (1917-1930) seen as the artistic, literary and aesthetic cross-cultural, trans-racial adaptation, accommodation and cross-fertilization in American music, literature, graphic arts, theatre and dance; the 1930's and the New Deal's Work Project Administration (WPA) impact on the (Seven) cultural arts up to World War II. An interpretive survey of post-World War II to the 1980's will be open-ended, depending upon the general results of classroom discussions based on the topical choices elected by students themselves. Course requirements-One thoroughly researched term paper on a student-chosen topic related to the historical survey substance of the course. The course will be taught seminar-style; choices of term paper topics must be agreed upon by the instructor. An advance reserved reading list will be provided plus additional sources suggested by the instructor. (Cruse)