CAAS 100  INTRO TO AFRO-AMERICAN STUDIES  MW 2-3  Walter Allen

Introduces and provides a general overview of Afro-American Studies. It employs a multidisciplinary perspective, combining elements from conventional, historical, political, sociocultural, and behavioral orientations in the analysis of Afro-American culture and institutions.

CAAS 230  Hist 274  AFRO-AMERICAN HISTORY  TTh 1-2:30  Thomas Holt

Examines the history of Afro-Americans from their African origins to the present. This examination focuses on two major themes: 1) the dynamics of cultural survival and change among slaves; and 2) the material and social conditions that influenced the responses of blacks both as slaves and as free workers to racial oppression, as well as their varied strategies for liberation of the black community.

CAAS 338  Eng 320  LITERATURE IN AFRO-AMERICAN CULTURE  MWF 10-11  Michael Awkward

Focuses on literature by Afro-Americans which explores the manifold obstacles to Afro-American culture’s survival in American society. Initial course meetings will be devoted to formulating both a general definition of the word culture and an acute understanding of Afro-American culture. Our attention will subsequently focus on literary texts (most of which are novels) whose dramatic action to a significant extent results from protagonists’ often-problematic attempts to situate themselves in personally advantageous positions where Afro-American culture and American ideology are concerned. Such a focus will lead to general discussions of related topics such as ethnicity’s value in a pluralistic America and gender’s role in the resolution of a dual (ethnic and American) citizenship. Texts will include: Richard Wright’s Black Boy; Toni Morrison’s Song of Solomon; James Weldon Johnson’s The Autobiography of an Ex-Coloured Man; Jean Toomer’s Cane; and Paule Marshall’s Brown Girl, Brownstones.

CAAS 360  AFRO-AMERICAN ART  MW 9-11  Jon Lockard

Provides an interdisciplinary overview and an introduction to the area of culture and art, and their influences on society. It looks at the visual arts, music, dance, theatre, literature, television, and education. Historical, political, sociocultural, philosophical, religious, aesthetic, and ideological perspectives are brought to bear on the analysis of the African American cultural experience.