

**MASTER SYLLABUS**  
**AFS 200 What Is The African and African American Experience?**

**1. Course Information**

College: Liberal Arts

Department: African and African American Studies

Course Title: What Is the African and African American Experience?

Course Designation and Number: AFS 200

GE Area: VI College Component

**Writing Intensive:** Yes

All Sections

**Methods of Instruction:**

Lecture

Discussion

Small group activities

On-line chats

No labs

**Prerequisites:** None

**2. Objectives**

**GE Program Objectives:**

Develop skills that will form basis for lifelong living

Sharpen critical thinking and communicative skills

**GE Area VI Objectives:**

Communicate with individuals who are in the student's major, in allied fields, and non-specialists

Understand important relationships and interdependence between the student's major and other academic disciplines, world events or life endeavors

**Course Objectives and GE Learning Outcomes:**

An interdisciplinary course that provides students with an intellectual foundation for understanding and critically assessing the history and experiences of persons of African descent in America and across the African Diaspora. Topics include early African civilizations, art and religion; the Atlantic slave trade; and the varied social, political, intellectual, and cultural experiences of black people in the United States.

Area VI learning outcomes addressed:

Sharpens critical thinking, problem solving, and communication skills

Communicate with individuals who are in the student's major, in allied fields

and non-specialists

Understand important relationships and interdependencies between the student's major and other academic disciplines, work events or life endeavors

### **WAC Objectives**

To improve students' writing proficiency—their ability to develop ideas and transmit information for an appropriate audience in an organized, coherent fashion while writing with appropriate style and correct grammar, usage, punctuation, and spelling. AFS 200 accomplishes this by having students engage in several writing exercises including a major research paper and several short reaction papers.

### **3. Course Materials**

Textbook: Talmadge Anderson, *Introduction to African American Studies: Cultural Concepts and Theory*.

### **4. Methods of Evaluation**

- A. Chapter Questions and Exercises
- B. 5 critical response/reaction papers
- C. online chat with professor addressing an important issue currently impacting the African and African American experience
- D. Final exam

### **5. Grading Policy**

All GE courses are graded A-F  
WI component is graded pass/unsatisfactory

### **6. Attendance Policy**

Attendance and punctuality at every class session is required. Unexcused absence or tardiness may result in final grade being lowered one letter.

### **Course Outline**

Wk 1 Introduction to the course and its requirements. "The Rise of Black Studies."  
Readings: Anderson, chapters 1 and 2.

"The African Heritage." Readings: Anderson, chapter 3. **Due! Questions and Exercises for Chapters 1 and 2.**

Wk 2 "The African Arrival in America." Readings: Anderson, chapters 3 and 4, pp. 62-65, 113-119.

"English Methodologies and the African and African American Experience."  
**Due! Questions and Exercises for chapters 3 and 4.**

Wk 3 "History and the African and African American Experience."

"Art History and the African Experience." Readings: Anderson, chapter 8.

Wk 4 “Art and the African American Experience.” **Due! Questions and Exercises for chapter 8.**

Political Science Methodologies and the African Experience.” Readings: Anderson, chapter 6.

Wk 5 “Social Work Methodology and the African American Experience.” **Due! Questions and Exercises for chapter 6.**

“Religion in the African American Tradition.” Readings: Anderson, chapter 4, pp. 136-140.

Wk 6 “Political Science Methodologies and the African American Experience.”

“The Reconstruction and the African American Experience.”

Wk 7 “DuBois and the 20<sup>th</sup> Century African American Experience.”

“Art History and the African American Experience.”

Wk 8 “Urban Affairs and the African American Experience.”

“Sociology Methodologies and the African American Experience.”

Wk 9 “African Americans and the Mass Media.”

“The History of Black Music.

Wk 10 “Sociology of African American Women.”

“Hip Hop and the African American Experience.”

## **7. Other**

Syllabus distributed to students should employ the format approved by UCAP and must include:

- Instructor name, office hours, and contact information
- Office of Disability Services information
- Information on how grades will be determined
- Attendance policy