

Course Syllabus
AAST 201-002 AMS 201-002
Introduction to African American Studies
Spring 2020 | 3 Credit Hours



Instructor: Ms. Cheryl Williams
Email: cwilliams7@crimson.ua.edu

Office: Manly 100
Office Hours: MWF – 1:30 pm to 2:30 pm or by appointment
Class Time: Tuesday and Thursday 2:00- 3:15 pm
Class Location: Ten Hoor 22/ 209

Class Time: Tuesday and Thursday 11:00 am-12:15 pm
Class Location Ten Hoor

Course Description: This course is an introductory overview of the field of African American Studies. Because of the interdisciplinary nature of African American Studies, we will consider multiple subjects throughout the course such as history, literature, the arts, and material culture. We will also examine the sociological, psychological, political, economic, and philosophical perspectives on the historical experience of people of African descent in the United States

Required Text and Materials:

- *The New Jim Crow* Michelle Alexander
- *Their Eyes Were Watching God*/ Hurston
- *How To Slowly Kill Yourself And Others In America*/ Kiesa Laymon
- Kalief Browder story Netflix
- When They See Us Netflix
 - The Hate U Give Netflix
 - 13th Netflix
 - Eye on the Prize
- Other Supplementary Readings and Videos

Student Learning Outcomes:

- Students will improve in their writing skills as well as their analytical reasoning/critical thinking skills.
- Students will be trained to form their own interpretations concerning literature and theories surrounding the subjects discussed in class.
- Students will be able to connect and compare racial-based occurrences of the past to the present social climate.
- Students will have the opportunity to explore and articulate the idea of intersectionality within the social identities of race, gender, class, and sexuality.
- Students will analyze how African Americans responded to different sociopolitical and socioeconomic realities.

Grading Scale: A: (90-100%); B: (80-89%); C: (70-79%); D: (69-60%); F: (59 and Below %)

Grading Components:

Assignment	Number of Points for Assignment	Percent of Final Grade
Attendance and Participation	100	25%

Class Discussion Leader	100	25%
Essay Responses (3)	100	25%
Final Paper	100	25%
Total		100%

Exams and Assignments:

Class Discussion and Attendance: Class participation and attendance are mandatory, and are essential for your success in this class. This course will be centered on both lectures and class discussions. Attendance will be counted as a grade within this course as well. Students are expected to come to class having read the assigned reading for the week and to be able to participate in the class discussion.

Discussions Etiquette: Every student will have a different perception, interpretation, and opinion in reference to the class content. Regardless of whether you disagree with another student's views, you must still respect their views. There will be no disrespect of any kind tolerated both towards the professor and other students.

Discussion Leaders: Each student will have the opportunity to lead and initiate class discussion. The student leading discussion in a particular week will also craft a 10-15-minute overview of that week's assigned material. The discussion leader must, also, provide a small 1-2-page handout to provide for the other students and the professor that summarizes the material, high-lights key points, and includes questions the leader feels should be directed to the class.

Leading class discussion as well as the hand-out are both a grade, and the leader assigned for the week MUST be present. If the leader is unable to attend class, they must contact the professor with a proper reason for their absence prior to the start of class, or they will receive a failing grade. It is the student's responsibility to know and prepare for which week they are expected to present.

Weekly Response Summary: Each week, students will be expected to write a 2-4-page response summary to the assigned reading or video for that week. The essays should be AT LEAST two full page (essays with anything less than two full page will receive an automatic F). The summary must be typed in Times New Roman 12-point font, double spaced with one-inch margins, and in-text citations (in APA format) should be used from the material from that week if applicable. Students should critically analyze the course material for that week and include their own perception and understanding of it as well. Additionally, the essays should include understanding of that week's lecture. Students will be expected to provide a physical copy of their essay

Final Assignment: The final assignment will be a 4 page paper on your views on what you learned about the prison system and the treatment of African America Class what changes are you willing to make to change it.

Extra Credit: There will be different extra credit opportunities throughout the semester particularly talks and forums that will be held on campus. The professor will notify students of upcoming events either in class or through Blackboard, so they can be aware of the events ahead of time.

Notification of Changes: The instructor will make every effort to follow the guidelines of this syllabus as listed; however, the instructor reserves the right to amend this document as the need arises. In such instances, the instructor will notify students in class and/or via email and will endeavor to provide reasonable time for students to adjust to any changes.

Course Schedule:

Week 1 January Introduction

- **Jan14 Reconstruction of the Old South**
- **Jan 16 Reconstruction of the Old South**

Week 2 Jan 21-23

- **Eye on The Prize**

Week 3 Jan 28-30

Continue Eye on the Prize

Week 4 Feb 4-6

Feb 11

Reading Response 1 due by 12 midnight

Week 5 Feb 11-13

Kalief Browden

Movie Kalief Browden

Week 6 Feb 18-20

The New Jim Crow Chapters One and Two (1&2)

Week 7 Feb 25-27

Their Eyes Were Watching God Chapters one and two (1&2)

Week 8 March 3-5 Continue on Their Eyes Were Watching God

Week 9 March 10-12

Paper 2 Due by Midnight on March 12

Spring Break 16-21

Week 10 March 24-26

How To Slowly kill Yourself And Others In America Chapter One through three (1-3)

Week 10 March 24-26 Continue with Kiesa Laymon How To Slowly Kill Yourself And Others In America

Week 11 March 31 April 2

The Movie 13th

Reading Response 3 due by midnight

Week 12 April 7-9

When They See Us

Week 13 April 14-16

When They See Us Continuance of the movie

There is No Class when your paper is due!!!

All papers are due at Midnight!!!!

Final Exam is April 28th via Blackboard!!!!

Your final is a 6 page paper on what you learn over this semester

Services Provided by and Procedures for the University of Alabama

Emergency Contact Information

UA's primary communication tool for sending out information is through its web site at www.ua.edu. In the event of an emergency, students should consult this site for further directions. Additional course information will be posted using Blackboard Learn.

Severe Weather Guidelines

The guiding principle at The University of Alabama is to promote the personal safety of our students, faculty and staff during severe weather events. It is impossible to develop policies which anticipate every weather-related emergency. These guidelines are intended to provide additional assistance for responding to severe weather on campus.

UA is a residential campus with many students living on or near campus. In general classes will remain in session until the National Weather Service issues safety warnings for the city of Tuscaloosa. Clearly, some students and faculty commute from adjacent counties. These counties may experience weather related problems not encountered in Tuscaloosa. Individuals should follow the advice of the National Weather Service for that area taking the necessary precautions to ensure personal safety. Whenever the National Weather Service and the Emergency Management Agency issue a warning, people in the path of the storm (tornado or severe thunderstorm) should take immediate lifesaving actions.

When West Alabama is under a severe weather advisory, conditions can change rapidly. It is imperative to get to where you can receive information from the [National Weather Service](#) and to follow the instructions provided. Personal safety should dictate the actions that faculty, staff and students take. The Office of University Relations will disseminate the latest information regarding conditions on campus in the following ways:

Weather advisory posted on the UA homepage

Weather advisory sent out through UA Alerts to faculty, staff and students

Weather advisory broadcast over WVUA at 90.7 FM

Weather advisory broadcast over Alabama Public Radio (WUAL) at 91.5 FM

Weather advisory broadcast over WVUA-TV/WUOA-TV, and on the website at <http://wvuatv.com/content/weather>. WVUA-TV Home Team Weather provides a free service you can subscribe to which allows you to receive weather warnings for Tuscaloosa via e-mail or cell phone.

Check <http://wvuatv.com/content/free-email-weather-alerts> for more details and to sign up for weather alerts.

In the case of a tornado warning (tornado has been sighted or detected by radar; sirens activated), all university activities are automatically suspended, including all classes and laboratories. If you are in a building, please move immediately to the lowest level and toward the center of the building away from windows (interior classrooms, offices, or corridors) and remain there until the tornado warning has expired. Classes in session when the tornado warning is issued can resume immediately after the warning has expired at the discretion of the instructor. Classes that have not yet begun will resume 30 minutes after the tornado warning has expired provided at least half of the class period remains.

Policy on Academic Misconduct

All students in attendance at The University of Alabama are expected to be honorable and to observe standards of conduct appropriate to a community of scholars. The University of Alabama expects from its students a higher standard of conduct than the minimum required to avoid discipline. At the beginning of each semester and on examinations and projects, the professor, department, or division may require that each student sign the following Academic Honor Pledge: "I promise or affirm that I will not at any time be involved with cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, or misrepresentation while enrolled as a student at The University of Alabama. I have read the Academic Honor Code, which explains disciplinary procedure resulting from the aforementioned. I understand that violation of this code will result in penalties as severe as indefinite suspension from the University." See the [Code of Student Conduct](#) for more information.

Disability Statement

If you are registered with the Office of Disability Services, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible to discuss any course accommodations that may be necessary. If you have a disability, but have not contacted the Office of Disability Services, please call (205) 348-4285 (Voice) or (205) 348-3081 (TTY) or visit 1000 Houser Hall to register for services. Students who may need course adaptations because of a disability are welcome to make an appointment to see me during office hours. Students with disabilities must be registered with the Office of Disability Services, 1000 Houser Hall, before receiving academic adjustments.

Cultural Diversity Statement

The mission of The University of Alabama is to advance the intellectual and social condition of the people of the State through quality programs of teaching, research, and service. That educational mission is enhanced by the robust exchange of ideas that occurs within a diverse and inclusive learning environment. Students who learn from each other and from faculty members and administrators (including those at the highest levels of leadership) in an environment with a variety of backgrounds are better able to understand, appreciate, and contribute to our twenty-first century global society. Consequently, the University endorses a student, faculty, and administrative community enriched by women and men of diverse national origins, races, ethnicities, sexual orientations, cultures, socioeconomic and geographic backgrounds, ages, physical abilities, and religious and political beliefs. The University is committed to offering diverse cultural programs, intercultural education, and other educational initiatives (such as the University's Crossroads Community Center) that enhance awareness and appreciation of cultural and individual diversity, promote community, and prepare students for the global society in which they will live and work.

As an institution of higher learning, The University of Alabama attaches great value to freedom of speech and open debate, but it also attaches great importance to the principles of civility and respect which govern an academic community. Harassment or other illegal discrimination against individuals or groups not only is a violation of University Policy and subject to disciplinary action, but also is inconsistent with the values and ideals of the University.

It is the goal of The University of Alabama to cultivate a hospitable campus environment in which all members of the University can work together and learn from each other in a climate of mutual respect.

Classroom Decorum

The Code of Student Conduct requires that students behave in a manner that is conducive to a teaching/learning environment. Students who engage in behavior that is disruptive or obstructive to the teaching/learning environment will be subject to disciplinary sanctions outlined by the Code of Student Conduct. Disruptive/obstructive behavior is not limited to but may include the following: physical abuse, verbal abuse, threats, stalking, intimidation, harassment, hazing, possession of controlled substances,

possession of alcoholic beverages, use of cell phones and beepers in class, reading of newspapers, talking to fellow students during faculty or student presentations.

Computer Resources Acceptable Use Policy

The University of Alabama undertakes to provide access to local, national, and international sources of electronically generated, stored, and transmitted information and to promote a free and open atmosphere in which thinking and thoughtful people can exchange information and ideas with other thinking and thoughtful people, both on and off campus. To protect users and the University from criminal and civil liability to prevent unnecessary expense, to protect and preserve the work product of authorized users, and to encourage informed and considerate use, The University of Alabama has, in accordance with its regularly established policies and procedures for governance, adopted the guidelines in the [Computer Resources Acceptable Use and Security Policy](#) concerning the use of the University's computers, computer networks, and computer resources.

UACT:

“The University of Alabama is committed to an ethical, inclusive community defined by respect and civility. The UAct website (www.ua.edu/uact) provides a list of reporting channels that can be used to report incidences of illegal discrimination, harassment, sexual assault, sexual violence, retaliation, threat assessment or fraud.”