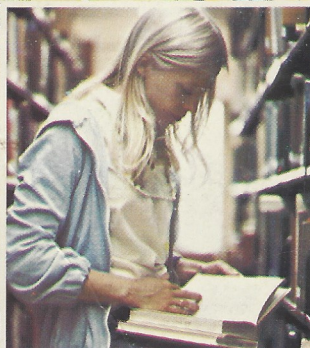
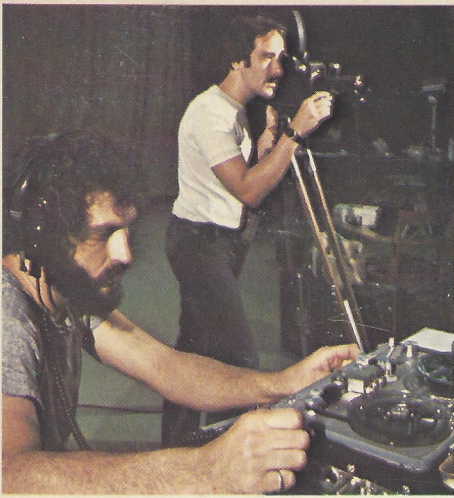


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African-American Studies Program

FACULTY:

JAMES A. MOSS, *Director*

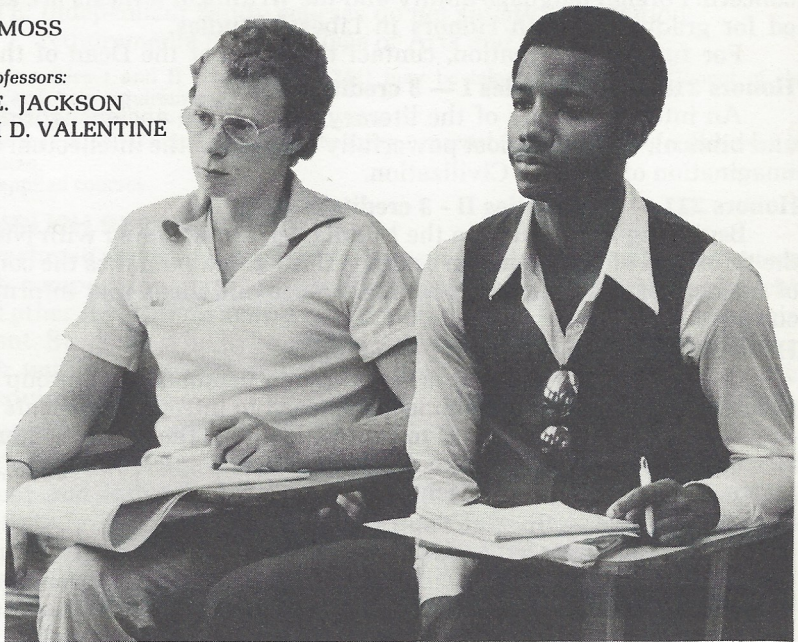
Professor:

JAMES A. MOSS

Assistant Professors:

PHYLLIS E. JACKSON

MALCOLM D. VALENTINE



The African-American Studies Program offers a comparative cross-cultural, interdisciplinary curriculum with a thematic focus on the African Diaspora. Courses in the humanities and social sciences center on the study of the interactions of peoples of African descent with host societies in the Americas, Europe, Asia and the Middle East. The thematic focus on the African Diaspora is complemented by a substantive concern with issues of public choice and public policy as they affect peoples of African heritage throughout the world.

Curriculum offerings are determined by a commitment to serve students of varying interests, cultural and ethnic backgrounds and career orientations. The concern is to produce students able not only to think conceptually, but to develop and test concepts and hypotheses. To that end, classroom instruction is extended by the integration of related field experiences. Students are afforded opportunities to engage in field research and to participate in work-study/travel-study projects, both domestically and internationally.

The program currently offers a Minor in African-American Studies. Students must complete twenty-one (21) credits in African-American Studies, at least twelve (12) of which must be taken in the program. All minors are required to select at least one course each from among the program's offerings in the social sciences and the humanities. An additional three (3) credits must consist of a supervised field experience course. The remaining nine (9) credits may comprise courses taken in other departments.

AAS 120 BLACK MUSIC AND MUSICIANS IN AMERICA 3 credits

A survey of the music of African-Americans and the creators and innovators of that music. The course examines the African origins of much Black music, analyzes various musical idioms (spirituals, gospel, folk, blues, pop, and symphonic), compares and contrasts styles and details their relationships. The biographies of specific Black musicians are also discussed, their styles analyzed and their contributions to music evaluated.

AAS 135 HISTORY OF BLACK THEATRE IN AMERICA 3 credits

A study of significant periods in the development of Black Theatre from the early 18th century to the present with emphasis on major contributions of important theatre figures of the period. Some reference to the social and cultural history of the time as it affected Black Theatre and to the development of other Black Fine Arts.

AAS 140 BLACK DRAMA WORKSHOP

3 credits

The course is designed to allow students interested in Black Theatre, whether artistically or intellectually, a vehicle for self-expression and creation. Students will involve themselves in the development and performances of Black Drama. Works will be chosen from those already written or from works which may evolve from the students in the workshop. This course may be repeated for credit, with the total number of credits not to exceed twelve.

AAS 160 THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN NOVEL 3 credits

Non-fiction as an art form for the African-American artist. The political and philosophical history of Black America, from within a literary framework, will be traced through the writings of Langston Hughes, Phyllis Wheatley and others.

AAS 210 BLACK WOMEN 3 credits

An historical and sociological study of Black men and women and their existing relationships. Variables of study will be strengths and weaknesses, attitudes of society and self, and the interrelatedness of Black man-woman relationships and the total environment.

AAS 221 CONTEMPORARY PUERTO RICO

3 credits

Exploration of the Puerto Rican as a political and social being in contemporary society. Students will examine the significance of the North American impact on the island's cultural development and the social and political implications of the *Estade Libre Asociada*. The issues of self-determination and independence will be examined within the context of the Puerto Rican dilemma of preserving its insular cultural integrity.

AAS 222 PUERTO RICAN FOLKLORE

3 credits

This course will investigate the distinct characteristics of the folklore of Puerto Rican people from an anthropological perspective. It shall deal with the occult-religious ceremony and ritual of spiritualism, folk institutions, belief systems, artifacts of cultural significance, folk medicinal practices, and folkloric behaviors which typify the diverse traits of Puerto Rican life. Special attention will be given to the institutionalization of folkloric norms of behavior, their cultural roots, and the function of these norms in past and latter day society.

AAS 230 COMMUNITY PLACEMENT I

3 credits

A minimum of four hours a week (total 50 hours a semester) of community work is required in a field agency under the supervision of an agency staff member approved by the African-American Studies Program Director. Work in the community will enable the student to gain direct insight into the immediate problems confronting Black and Latin people and to fulfill service to these communities. Students will be required to meet once a week with a member of the African-American Studies Program to discuss his/her work.

AAS 231 COMMUNITY PLACEMENT II

3 credits

A minimum of four hours a week (total 50 hours a semester) of community work is required in a field agency under the supervision of an agency staff member approved by the African-American Studies Program Director. Work in the community will enable the student to gain direct insight into the immediate problems confronting Black and Latin people, and to fulfill service to these communities. Students will be required to meet once a week with a member of the African-American Studies Program to discuss his/her work.

AAS 250 PSYCHOLOGY OF THE BLACK EXPERIENCE 3 credits

The study of the dynamic factors which influence the behavior and experience of Black people. The primary assumption is that there is a need not only for a redefinition of traditional concepts but also for the creation of new concepts and perspectives which reflect the African-American experience.

NOTE: This is essentially the same description that appears in the current catalogue: only minor changes have been made.

AAS 260 HISTORY OF THE EDUCATION OF MINORITIES 3 credits

This is an issues-oriented course which will be divided into three sections: Underdogs,

Middle Americans and Elites: Structured Inequality in the United States; Sexism in Education; Urban Education: The Black Child and the Schools as Dynamic, Social/Cultural Systems. Emphasis will be on comprehension, analysis and application.

AAS 330 POWERLESSNESS IN THE BLACK COMMUNITY 3 credits

The course draws upon the established social science, literature, and concepts of power, and suggests a paradigm of group powerlessness. The groups studied are drawn from a cross-cultural and transnational perspective. It is proposed that powerlessness is a universal attribute of all human societies. It is further proposed that its structures and functions vary from one social context to another, and that the strategies of empowerment adopted by the powerless are similarly socially, culturally, and politically conditioned.

AAS 340 SPECIAL TOPICS SEMINAR

3 credits each semester.

Prerequisite: Students may repeat this course provided it is taken on a different topic each time.

Intensive exploration of a particular topic related to African-American Studies. Topics are determined by the instructor and the expressed interests of students.

AAS 360 PUERTO RICANS AND URBAN AMERICA 3 credits

To familiarize the student with the social ties, political-economic activity, cultural change, and continuity of the Puerto Rican population in order to heighten knowledge and awareness of urban-based Puerto Ricans in a culturally plural society. Emphasis given to the tri-state areas of New York City Philadelphia and Newark.

AAS 362 PUERTO RICAN CHILD IN THE URBAN SETTING 3 credits

A survey of the sociological, psychological, and cultural contradictions confronting Puerto Rican children in New York's educational institutions. Special emphasis will be given to socialization, language change and continuity, and cultural conflicts of adjustment as integral aspects of urban education.

AAS 387 LAW AGAINST MINORITIES 3 credits

The connection between the institution of the law and man's behavior in the community has long attracted the attention of social scientists. Less attention has been directed towards the bases of inequity in the law, particularly its impact upon racial and ethnic minorities in America. Judge Bruce Wright of the Criminal Court in New York City combines legal experience as an attorney and as a judge with a compassion for human justice. He attempts in this course to establish clearly the nexus between constitutional guarantees, law and human actions.

AAS 490 INDEPENDENT STUDY

This course is open to any upper division student who has a topic that he/she would like to work on. Students should approach the instructor with idea(s) and, with the instructor, develop a reading list. The student will be expected to meet with the instructor weekly at a time to be arranged. A paper will be due at the end of the course.

AAS 491 DIRECTED READINGS 3 credits

An individual or small group seminar focusing on a common core of readings. Students will meet regularly with the instructor for discussions, and they may, depending on the size of the group, be asked to periodically prepare "thought papers" that will form the basis for the discussion.

