

**INDIANA UNIVERSITY-PURDUE UNIVERSITY FORT WAYNE****AFRO-AMERICAN STUDIES A210****THE AFRIKAN AMERICAN WOMAN****Saturday 9:00 - 11:50 p.m.****SB G69**

**Instructor:** Chris Patterson  
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**Office Hours:** By appointment

**Course Description:**

Who is the Afrikan American woman? Is she an Afrikan woman living in America or is she an American woman who happens to be Black? These fundamental questions raise issues around culture identity. The course will examine the role of European cultural nationalism in:

- a) The racialized/racist formation of what we call America.
- b) The construction of Arace@ as an identity.

We shall analyze how these conditions have shaped the lives and roles of Afrikan American women as mothers, sisters, daughters, and partners in contemporary U.S. society. Importantly, this course looks at how Afrikan American women, especially as mothers, have always played a key role in resisting racial oppression and defining a liberationist agenda.

**Womens Studies Program Goals**

- Goal 1:* To analyze academic disciplines from a feminist and antiracist perspective.  
*Goal 2:* To encourage original scholarship and research about women that takes into consideration gender, race, class and sexual orientation.  
*Goal 3:* To integrate self-exploration with academic skills.  
*Goal 4:* To provide a nonauthoritarian learning environment which values students ideas and encourages an open exchange of information and opinion.  
*Goal 5:* To promote an individual and critical approach to learning.  
*Goal 6:* To promote knowledge of the diversity of women=s experiences.

**Required Texts:**

Brent, I. (1999) Incidents In the Life Of A Slave Girl. A Harvest/HBJ Book.

Morrison, Toni, (1998) Beloved. Plume.

Shakur, A. (1987) Assata. Lawrence Hill.

Kincaid, Jamaica (1997) The Autobiography of My Mother. Farrar Straus Giroux.

Patterson Patience, Alice (1999)and (2001) Bittersweet Memories of Home I & II, Wilkes University Press

### Optional Text:

Hine, King, Reed (eds.). (1995) We Specialize in the Wholly Impossible. Carlson Publishers, INC.

### Objectives:

At the conclusion of this course students who have satisfactorily completed all the course requirements will:

- C understand how America was constructed as a white nation,
- C understand the impact of European domination on Afrikan people and First Nations peoples,
- C understand the contemporary situation and the roles of Afrikan women as bearers of culture and makers of social change,
- C understand the distinction between an antiracist perspective and a Atolerance@ perspective on American race relations

### Grade:

This course is primarily a discussion course and your input and experiences are integral to the knowledge building of the class. Videos and lectures will be used as guides for discussions along with required texts and other assigned readings. For part 2, a short term paper of **three** pages will be expected for each book. For part 3, students will be expected to deliver a **fifteen minute presentation** based upon the **final term paper of ten pages**.

The course grade will be determined by the quality of class attendance/ participation (20%), the short papers (30%), the oral presentation (10%) and the term paper (40%).

### Course Outline:

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|----------|---|
| Sept. 6  | Course Overview<br><b>Deculturalizing captured Afrikan people</b><br>Master Keys To Ancient Kemet<br><b>Video:</b> By Asa Hilliard  |
| Sept.13  | <b>Afrikan resistance to European domination</b><br><b>Video:</b> Quilombos<br>Spinning into Butter (Extra Credit)<br>First Presbyterian 300 W. Wayne Street<br>8:00 p.m. |
| Sept. 20 | <b>Video:</b> Amistad   |
| Sept. 23 | Meet the Mayorial Candidate (Extra Credit)<br>7:00 p.m. Walb Student Union  |
| Sept. 28 | <b>The Construction of the Americas</b><br><b>Video:</b> Dark Passages  |

- Oct. 2            “An Evening with Ben Vereen” (Extra Credit)  
Omnibus Lecture Series  
8:00 p.m. Walb Student Union
- Oct. 4            **Afrikan Mothers as Bearers of Culture**  
**Video:** Root of Resistance: A Story of the Underground Railroad  
Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl (paper due)
- Oct. 11           **Video: Beloved**  
Beloved(paper due)  
Black Leadership Summit (Extra Credit  
Sponsored by: Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity  
Walb Student Union  
Time: TBA
- Oct. 18            **Deculturalizing First Nations People**  
**Video:** In the White Man=s Image
- Oct. 25            The Autobiography of My Mother (paper due)  
**Video:** Daughters of the Dust
- Nov. 1            Assata (paper due)  
**video:** Color Adjustment
- Nov. 8            Bittersweet Memories of Home  
**video:** “AHouse on Fire”
- Nov. 15           Presentations
- Nov. 18           Winona Duke (Extra Credit)  
“Politics, Motherhood and Environmental Justice from a Native Perspective”  
Omnibus Lecture Series  
8:00 p.m. Walb Student Union
- Nov. 22           Presentations
- Nov. 29           Thanksgiving Break
- Dec. 6            Presentations
- Dec. 13           Presentations/Wrap-up
- Dec. 20           Final Paper Due

## Notes

**Whether you=re an experienced or novice writer, talking one-on-one with a knowledgeable peer consultant about your writing-in-progress will help you present your ideas clearly. You can get free help brainstorming, developing, and organizing ideas, and learning how to revise and edit final drafts, by visiting THE WRITING CENTER, Kettler G19, open daily except Saturday. The writing center is a not a proofreading service; improving your writing takes time. To get the most from your Writing Center conference: (a) make appointments in advance (drop-ins are welcome, but appointments receive priority; (b) bring assignment, due dates, questions, ideas, and draft (if you have one); (c) start early in the writing process, and go regularly.**