AAA ATP Course: (AAS 99) African American Identity & Academic Achievement

Fall 2013 – Freshman Seminar AAS 99 Osumare CRN# 20015 2UNITS P/NP
Wednesday’s 4 – 6PM – Tercero (Campbell Hall Classroom or Wall Hall)
Faculty of Record – Dr. Milmon Harrison (Facilitator: Kayton Carter)

African American Identity & Academic Achievement
A seminar focusing on the successful academic achievement of African American and African first year students; explores how they see themselves in a predominantly white university, discussions on self and social identity development, the skills needed for academic success, academic specialty programs, internship opportunities, and career decision making. The seminar has two (2) main targeted areas/focus:

**Academic Development:** Students will 1) complete a Strengths Finder 2.0 Assessment designed to help discover and develop their natural talents; 2) receive thorough introduction to university standards for (college) writing and overall college behavior; receive strategies to meet and overcome barriers to academic success; familiarize themselves with time management principles; learn introductory critical reading strategies; increase their comfort level in group dynamics.

**Identity Development:** Students will be introduced to racial development theories; complete a Myers-Briggs questionnaire designed to "measure psychological preferences in how people perceive the world and make decisions"; be introduced to campus resources that specifically reach out to underrepresented students; be introduced to introductory analysis and application theory (Bloom's Taxonomy). Students will also engage in critical discourse surrounding cultural awareness and/or exposure via the visual and performing arts.

Grading will be based on Attendance (10%), group reflection and participation (15%), Strengths Finder 2.0 assessment (10%), PYBOP (10%); Critical Reading workshop (10%); time management workshop (10%), Myers-Briggs Assessment (10%), 2-page response paper (10%) and final oral presentation (15%).

**Instruction Format:**

1) Strengths Finder 2.0 Self-Assessment, Tom Rath (text)

2) SASC Time management workshop

3) SASC Critical Reading Workshop

4) Racial Identity Development/Blooms Taxonomy – CAPS/CAN

5) Student Judicial Affairs – UC Davis Code of Academic (and behavioral) Conduct

6) Two-page response paper; on Spike Lee’s film, "Drop Squad" or John Singleton’s film “Higher Learning”, or talk on “Black Authenticity” responding to these subjects using principles and concepts learned in course.

7) Oral presentation: Students reflect upon their personal identity development as African American/African scholars using terms, themes, and ideas raised in class and in both the films and discussions on Racial Identity Development.
AAA ATP Course: (AAS 99) African American Identity & Academic Achievement

8) **P.Y.B.O.P.** Putting Your Brains On Paper: in-class free-writing exercises that will take place at the beginning of each day of instruction, or overnight. Students are expected to document how the varying daily topics affect them – in the moment.

9) **Required Cultural Events**; required component of seminar (tickets for Mondavi Center events may be provided to students free or at student discount rates). Students are required to attend (at least) one Mondavi Center event, and attend both movie showings for the fall quarter:

- Stewart Goodyear, Classical Piano (Saturday, October 5th); Mondavi Center
- Ahmad Jamal, Jazz Piano (Saturday, October 12th); Mondavi Center
- SF Jazz Collective 10th Anniversary Tour, Jazz Band (October 23rd) Mondavi Center
- Filmmaker Spike Lee's film: "Drop Squad"; Trecero/Campbell Hall (TBD)
- Filmmaker John Singleton's film: "Higher Learning"; Trecero/Campbell Hall (TBD)

**Weekly Schedule:**

- **Oct. 2** Overview of syllabus/introductions/Q&A/Completion of information sheets; Black History Jeopardy (teams activity); Strengths Finder 2.0 Assessment

- **Oct. 9** AAS Faculty TBD – The Significance of African American & African Studies to student (academic) success; AAS program overview; **PYBOP** – Poem: Dr. Derrick Gilbert (D-Knowledge); Never Buy a Jeep Cherokee

- **Oct. 16** Student Academic Success Center (SASC); academic success strategies, time management, critical reading, college note taking and test taking strategies. Student Judicial Affairs (SJA) overview; academic and college behavior. **PYBOP** – Dr. Seuss; Sneetches (video)

- **Oct. 23** Bloom’s Taxonomy personal assessment, in prep for movie discussion of with CAN/CAPS; **PYBOP** – True Colors; “Drop Squad” – Spike Lee film – Location/Time TBD

- **Oct. 30** “Racial Identity Development” “Black Authenticity” – CAN; **Mental Health Disparities** – by Ethnic Groups [http://minorityhealth.hhs.gov](http://minorityhealth.hhs.gov); **PYBOP** – Visit the Office of Minority Health web site and read about the research on mental health disparities per ethnic group.

- **Nov. 6** UC Davis (registered) Black Student Organization presentation/overview; “Higher Learning” – John Singleton Film – Location/Time TBD

- **Nov. 13** Are we living in a Post-Racist Society? The use of (mass) media for Racial Identity Development and Cultural Manipulation; current events that re-enforce culture. **PYBOP** – Current racist and/or prejudice articles, events on college campuses nation-wide.

- **Nov. 20** Cultural Diversity and Thanksgiving dinners (overview); Physical Health & Wellness Health Disparities Experienced by African Americans United States [http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5401a1.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5401a1.htm) (handout) **PYBOP** – SoulFood; song with lyrics by GoodieMob.

- **Nov. 27** Strengths Finder 2.0 Assessment (revisited); Oral Presentation (begin)
AAA ATP Course: (AAS 99) African American Identity & Academic Achievement

Dec. 4  Oral Presentations (Continued); End of “My 1st College Quarter” Celebration

Facilitator: Kayton holds a Master’s Degree in Higher Education Administration (with an emphasis in Student Affairs) from Michigan State University; a Bachelor’s Degree in Interdisciplinary Studies, Field Major (ISF); minor in Education from University of California, Berkeley. He currently serves as the academic advisor for AAS majors, and the Student Affairs Officer for the African American and African students. E-Mail: kaycarter@ucdavis.edu

Faculty of Record: Dr. Milmon Harrison is an Associate Professor and holds a PhD in Sociology. His teaching interests include Ethnicity in the United States; The Black Christian Church; Black social and political thought; Black popular culture. Dr. Harrison’s research interests include Sociology of Religion; the Black church in America; American race/ethnic relations; social stratification; Representation of African Americans in popular culture. Email mfharrison@ucdavis.edu