

**Common Course Outline**  
**AASD 121/WMST 121**  
**Introduction to Black Women's Studies**  
**3 Credits**

**The Community College of Baltimore County**

**Description**

**AASD 121 - 3 Credits - Introduction to Black Women's Studies** provides an interdisciplinary introduction to the status, achievements, and experiences of Black women in society. It analyzes past and current theories of gender, race, ethnicity, class, power, and equity. There is a critical examination of Black women's experiences in social institutions such as the arts, education, the labor force, law, economics, politics, marriage and family life, religion, media and creative production. The course takes a global approach and examines the complex experience of being a Black woman and addresses such topics as identity, feminism, Black feminism, womanism, cross-ethnic sisterhood, social mobility, and activism from a socio-historical perspective. This course is an examination and comparative analysis of Black women in the African Diaspora with particular emphasis on their struggles for rights as Blacks and as women, and their contribution to the development of their respective societies.

**3 Credits**

**Co-requisite:** ENGL 101

**Overall Course Objectives**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. demonstrate a basic knowledge of the Black woman's experience in the areas of history, culture, and world view;
2. describe the impact of the Black woman on world civilizations;
3. analyze the nature of racism, sexism and classism as they impact Black women throughout the world;
4. identify the major issues that impact the lives of Black women and their divergent stance on feminism/womanism from region to region;
5. discuss the role of Black women's history and its relevance to contemporary issues influencing peoples of the African Diaspora, particularly African Americans;
6. examine the images and stereotypes of Black women in the media in an effort to understand the ways that Black female identity is constructed;
7. distinguish the main events, persons, institutions, trends, and developments that are involved in the history of Black women; and
8. compare and contrast the similarities and differences between feminism, Black feminism, and womanism.

## **Major Topics**

- I. Introduction to the Field of Black Women's Studies
- II. Black Women's History and Culture on the African Continent
- III. Black Women's History and Culture in the African Diaspora
- IV. The Social Construction of Gender and Race
- V. Intersection of Gender, Race and Class
- VI. Images and Stereotypes of Black Women
- VII. Black Feminism and Womanism
- VIII. Topics in Black Women's Studies (Religion, Economics, Politics, Psychology, Creative Production, Education, Health)

## **Course Requirements**

Students are required to utilize appropriate academic resources.

**Grading/Exams:** Grading procedures will be determined by the individual faculty member, but will include the following:

1. The equivalent of 10 pages of writing in the form of reaction papers, term papers, and/or other papers on designated subjects
2. At least one 15-minute class oral presentation
3. Collaborative work in and outside of class
4. Class participation will constitute a minimum of 10% of each student's grade
5. At least one mid-term exam and one final exam, each with an essay component

## **Other Course Information**

This course is an Africana Studies core course.