

University of Maryland
African American Studies Department
Fall Semester 2017

AASP298V – The Blues as a Cultural Art Form
Brittney Allen – Instructor
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Room: NCC 0130
Time and Day: 1:00 PM – 3:30 PM / Wednesday

Course Description:

Examines the cultural history of the Blues from its origins in the rural south in the 1890s to its migration to – and resurgence – in urban centers throughout the country during the first the first half of the 20th century.

Course Objectives:

After completing this course, you will be able to trace the events and identity of the people who contributed to the development of the blues; explain the technological advances that helped to create and maintain the blues tradition; describe the economic and political considerations that influenced the growth of the blues; and discuss the impact of the blues on popular American music and culture.

Text: Deep Blues, Robert Palmer

Course Requirements:

1. Take the midterm quiz and final exam
2. Write a paper on the blues – 6-8 pages in length. Options include: (a) Profile of a blues artist. (b) Profile a blues style, area, or era. (c) Review a blues CD or book. (d) Review a live blues performance. (e) Interview a blues artist or scholar.
3. Creative Project – class presentations by students (group or individual) on the blues. Options include: (a) Musical Performance. (b) Oral paper. (c) Musical presentation on tape or video accompanied by an informed discussion of the material. (d) Other creative projects related to the blues.

Grading Policy:

Midterm Quiz	10%
Class Participation	10%
Creative Project	20%
Written Paper	30%
Final Exam	30%

Attendance Policy:

Each student is expected to attend class when scheduled. Only three absences are allowed. Three tardy arrivals equal one absence. After three absences, your grade is automatically lowered one letter grade. Each student is required to have all necessary materials for class.