SLIDE 1: TITLE

The Black Experience 101:

***AFAM 499 Capstone Seminar:***

***Senior Projects***

Fall 2022

Department of African American Studies

Virginia Commonwealth University

SLIDE 2

Presentation by Victoria Daughtry: Effectiveness of the Black Church

SLIDE 3

**Research Topic:** *To many groups Christianity is the anchor for hatred and bigotry of many forms. Yet, Christianity has still been an integral factor in the development of the African American community over time. The purpose of my research is to explore the positives and negatives of Christianity in relation to the African American community to determine if the good outweighs the bad, or if Christianity is mostly harmful.*

**Importance to AFAM:** *With Christianity being such an integral part of the African American Identity, whether you choose to practice or not, I believe it is important that we understand exactly the ways in which this religion shapes our lives.*

SLIDE 4

Magic of the Matriarchy by Alexis Davis

SLIDE 5

[Photograph of Alexis Davis]

**Research Topic:** *The research focuses on the gender roles of high-ranking women in African-American spiritual communities in the United States of America. For the study, I interviewed three Black women of royalty within the hierarchies of Hoodoo, Vodou, and Indigenous-American spirituality to draw a comparative analysis of their responsibilities and the impacts of their efforts within the communities.*

**Importance to AFAM:** *This research is significant to AFAM because spirituality is a large part of the Black identity. I believe Black women of leadership within ATR's and Indigenous spirituality, such as Her Royal Majesty Queen Mother Séminvo 1st Dr. Dòwòti Désir, Her Imperial Majesty Queen Cotaliya, and Her Excellence Clan Mother Waupautukuay Piper, should be more recognized and appreciated within the academic research of Africana studies. This research offers individuals to become better informed about the importance of spiritual matriarchs of the African diaspora.*

SLIDE 6

Black Farming and Gardening by Brian Marigny

SLIDE 7

[Photograph of Brian Marigny]

**Research Topic:** *The purpose of this presentation is to inform, educate, and provide more insight to Black Farming in the United States. This includes identifying connections, analyzing as well as dispelling myths about Black farmers, and recognizing the history, legacy, and impact about Black farming.*

**Importance to AFAM:** ·*The significance of Black Farming to African-American Studies is that for over centuries, from the rural South to northern cities, Black people have used farming to build self-determined communities and resist oppressive structures that tear them down.*

SLIDE 8

Black People in Media, by Raechel McDonald

SLIDE 9

[Photograph of Raechel McDonald]

**Research Topic:** *My research topic pertains to the evolution of Black people in media. Black people have had a unique history with media, being that their narratives were controlled by others for such a long time. Minstrel shows were the beginning of Black representation and it's not until relatively recently that Black people are making stories that don't center negative stereotypes and oppression. This research dives into how Black people as a whole are represented in the media, Black women, and the queer Black community.*

**Importance to AFAM:** *African American Studies is an incredibly unique discipline. It allows for the exposure to so many different histories and paths of the African Diaspora. Being in this major has allowed me to see that Black people are not a monolith. It's allowed me to understand the intricacies of Black history as well as the future. African American Studies is so much more than just learning about this oppression of African Americans; it explores the African American community as a whole, not limiting the discipline to confines!*

SLIDE 10

More Than a Woman: Black Hip-Hop Femme-inism in the Y2K Afrofuture, by Shawn Williams

SLIDE 11

[Photograph of Shawn Williams]

**Research Topic:** *Black women artists utilized the music video as a way to channel their own creativity and imagination for a world where they could and would take control through the medium of hip-hop music. This project will investigate and explore how Black women, girls, and femmes used technology and music to envision possible futures for themselves. I will be specifically analyzing and inquiring on how this Y2K music and aesthetic laid the foundation for visualizing Black women's futures.*

**Importance to AFAM:** *My topic is important to AFAM because it shows that the music we listen to and enjoy is worthy of academic scholarship and focus. It also puts a spotlight on Black women artists and the importance of music-making in giving a voice to our collective joy and freedom.*

SLIDE 12

[Photograph of a billboard that reads “There are Black People in the Future”]

The Future is Black! Research Possibilities are Limitless!