

**JOHNNIE M. GRIFFIN, Ph.D.**



Dr. Johnnie Griffin applies a “fit to survive” philosophy in her position as an assistant professor in the Department of Criminal Justice and Sociology at Jackson State University. Her “fit to survive” philosophy, which is antithetical to the Darwinian “survival of the fittest” concept, enables Dr. Griffin to take students as they are and teach them not only sociological concepts and issues but also some academic skills they need in order to confront and surmount the challenges in today’s *societies*.

Prior to coming to Jackson State University, Dr. Griffin was an assistant professor at Indiana University-South Bend. She also taught as a teaching assistant at Howard University, in Washington, D.C., where she received a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Sociology.

Dr. Griffin has a Master of Arts degree in Sociology from American University in Washington, D.C.; a Master of Science degree in Vocational Rehabilitation from the University of Wisconsin-Stout, Menomonie, Wisconsin; and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Spanish and Psychology from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, Eau Claire, Wisconsin.

Dr. Griffin, a Mound Bayou, Mississippi, native grew up in Chicago, Illinois, and San Diego, California. She has traveled extensively throughout the United States as well as to Mexico, Canada, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, Egypt, Israel, Germany, Italy, Greece, France, and Austria. Her traveling experiences have given her first-hand knowledge of many norms and values in other cultures, which she shares in her lectures and discussions. Dr. Griffin’s research interests include studies on payday loans, the *extensive* family, and the reconstruction of race and ethnic concepts.

In addition to having been a radio and cable TV talk show host and producer in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area and South Bend, Indiana, Dr. Griffin is also a novelist and poet who use these mediums to discuss sociological issues and social problems. Her straight-talking novels, *Mama’s Baby, Daddy’s Maybe* and *But, Jacob Still Loved Rachel*, will liven up courses and discussions on marriage and family, and male-female relations.