

Department of Africana Studies

Professor: *Cudjoe (Chair), Steady^{A1}*

Associate Professor: *Obeng*

Assistant Professor: *Patterson*

Visiting Lecturer: *Wabuyele*

Africana Studies is the critical, intellectual and representational expression of the history, culture and ideas of people of Africa and the African Diaspora, past and present. Founded in 1969, it is an interdisciplinary and transnational program of study that includes theoretical and methodological approaches reflective of the experience and intellectual traditions of Black people. It also includes studies of political and social movements, such as Négritude, Garveyism, pan-Africanism, the Civil Rights Movement, Decolonization, Black Consciousness, Black Identities and Black Feminism. Zora Neale Hurston, Frantz Fanon, Walter Rodney, C.L.R. James, W.E.B. Du Bois, Kwame Nkrumah, Patricia Hill Collins, Angela Davis, Audre Lorde, Ama Ata Aidoo, Buchi Emecheta, Samir Amin and Oyeronke Oyewumi are among the writers and intellectuals studied. Through the disciplines of history, literature, psychology, sociology, anthropology, political science, economics, religion and the creative arts, students examine the African world and the relationship between Africana people and the larger world system. Students obtain a wide range of knowledge and analytical ability as well as intellectual grounding, coherence, and integrity of the major. Each student will be assigned a faculty advisor, and be required to take the introductory course and attend a colloquium titled: "Africana Colloquium: The Common Intellectual Experience."

As an intellectual expression of Africana peoples, Africana Studies is designed to acquaint students with a critical perspective on the Africana world that is found primarily in Africa, the United States, the Caribbean and South America, but also among peoples of African descent in Asia and Europe. Grounded in the history, culture and philosophy of Africana peoples, Africana Studies promotes knowledge of the contribution of Africana people to the world, develops a critical perspective to examine the Africana experience, and cultivates a respect for the multiracial and multicultural character of our common world humanity. Although Africana Studies emphasizes an interdisciplinary and multicultural approach to scholarship and learning, it also seeks to provide grounding in a specific discipline and an understanding of the breadth of the Africana experience. As a result, the Africana Studies department expects its students to develop an intellectually critical and analytic apparatus to examine knowledge, seeks to contribute to a student's self-awareness, and attempts to broaden a student's perspective in ways that allow her to understand her world in its diversity and complexity.

Goals for the Major

To ensure an understanding of the concepts, theories, knowledge, research methodologies and skills in Africana Studies from a multidisciplinary perspective, through a series of required, core, elective and experiential courses and a mandatory colloquium;

To develop students' ability to understand and communicate specialized and general knowledge in the field of Africana Studies that includes Africa and the African Diaspora in the U.S., the Caribbean, Latin America, Europe and Asia;

To provide students with a representational and wide-ranging multidisciplinary education and an ability to apply knowledge to critical thinking that is also rational, creative, persuasive and linked to problem solving;

To develop skills and abilities necessary to conduct high-quality library and field research; apply methodological tools and use modern technology for discovering information and interpreting investigative data;

To attend the compulsory "Africana Colloquium: The Common Intellectual Experience" and provide students with an understanding of the discourses of the Africana Diaspora through a variety of disciplines that culminate in a common intellectual experience;

To develop skills that will be essential for a range of careers and leadership roles in an increasingly global and diverse world.

SWA 101-102 Elementary Swahili

Wabuyele

The primary focus of Elementary Swahili is to develop listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills. Aspects of Swahili/African culture will be introduced and highlighted as necessary components towards achieving communicative competence. *Each semester earns 1.0 unit of credit; however, both semesters must be completed satisfactorily to receive credit for either course.*

Prerequisite: None

Distribution: None

Semester: Fall, Spring

Unit: 1.0

AFR 105 Introduction to the Black Experience

Patterson

This course serves as the introductory offering in Africana Studies. It explores, in an interdisciplinary fashion, salient aspects of the Black experience, both ancient and modern, at home and abroad. This course provides an overview of many related themes, including slavery, Africanisms, gender, colonialism, civil rights, and pan-African exchange.

Prerequisite: None

Distribution: Historical Studies or Social and Behavioral Analysis

Semester: Fall

Unit: 1.0

AFR 201 The African-American Literary Tradition

Cudjoe

NOT OFFERED IN 2009-10. A survey of the Afro-American experience as depicted in literature from the eighteenth century through the present. Study of various forms of literary expression including the short story, autobiography, literary criticism, poetry, drama, and essays as they have been used as vehicles of expression for Black writers during and since the slave experience.

Prerequisite: None

Distribution: Language and Literature

Semester: N/O

Unit: 1.0

AFR 202/PHIL 202 Introduction to African Philosophy

Menkiti (Philosophy)

Initiation into basic African philosophical concepts and principles. The first part of the course deals with a systematic interpretation of such questions as the Bantu African philosophical concept of Muntu and related beliefs, as well as Bantu ontology, metaphysics, and ethics. The second part centers on the relationship between philosophy and ideologies and its implications in Black African social, political, religious, and economic institutions. The approach will be comparative. *Students may register for either AFR 202 or PHIL 202 and credit will be granted accordingly.*

Prerequisite: Open to seniors, juniors, and sophomores without prerequisite, and to first-year students who have taken one other course in philosophy.

Distribution: Religion, Ethics, and Moral Philosophy or Epistemology and Cognition

Semester: Spring

Unit: 1.0

AFR 206 Introduction to African-American History (from 1500)

Patterson

NOT OFFERED IN 2009-10. An introductory survey of the political, social, economic, and cultural development of African Americans from their African origins to the present. This course examines the foundations of the discipline of African-American history, slavery, Africans in colonial America, migration, Reconstruction, and Harlem Renaissance artistry and scholarship.

Prerequisite: None

Distribution: Historical Studies

Semester: N/O

Unit: 1.0

AFR 207 Images of Africana People Through the Cinema

Obeng

An investigation of the social, political, and cultural aspects of development of Africana people through the viewing and analysis of films from Africa, Afro-America, Brazil, and the Caribbean. The class covers pre-colonial, colonial, and post-colonial experiences and responses of Africana people. Films shown will include *Sugar Cane Alley*, *Zan Boko*, and *Sankofa*.

Prerequisite: None

Distribution: Arts, Music, Theatre, Film, Video

Semester: Fall

Unit: 1.0

AFR 208 Women in the Civil Rights Movement

Patterson

A social and historical examination of the role of women in the Civil Rights Movement in the United States. Particular attention will be paid to the interplay between historical and social factors. Women's impact on the Civil Rights Movement and the effects of the Movement on the women involved, are the foci of this course.

Prerequisite: None

Distribution: Historical Studies or Social and Behavioral Analysis

Semester: Spring

Unit: 1.0

AFR 211 Introduction to African Literature

Cudjoe

The development of African literature in English and in translation. Although special attention will be paid to the novels of Chinua Achebe, writers such as Ngugi wa Thiong'o, Camara Laye, Wole Soyinka, Miriama Ba, Nawal El Saadawi and Buchi Emecheta will also be considered. The influence of oral tradition on these writers' styles as well as the thematic links between them and writers of the Black awakening in America and the West Indies will be discussed.

Prerequisite: None

Distribution: Language and Literature

Semester: Spring

Unit: 1.0

AFR 212 Black Women Writers

Cudjoe

The Black woman writer's efforts to shape images of herself as Black, as woman, and as artist. The problem of literary authority for the Black woman writer, criteria for a Black woman's literary tradition, and the relation of Black feminism or "womanism" to the articulation of a distinctively Black and female literary aesthetic.

Prerequisite: None

Distribution: Language and Literature

Semester: Fall

Unit: 1.0

AFR 214 Internationalization of Black Power

Patterson

NOT OFFERED IN 2009-10. Influenced by global intellectual and political exchange, this course considers the events, theories, and people critical to the Civil Rights and Black Power struggles of the 1950s through the 1970s. Personalities/topics include Stokely Carmichael (Kwame Turé), Malcolm X, Martin Luther King, Elaine Brown, Majhemout Diop, Walter Rodney, Frantz Fanon, Patrice Lumumba, the Black Panther Party, and SNCC.

Prerequisite: None

Distribution: Historical Studies

Semester: N/O

Unit: 1.0

AFR 217 The Black Family

NOT OFFERED IN 2009-10. This course is an overview of the African-American family in economic, sociological, psychological, economic, anthropological, and historical perspective. It is an examination of the complex interplay of self-definitions, societal, and community definitions among African-American women, men, and children within the context of their families. The course is also an exploration of changing gender roles among African-American women and men.

Prerequisite: None

Distribution: Social and Behavioral Analysis

Semester: N/O Unit: 1.0

AFR 222 Blacks and Women in American Cinema

Obeng

A study of the creation of images and their power to influence the reality of race and gender in the American experience. Viewing and analysis of American cinema as an artistic genre and as a vehicle through which cultural and social history are depicted.

Prerequisite: None

Distribution: Arts, Music, Theatre, Film, Video

Semester: Spring Unit: 1.0

AFR 225 Introduction to Black Psychology

NOT OFFERED IN 2009-10. Issues and perspectives in the study of the psychological development of Black people in America, past and present. Special consideration is given to such issues as the Afrocentric and Eurocentric ethos, the nature of Black personality as affected by slavery and racism, psychological assessment, treatment and counseling techniques, and the relationships between psychological research and social policy in American research.

Prerequisite: None

Distribution: Social and Behavioral Analysis

Semester: N/O Unit: 1.0

AFR 226 Environmental Justice, "Race," and Sustainable Development

Steady

An investigation of the extent to which the causes and consequences of environmental degradation are influenced by social inequality and the devaluation of indigenous peoples. The course will examine how the poor, indigenous peoples and people of color are subjected to environmental hazards. Topics include the link between negative environmental trends and social inequality; the social ecology of slums, ghettos and shanty towns; the disproportionate exposure of some groups to pollutants, toxic chemicals, and carcinogens; dumping of hazardous waste in Africa and other Third World countries; and industrial threats to the ecology of small island states in the Caribbean. The course will evaluate Agenda 21, the international program of action from the Earth Summit designed to halt environmental degradation and promote sustainable development.

Prerequisite: None

Distribution: Social and Behavioral Analysis

Semester: Spring Unit: 1.0

AFR 229 Rap Music and the African-American Poetical Tradition

Cudjoe

NOT OFFERED IN 2009-10. This course examines the African-American poetical tradition from its roots in African oral literature to its contemporaneous manifestation in rapping, a showcase for African-American braggadocio, and the art of verbal dexterity and storytelling. The connection of this literary tradition with American cultural values will also be explored. The course will examine the works of Phyllis Wheatley, Langston Hughes, James Weldon Johnson, Melvin Tolson, Gwendolyn Brooks, Robert Hayden, Derek Walcott, Gill Scott-Heron, the Last Poets, Nikki Giovanni, Public Enemy, Run-D.M.C., Tupac, and other artists.

Prerequisite: None

Distribution: Arts, Music, Theatre, Film, Video

Semester: N/O Unit: 1.0

AFR 234 Introduction to West Indian Literature

Cudjoe

NOT OFFERED IN 2009-10. A survey of contemporary prose and poetry from the English-speaking West Indies. Special attention is paid to the development of this literary tradition in a historical-cultural context and in light of recent literary theories offer. Authors to include V.S. Naipaul, Derek Walcott, Wilson Harris, Jean Rhys, and others.

Prerequisite: None

Distribution: Language and Literature

Semester: N/O Unit: 1.0

AFR 235 Societies and Cultures of Africa

Steady

NOT OFFERED IN 2009-10. The objective of this course is to provide students with an introduction to the richness, diversity, and complexity of African societies and cultures while appreciating their unifying features. Topics to be discussed include forms of social organization, the importance of kinship and marriage systems, the centrality of religion, the position of women, urbanization and problems of development, democratization, and political transformation, political instability, and armed conflicts. In order to understand a people's view of themselves and of their relationship to the outside world, an in-depth case study will be made of one ethnic group—the Yoruba of southwestern Nigeria.

Prerequisite: None
Distribution: Social and Behavioral Analysis
Semester: N/O Unit: 1.0

AFR 236/POL2 203 African Politics

NOT OFFERED IN 2009-10. An investigation of politics across sub-Saharan Africa since the defeat of Portuguese colonialism in the mid-1970s. The economic stagnation of the 1980s, the impact of structural adjustment programs, the end of the Cold War, the genocide in Rwanda and the resulting wars will be discussed along with the liberation of Southern Africa and the recent wave of democratization. Emphasis on developing the method of empathetic understanding to become knowledgeable about the opportunities and constraints faced by African citizens and governments. *Students may register for either AFR 236 or POL2 203 and credit will be granted accordingly.*

Prerequisite: One unit in political science, economics, history, or Africana Studies. Open to juniors and seniors without prerequisite.
Distribution: Social and Behavioral Analysis
Semester: N/O Unit: 1.0

AFR 239 Islam in Black America: From Slavery to the Present

Patterson

NOT OFFERED IN 2009-10. This course commences with a detailed exploration of Islamic worship practices transferred and retained during slavery. The course continues by chronicling the historical and sociopolitical implications of nineteenth- and twentieth-century Islamic practice as it relates to African-American communities.

Prerequisite: None
Distribution: Historical Studies
Semester: N/O Unit: 1.0

AFR 242 New World Afro-Atlantic Religions

Obeng

NOT OFFERED IN 2009-10. With readings, documentary films, discussions, and lectures, this course will examine the complex spiritual beliefs and expressions of peoples of African descent in Brazil, Cuba, Haiti, Jamaica, and North America. The course surveys African diasporic religions such as Candomble, Santeria, Voodoo, Shango, and African-American religions. Attention will be paid to how diasporic Africans practice religion for self-definition, community building, sociocultural critique, and for reshaping the religious and cultural landscapes of the Americas.

Prerequisite: None
Distribution: Religion, Ethics, and Moral Philosophy
Semester: N/O Unit: 1.0

AFR 251 Religion in Africa

Obeng

An examination of African experience and expression of religion, the course surveys African religions among the Akan of Ghana, Yoruba of Nigeria, Nuer of the Sudan, the Zulu of South Africa, and the Bemazava-Sakalava of Madagascar. The course will focus on how gender, age, status, and cultural competence influence Africans' use of architecture, ritual, myth, dance, and music to communicate, elaborate on the cosmos, and organize their lives. Special attention will be paid to the resiliency of African deities and indigenous cultural media during their encounter with Christianity and Islam.

Prerequisite: None
Distribution: Religion, Ethics, and Moral Philosophy
Semester: Fall Unit: 1.0

AFR 252 Francophone Africa

Patterson

This course studies the history of Francophone Africa in the eighteenth through twentieth centuries, focusing on cultural and political transformations. "Francophone Africa" is far from a monolithic place; it covers peoples and cultures from the Mediterranean Sea to the Congo basin, from the Atlantic to the Red Sea. It also had two colonial powers, France and Belgium, whose theories and practices would impact all aspects of life during and after the imperial period. Themes may include slavery, Christianity, Islam, négritude, the Rwandan genocide, and "Eurafrican" exchange.

Prerequisite: None
Distribution: Historical Studies
Semester: Spring Unit: 1.0

AFR 265 African-American Biographies

Cudjoe

This course traces the life stories of prominent African Americans, which, in their telling, have led to dramatic changes in the lives of African-American people. Some were slaves; some were investigative journalists; some were novelists; and one is the president of the United States. We will examine the complex relationship between the community and the individual; the personal and the political and how these elements interact to form a unique African-American person. The course also draws on related video presentations to dramatize these life stories. Authors include Linda Brent, Frederick Douglass, Ida B. Wells, Richard Wright, Maya Angelou, Malcolm X and Barack Obama.

Prerequisite: None
Distribution: Language and Literature
Semester: Spring Unit: 1.0

**AFR 297 Medical Anthropology:
A Comparative Study of Healing Systems**

Steady

NOT OFFERED IN 2009-10. This course examines alternative healing systems that attempt to treat the whole person as a physical, social, and spiritual being and to promote community participation and healing. It offers new perspectives on the biomedical model as it examines the sociocultural context of the causes, diagnosis, prevention, and cure of disease. Examples of healing systems will be from Third World countries, particularly in Africa, the Caribbean, and Latin America, and from industrialized societies, particularly from African-American and indigenous communities in the United States. Examination will be made of healing systems that include divination, herbal medicine, folk medicine, and faith healing.

Prerequisite: None

Distribution: Social and Behavioral Analysis

Semester: N/O

Unit: 1.0

AFR 299 Women in the Caribbean

NOT OFFERED IN 2009-10. This course is a sociological exploration of the lives of women in Caribbean societies. While the emphasis is on contemporary English-speaking Caribbean (e.g., Barbados, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, St. Lucia, Nevis), attention will be given to the historical background of the current situation and to the French-speaking (e.g., Martinique, Guadeloupe, Haiti) and Spanish-speaking (Cuba, the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico) Caribbean. Women's work in the formal and informal sectors, activism, roles in development and familial relationships are some of the topics to be explored.

Prerequisite: None

Distribution: Social and Behavioral Analysis

Semester: N/O

Unit: 1.0

**AFR 300 Heritage and Culture in Jamaica:
A Wintersession Experience**

Steady

NOT OFFERED IN 2009-10. Jamaica is a country that provides a unique opportunity for the study of multiculturalism in action. Its national motto is "Out of many, one people." The study abroad Wintersession course in Jamaica will explore the history, culture, and political economy of the country and promote an understanding of the Caribbean as a whole through seminars, participatory field research, and internships. The program will give students an opportunity for total immersion in the Jamaican environment and for participation in several community-based projects that will add experiential value to their classroom-based education. *Not offered every year. Subject to approval of the Dean's Office.*

Prerequisite: By permission of the department. Application required.

Distribution: Social and Behavioral Analysis

Semester: N/O

Unit: 0.5

AFR 301 Seminar. South Africa

Steady

NOT OFFERED IN 2009-10. An examination of the degree of success or failure in social transformation from a racist, centralized, and oppressive apartheid system to a nonracial, democratic and participatory system that seeks to promote social and economic justice for all its citizens. Topics include the structural challenges to social transformation, socioeconomic development and resource distribution, the persistence of *de facto* apartheid, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, increasing poverty among the African population, the HIV/AIDS epidemic, the impact of globalization, and South Africa's place in Africa and the world at large.

Prerequisite: A 200-level course of relevance to Africana Studies or permission of the instructor.

Distribution: Social and Behavioral Analysis

Semester: N/O

Unit: 1.0

AFR 302 Caribbean Intellectual Thought in the Twentieth Century

Cudjoe

During the twentieth century the Anglophone Caribbean produced a rich body of ideas that had an enormous impact upon the colonial and post-colonial worlds. These ideas cover fields such as history, politics, economics and culture. This course traces the development of these ideas, examines their applicability to the specific circumstances in the Caribbean and analyzes how they resonated in the larger world of ideas. We will look at the works of writers and thinkers that could include: A.R.F. Webber, Marcus Garvey, Arthur Lewis, Eric Williams, C.L.R James, Amy Ashwood Garvey, Jamaica Kinkaid, Rhodda Rheddock, Patricia Mohammed, Erna Brodber, Cheddi Jagan, Walter Rodney, Maurice Bishop, and Michael Manley.

Prerequisite: One 200-level course of relevance to Africana Studies or permission of the instructor.

Distribution: Historical Studies

Semester: Fall

Unit: 1.0

AFR 306 Urban Development and the Underclass: Comparative Case Studies

Steady

NOT OFFERED IN 2009-10. Throughout the African Diaspora, economic change has resulted in the migration of large numbers of people to urban centers. This course explores the causes and consequences of urban growth and development, with special focus on the most disadvantaged cities. The course will draw on examples from the United States, the Caribbean, South America, and Africa.

Prerequisite: One 200-level course of relevance to Africana Studies or permission of the instructor.

Distribution: Social and Behavioral Analysis

Semester: N/O

Unit: 1.0

AFR 310 Seminar. Black Literature

Topic A: Three Writers of the Harlem Renaissance

Cudjoe

NOT OFFERED IN 2009-10. The Harlem Renaissance is a period associated with the rebirth of African-American literature and culture. Langston Hughes, Claude McKay, and Zora Neale Hurston are three important novelists and poets of this period. This course examines selected works from their prose and poetry. Selected works will be examined against the background of the Harlem Renaissance.

Prerequisite: One 200-level course of relevance to Africana Studies or permission of instructor.

Distribution: Language and Literature

Semester: N/O

Unit: 1.0

Topic B: Rhetoric and Revolution

Cudjoe

NOT OFFERED IN 2009-10. This course examines the rhetoric and writing of Africana freedom fighters and the role prison plays as a weapon in the freedom struggle. Texts include Nelson Mandela, *Long Walk to Freedom*; Martin Luther King, *Why We Can't Wait*; Frantz Fanon, *Wretched of the Earth*; *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*; and selections from Jack Mapanje's *Gathering Seaweeds: African Prison Writings*.

Prerequisite: One 200 level course of relevance to Africana Studies or permission of instructor.

Distribution: Language and Literature

Semester: N/O

Unit: 1.0

Topic C: Writers from the Diaspora

Cudjoe

NOT OFFERED IN 2009-10. This course examines six selected novelists from the African Diaspora and the continent. They include Frederick Douglass, *The Narrative of Frederick Douglass*; Booker T. Washington, *Up From Slavery*; Sembene Ousmane, *God's Bits of Wood*; Michel Maxwell Philip, *Emmanuel Appadocca*; Stephen Nathaniel Cobham, *Rupert Gray*; Ralph De Boissière, *Crown Jewel*; Selwyn R. Cudjoe, *Beyond Boundaries*; Bernard Bell, *The Afro-American Novel and Its Tradition*; and Gregory Wilson, *Between Piracy and Justice: Liminality in Maxwell Philip's Emmanuel Appadocca*. The course concentrates on the commonality of themes and approaches to the explanation of similar phenomenon. The selected texts draw on and reflect the slave and colonial experiences.

Prerequisite: One 200 level course of relevance to Africana Studies or permission of instructor.

Distribution: Language and Literature

Semester: N/O

Unit: 1.0

AFR 318 Seminar. African Women, Social Transformation, and Empowerment

Steady

A comparative analysis of the role of women in development with emphasis on the struggle within struggle—the movement to achieve political and economic progress for Africa and its people and the struggle within that movement to address problems and issues that directly affect women. We will explore women's participation in social and political movements and ways to improve the status of women.

Prerequisite: One 200-level course of relevance to Africana Studies or permission of the instructor.

Distribution: Social and Behavioral Analysis

Semester: Spring

Unit: 1.0

AFR 340 Seminar. Topics in African-American History

Patterson

Topic for 2009-10: Health, Medical Professionals, and the Body in the African Diaspora. This course examines the major nineteenth and twentieth-century local and global health developments that have impacted the public and private lives of people of African descent. The course includes an assessment of how pharmacists, nurses, and physicians navigate their respective medical fields in the African-Atlantic world, with emphasis on the United States, Senegal, and Cuba. This course considers how traditional and modern medical philosophies converge and diverge in urban planning, disease management, and public health policy. It further considers how individuals and communities respond to these policies.

Prerequisite: One 200-level course of relevance to Africana Studies or permission of instructor.

Distribution: Historical Studies or Social and Behavioral Analysis

Semester: Fall

Unit: 1.0

AFR 341 Seminar. Topics in Africana Social Science

Obeng

Topic for 2009-10: Neglected Africans of the Diaspora. The seminar explores the nature and composition of the African Diaspora and its changing meanings. Focusing on Africans in India and Pakistan, Oman, Britain, Belize, Martinique, Ecuador, and Costa Rica, we will examine the sociocultural connections among diasporic Africans such as the forced migrations of enslaved Africans and voluntary emigration of free-skilled Africans out of continental Africa. The seminar also explores the geopolitical, religious, and cultural factors that foster distinctive diasporic African identities and how these people constitute and contribute to global citizenry. Attention will be paid to the permeable boundaries of global politics, religion, economics, culture, and citizenry.

Prerequisite: One 200-level course of relevance to Africana Studies or permission of instructor.

Distribution: Social and Behavioral Analysis

Semester: Spring

Unit: 1.0

AFR 344 Advanced Africana Seminar

Cudjoe

NOT OFFERED IN 2009-10. This course examines through interdisciplinary approaches key texts that shape our understanding of Africana Studies. The major theories, ideas, issues and significant writings that shape Africana Studies will be examined. Consideration will also be given to approaches to Africana Studies, concepts of Afrocentricism and how the text that is selected allows us to understand the

discipline in a critical manner. This seminar will be placed within the multicultural, multiracial and religiously plural landscapes of Africana people.

Prerequisite: One 200-level course of relevance to Africana Studies or permission of instructor.

Distribution: Language and Literature

Semester: N/O

Unit: 1.0

AFR 350 Research or Individual Study

Prerequisite: Open by permission to juniors and seniors.

Distribution: None

Semester: Fall, Spring

Unit: 1.0

AFR 350H Research or Individual Study

Prerequisite: Open by permission.

Distribution: None

Semester: Fall, Spring

Unit: 0.5

AFR 360 Senior Thesis Research

Prerequisite: By permission of the department. See Academic Distinctions.

Distribution: None

Semester: Fall, Spring

Unit: 1.0

AFR 370 Senior Thesis

Prerequisite: 360 and permission of department.

Distribution: None

Semester: Fall, Spring

Unit: 1.0

Related Courses

The following courses are offered as related work by other departments where they are described. Courses from this list may be counted toward the major, provided that a minimum of six courses is elected from the Africana Studies departmental offerings.

For Credit Toward the Major

AMST 152 Race, Ethnicity, and Politics in America

AMST 315 Beats, Rhymes, and Life: Hip-Hop Studies

ARTH 316 Topics in African/African-American Art.

ARTH 322 Seminar. Memory and Identity in Contemporary Visual Art of the African Diaspora

FREN 218 Négritude, Independences, Women's Issues: Francophone Literature in Context

HIST 264 The History of Pre-Colonial Africa

HIST 266 The Struggle Over North Africa, 1800 to the Present

HIST 365 Seminar. Research in African History

MUS 209 A History of Jazz

SOC 251 Sociology of Race

WGST 305 Seminar. Representations of Women, Natives, and Others

Requirements for the Major

A major in Africana Studies requires nine units. An Africana Studies major will choose one of three possible concentrations: Africa, the Caribbean and the United States. All of the three concentrations encompass the interdisciplinary approach of the department, while allowing students to focus on a particular area and gain expertise in one discipline.

Majors must take 105 by the end of the junior year. This course provides an overview of the discipline of Africana Studies, including its philosophical and historical foundations, and introduces students to its major fields of inquiry. Of the nine units required for an Africana Studies major, at least two must be at the 300 level and 344 is strongly recommended. Ordinarily, not more than two units may be taken outside the department. All majors must attend the "Africana Studies Colloquium: The Common Experience" each semester.

Africa: This program of study is designed to provide students with an interdisciplinary and integrated understanding of the peoples of the African continent, from its ancient foundation through its current geopolitical situation. However, to ensure students' breadth of knowledge of the Africana world, two courses that focus on a geographic area other than Africa are required. Six courses that focus on Africa are the foundation of this concentration: one course must be in history; one must be in a social science (economics, political science, sociology, anthropology, or psychology); one must be chosen from the humanities (literature, language, art, music, philosophy, and religion); and two should be chosen from a specific discipline. The following courses are appropriate for the Africa concentration:

History: AFR 105, [200], [319], 340, HIST 265

Social Sciences: AFR [204], [205], [213], [223], 235, 236, [245], [280], 297, 301, 306, [307], 318, 341

Humanities: SWA 101-102, AFR 202/PHIL 202, 207, 211, 222, [231], [232], 251, ARTH [209], [238], 241, 316

FREN 218, 330, MUS 209, 224/REL 224

The Caribbean: This program of study also provides students with an interdisciplinary knowledge of a particular geographic area: the Caribbean—its history, peoples, culture, and significance in the world system. As with the other concentrations, students focusing on the Caribbean are expected also to acquire some breadth of knowledge about the Africana world; thus, two courses focused on other areas are required. Of the five courses on the Caribbean, one must be a humanities course; one must be a social science; one must be a history course; and two must be chosen from one discipline. (See the African track for the specific disciplines considered “humanities” and “social sciences.”) The following courses are appropriate for the Caribbean concentration:

History: AFR [216], [319], 340

Social Sciences: AFR 105, [245], [275], 299, 300, 306

Humanities: AFR 207, [210], [232], 234, 310, [335], FREN 218, 330, SPAN 269

The United States: As with the other concentrations, students who choose the United States should approach their study of African America through many disciplines. The concentration requires five courses focusing on the United States: one in history, one in the humanities, one in social science, and two in the discipline in which the student chooses to concentrate. (See the Africa concentration for the specific disciplines considered “humanities” and “social sciences.”) To ensure students’ breadth of knowledge of the Africana world, however, this track also requires two courses focused on one or more geographic areas other than the United States. The following courses are appropriate for the United States concentration:

History: AFR 105, 206, 208, 214, 239, [319], 340

Social Sciences: AFR [203], [214], [215], 217, [219], [220], [221], 225, [230], [305], 306, [315], POL1 337S

Humanities: AFR [150], 201, 212, 222, [233], [262], ARTH 322, ENG 320, MUS 209, 224/REL 224, 300

For all concentrations, students are encouraged to gain firsthand experiential insights in the Africana world. Students in the Africa and Caribbean concentrations are encouraged to consider the Wintersession courses in Ghana and Jamaica. Those in the Africa or the Caribbean concentrations are also strongly encouraged to consider study-abroad programs in these geographic areas. Those focusing on the United States should consider spending a semester or year at a historically Black college or in a relevant U.S. internship. Credit toward the major may be given for such experiences when appropriate.

Requirements for the Minor

A minor in Africana Studies will consist of five units, including one 300-level course. AFR 105 is strongly recommended. Minors are strongly encouraged to take courses in at least two geographic areas (e.g., the United States and the Caribbean) and in two or more disciplines. Minors are also encouraged to attend departmentally sponsored extracurricular lectures, especially those (required of majors) that focus on methodology.

Honors

The only route to honors in the major is writing a thesis and passing an oral examination. To be admitted to the thesis program, a student must have a grade point average of at least 3.5 in all work in the major field above the 100 level. The department may petition on her behalf if her GPA in the major is between 3.3 and 3.5. See Academic Distinctions.