

# African and African-American Studies Minor

## African and African-American Studies Committee

African and African-American Studies is a multidisciplinary approach to the understanding of the society, culture, and history of Africans and people of African descent.

Drawing on the expertise of scholars of the African and African-American experience in the fields of sociology, literature, the visual and performing arts, history, political science, education, economics, and anthropology, the minor has the following goals:

- To emphasize the African and African-American contribution to world development.
- To broaden and deepen students' understanding of Africa, the African diaspora, and the American identity.
- To provide students of African descent with an opportunity to pursue a program of study directly relevant to their own lives and expose as many students as possible to African and African-American studies.

**John Fobanjong (program director)**  
Political Science

**Veronique Hélénon** History

**Everett Hoagland** English

**Semenya McCord** Music

**Ziddi Msangi** Design

**Carol Pimentel** staff

**Thomas K. Ranuga** Sociology

**John Rice** Engineering

**Bruce Rose** Upward Bound

**Selected Faculty** in the College of Arts and Sciences, College of Business, College of Engineering, and College of Visual and Performing Arts also participate in the offering of courses.

## Requirements

Each student who minors in African and African-American Studies is required to complete AAS 101 Introduction to African and African-American Studies. In addition, five elective courses must be selected, two from Group A and three from Group B. No more than two of the elective courses may be in one department. Program total: 18 credits.

### Group A: Choose two courses

AAS/ECO 103	Cities, Minorities, and Poverty
AAS/MUS 125	Jazz: The Listener's Guide
AAS/HST 190	African Civilizations
AAS/ENL 200	Studies in Literature (with appropriate topic)
AAS/HST 205	African-American History I
AAS/HST 206	African-American History II
AAS/ENL 214	African-American Literature
AAS/ENL 215	West Indian and African Literature
AAS/SOC 226	Sociology of Africa
AAS/SOC 230	Black Identity and the Social World
AAS/PSC 239	African American Politics
AAS/MUS 242	African-American Music
AAS/PSC 243	Ethnic Politics
AAS/ENL 246	Women Writers
AAS/HST 290	Modern Africa

### Group B: Choose three courses

AAS 298	Experiential Learning
AAS 495	Independent Study
AAS 196, 296, 396, 496	Directed Study
AAS/HST 300	Topics in American History (with appropriate topic)
AAS/PSC 303	Cape Verdean Politics and Society
AAS/PSC 306	Civil Rights
AAS/SOC 310	Social Movements
AAS/PSC 313	Urban Politics
AAS/ECO 343	The Economics of Sex and Race Discrimination
AAS/EDU 451	Contemporary Issues and Challenges
AAS/SOC 353	Readings in Sociological Literature: The Black Family
AAS/ARH 361	Art and Culture of Africa
AAS/PSC 367	African Political Systems
AAS/MUS 370	Music and Culture of the African Diaspora
AAS/MUS 371	Topics in World Music Performance
AAS/MUS 372	Music in World Cultures
AAS/HST 378	Slavery in the New World
AAS/HST 391	Topics in African History

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## African and African-American Studies Courses

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**AAS 101** three credits

### **Introduction to African and African-American Studies**

3 hours lecture

Introduction to the principal topics in the study of Africans and African-Americans. This is the introductory course for the minor in African and African-American Studies, providing students with an encompassing framework for the African and African-American experience.

**AAS 103 (ECO 103; LST 103; WMS 103)**

three credits **D, E, O**

### **Cities, Minorities, and Poverty**

Review and analysis of major social problems faced by cities; emphasis on origin, causes and possible solutions for poverty and minority problems.

**AAS 125 (MUS 125)** three credits **C**

### **Jazz: The Listener's Guide**

Study of jazz based on listening and class discussion. The course is intended to increase awareness of the roots of jazz within the African-American community and of the cross-cultural fertilizations occurring throughout its recent history. Although academic and technical studies of jazz were established in the 50s, it is only within the past fifteen years that these studies have led to the recognition of jazz as a truly valued American art form.

**AAS 190 (HST 190)** three credits **C**

### **African Civilizations**

An introduction to the culture, history, and civilizations of the African continent, with special emphasis on sub-Saharan Africa. This one-semester survey is designed to acquaint the student with the principal themes of African history and development from pre-historic to modern times.

**AAS 200 (ENL 200, LST 200)**

three credits **C**

### **Studies in Literature: Black Literature**

Applicable to LST minor when offered with the Black Literature emphasis. May be repeated with change of content.

**AAS 205 (HST 205)**

three credits **C, D**

### **African-American History I**

A survey of the role of African-Americans in American life and culture from the colonial period to the 1890s.

**AAS 206 (HST 206)**

three credits **C, D**

### **African-American History II**

A continuation of the study of the role of

African-Americans in American history, from the 1890s to the present.

**AAS 214 (ENL 214; WMS 214)**

three credits **C**

### **African-American Literature**

Chronological survey beginning with Gustavus Vassa and Robert Hayden's "Middle Passage" and continuing through contemporary writers. Toward the end of the course there will be a focus on new women writers and major writers through the 1990s.

**AAS 215 (ENL 215)** three credits **C**

### **West Indian and African Literature**

A study of important and innovative West Indian and contemporary African writers.

**AAS 226 (SOC 226 or ANT 226)**

three credits

### **Sociology of Africa**

A survey of change and conflict in African society, historically and at present. Particular attention will be paid to the effects of colonialism and African resistance to it.

**AAS 230 (SOC 230)** three credits

### **Black Identity and the Social World**

The course examines the African past through literature, the survival techniques which Blacks developed in order to survive in an alien world, and the collective identity of Black people at the present time. This course is especially designed for Black students and White students who are concerned with Black heritage.

**AAS 239 (PSC 239)** three credits **C, D**

### **African American Politics**

A study of the role of African Americans in the American political system, both historically and contemporarily, with special attention given to the alternative political strategies used in the struggle for political inclusion. Various philosophies that have been adopted to open up the political process and increase the democratic participation of African Americans are studied.

**AAS 242 (MUS 242)** three credits **C**

### **African-American Music History**

Prerequisite: MUS 107 or equivalent

A survey of African-American music from its African origins to the present. The course introduces the student to the vast and rich expanses of black musical culture from a stylistic, cultural, and socio-historical perspective, with a focus on jazz.

**AAS 243 (PSC 242)** three credits

**Ethnic Politics**

Prerequisites: PSC 101

The complex ethnic structure of the American political landscape. The course examines the role that ethnicity plays in American politics in a comparative examination of the politics of major racial and ethnic minority groups.

**AAS 246 (ENL 246)**

three credits **C**

### **Women Writers**

Prerequisite: ENL 102

When the subject matter is related to the minor: an examination of the relationship between the woman writer and her work through a study of literature by and about women. Satisfies literature distribution requirement.

**AAS 290 (HST 290)** three credits **C, G**

### **Modern Africa**

Survey of Africa's modern history, beginning especially after 1800. It looks at the beginnings and expansions of European and African-American settlements there, the Zulu and Islamic Revolutions, the conquest and colonization of Africa, and post-colonial developments.

**AAS 298** one to six credits

### **Experiential Learning**

Prerequisites: At least sophomore standing; permission of the instructor, department chairperson, and college dean  
Work experience at an elective level supervised for academic credit by a faculty member in an appropriate academic field. Conditions and hours to be arranged. Graded CR/NC. For specific procedures and regulations, see selection of catalogue on Other Learning Experiences.

**AAS 300 (HST 300)** three credits

### **Topics in American History**

When the subject matter is related to the minor: a critical analysis of selected topics or issues in African-American history.

**AAS 303 (PSC 303)** three credits **C, D, G**

### **Cape Verdean Politics and Society**

A study of Cape Verdeans as an ethnic sub-population in the United States, and as comprising an independent, self-governing nation-state. The historical, political, social, and economic contributions of Americans of Cape Verdean descent in the United States and in Cape Verde are examined.

**AAS 306 (PSC 306)** three credits **C, D**

### **Civil Rights Movements in the United States**

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A study of the politics of civil rights and the various philosophical approaches that have been used to extend such rights to groups that have traditionally had no access to the agenda setting processes within the legislative system. Emphasis is placed on the philosophy of nonviolence and on the political effectiveness of such organizing strategies as marches, sit-ins, and public demonstrations; and how the American experience with civil rights has influenced civil rights movements in other parts of the world.

**AAS 310 (SOC 310) three credits  
Social Movements I**

Prerequisite: SOC 101 or permission of instructor

A sociological analysis of the origin and development of social movements with an emphasis on detailed study of particular social movements.

**AAS 313 (PSC 313) three credits G  
Urban Politics**

Prerequisites: PSC 101 and upper-division standing

A critical examination of the urban political community in the United States. Particular attention is given to the adequacy of the city as an arena of conflict resolution and decision-making as well as such current problems as urban reconstruction in the ghettos. Field research in the area by individuals or groups is encouraged but not required.

**AAS 337 (SOC or ANT 337) three credits D  
Comparative Ethnic Relations**

A comparative analysis of interracial and interethnic relations in various areas of the world including the U.S., Latin America, Africa, and Europe. An examination of the causes of interethnic conflict, assimilation, ethnic solidarity, and changes in ethnic identity.

**AAS 343 (ECO 343) three credits E, G  
The Economics of Sex and Race  
Discrimination**

Prerequisites: ECO 231, 232; or permission of instructor

The theory of labor markets and the problem of discrimination. Current problems facing women and minorities will be examined. Existing programs and trends will be explored.

**AAS 353 (SOC 353) three credits  
Readings in Sociological Literature IV:  
The Black Family**

Prerequisite: Permission of instructor

When the subject matter is related to the minor: directed readings and analysis in sociological topics related to the Black family.

**AAS 361 (ARH 361) three credits C, G  
Art and Culture of Africa**

A survey of the arts, crafts, and architecture of Africa. Historical developments, stylistics, and aesthetics will be investigated within a socio-cultural framework.

**AAS 367 (PSC 367) three credits C, D, G  
African Political Systems**

A study of the contemporary politics of African states and governments, and providing exposure to the African historical backgrounds, political cultures, political trends, and ideology. The colonial heritage of African states, the quest for modernization and nation-building, and the transition to democratic governance are explored.

**AAS 370 (MUS 370) three credits D, G  
Music and Culture of the African  
Diaspora**

Prerequisites: A course on the history, sociology, writings, and art of non-western cultures and/or permission of instructor

A study of the culture and instrumental music, song, and dance of African people from various areas of the African continent, the Caribbean, and South, Central, and North America. In addition to readings, quizzes, and lectures, students' work includes an ensemble performance to offer a firsthand experience of African music, dance, and culture.

**AAS 371 (MUS 371) three credits D, G  
Topics in World Music Performance**

Prerequisites: A course on the history, sociology, writings, and art of non-western cultures and/or permission of instructor. Investigation of the musical traditions of Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Oceania, and the Americas with a focus on the development of playing skills in indigenous genres, as well as an understanding of their function as an expression of cultures.

**AAS 372 (MUS 372) three credits G  
Music in World Cultures**

A course on the history, sociology, writings, and art of non-western cultures and/or permission of instructor.

The indigenous musics of Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Oceania, Europe, and the Americas with an emphasis on the cultural and historical context of music making.

**AAS 378 (HST 378)  
three credits D**

**Slavery in the New World**

The trans-Atlantic slave trade and slavery in the Americas from the sixteenth to the nineteenth century. Emphasis on the beginning and development of the trans-Atlantic slave trade; moral issues, economics, and tactics of the trade; and comparisons of the slave societies of Brazil, the Caribbean, and the United States.

**AAS 391 (HST 391) three credits G  
Topics in African History**

Prerequisites: HST 190 or HST 290 or written permission of the instructor

Advanced-level course for students with a background in African history. Topics will vary from year to year and may be repeated with change of content. Research papers will be required.

**AAS 495 variable credit  
Independent Study**

Prerequisites: Upper-division standing; permission of instructor, department chairperson, and college dean  
Study under the supervision of a faculty member in an area not otherwise part of the discipline's course offerings. Conditions and hours to be arranged.

**AAS 196, 296, 396, 496 variable credit  
Directed Study**

Prerequisites: Permission of the instructor, department chairperson, and college dean  
Study under the supervision of a faculty member in an area covered in a regular course not currently being offered. Conditions and hours to be arranged.