AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES

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The Department of African American Studies undergraduate offerings include an undergraduate major and minor.

African American Studies is a field that systematically explores the life and culture of African American peoples and their African Diaspora relationships, patterns, and ties. Those who major in African American Studies will learn about the historical, political, ideological, legal, social, artistic, and economic issues affecting African Americans. They will learn about the dignity-affirming struggles of African American people to have their humanity acknowledged, valued, and understood.

The major in African American Studies (AAS) is to provide students with a transdisciplinary perspective on the origin, role and policy implications of race in the United States and world political economy, society and culture, over time. AAS students will learn diverse concepts, theories and methodologies for analyzing the experiences and perspectives and the cultural and intellectual production of African Americans and African descended people, largely though not exclusively in the United States. An African American studies major will be encouraged to achieve excellence in developing vital creative and critical competencies, including oral and written communication, computer and statistical skills. Students majoring in AAS will also be encouraged to join a new generation of leadership grounded in African American studies knowledge and committed to public engagement to meet the continuing challenges of a diverse democratic society, and to foster national discourse to produce public policy aimed at achieving social justice.

This program is designed to serve undergraduate students primarily interested in the social sciences and humanities, though all students are welcome and encouraged to enroll in the program. This program prepares students for graduate study and research in traditional disciplines and interdisciplinary fields and for careers in the private or public sectors such as teaching, social work, human resources, criminal justice, management and administration, city planning, marketing, policy-making, medicine and law.

For the Degree of Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts and Sciences

Major in Sciences and Letters Curriculum

E-mail: loturner@illinois.edu (loturner@uiuc.edu)

Minimum required major and supporting course work equates to 48 hours.

General Education: Students must complete the Campus General Education (https://courses.illinois.edu) requirements including the campus general education language requirement.

Twelve hours of 300- and 400-level African American Studies courses must be taken on this campus.

A Major Plan of Study Form must be completed and submitted to the LAS Student Academic Affairs Office before the end of the fifth semester (60-75 hours). Please see your adviser.

Minimum hours required for graduation: 120 hours

Departmental distinction:
To graduate with distinction, students must complete the following:
1. 3.3 overall G.P.A
2. 3.6 program G.P.A
3. Complete AFRO 495 Senior Thesis Seminar with a grade of 3.3 or better

I. Core course requirements

| AFRO 100 | Intro to African American St | 3 |
| AFRO 220 | Intro to Research Methods AfAm | 3 |
| AFRO 490 | Theory in African American St | 3 |
| AFRO 495 | Senior Thesis Seminar | 3 |

II. Theory and Methods Requirement

At least one theory and one methods course beyond the core.

The courses must be selected from a list maintained in the Department’s advising office.

III. Thematic Areas

Students must take at least one course each from the following five areas. At least 6 of the remaining hours must be taken from only one of any of the five areas. A list of courses is maintained in the Department’s advising office.

A. Comparative Race, Racialized Communities and Identities
B. Cultural Production and Cultural Movements
C. Political Economy, Public Policy and Contemporary Issues
D. Global Interconnections: Black Transnationalism and the African Diaspora
E. Black Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies

IV. Cognate or Supporting Coursework

Students must complete 9 hours of supporting coursework. Supporting coursework courses consists of a set of courses which are logically grouped, and which reflect or support a student’s interests outside of the African American Studies major. Supporting coursework courses must be approved by the Department’s undergraduate advisor.

Total Hours 48

Interdisciplinary Minor in African-American Studies

The Department of African American Studies offers a campus-wide interdisciplinary minor in African American Studies. The minor is premised on the following principles: Interdisciplinarity, the centrality of Black women and gender, the use of the Global Africa/African Diaspora as a contextualizing framework and an emphasis on black agency or self-determining activity of African peoples. A minimum grade point average of 2.33 is required for completion of courses taken in the program. The Department of African American Studies must approve a student’s minor course plan.

I. Core course requirements

Information listed in this catalog is current as of 04/2016
AFRO 100   Intro to African American St   credit: 3 Hours.
Interdisciplinary introduction to the basic concepts and literature in the disciplines covered by African American studies; surveys the major approaches to the study of African Americans across several academic disciplines including economics, education, psychology, literature, political science, sociology and others. This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for:
UIUC: Social Sciences
UIUC: US Minority Culture(s)

AFRO 101   Black America, 1619-Present   credit: 3 Hours.
Sociohistorical survey of African American experiences from the West African background to North America, from the 17th century to the present. Same as HIST 174. 
This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for:
UIUC: HistPhilosoph Perspect
UIUC: US Minority Culture(s)

AFRO 102   Researching the African Am Exp   credit: 3 Hours.
Introduction to research and documentation of the African American experience. Approved for both letter and S/U grading.

AFRO 103   Black Women in the Diaspora   credit: 3 Hours.
Explores the historical, social, economic, cultural and political realities of black women in the African diaspora with an emphasis on the U.S., Canada, Britain, Africa and the English speaking Caribbean. How macro structures such as slavery, imperialism, colonialism, capitalism, and globalization shaped and continue to circumscribe the lives of black women across various geographic regions. Discussion of the multiple strategies/efforts that black women employ both in the past and present to ensure the survival of the self and the community. Same as AFST 103 and GWS 103. This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for: 
UIUC: US Minority Culture(s)

AFRO 105   Black Literature in America   credit: 3 Hours.
Survey of the literary work of Black Americans from 1746 to the present. Exploration of the social, cultural, and political contexts that have shaped the Black American literary tradition by analyzing not only poetry, drama, autobiographical narratives, short stories, and novels, but also folktales, spirituals, and contemporary music. Same as ENGL 150. This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for: 
UIUC: Literature and the Arts
UIUC: US Minority Culture(s)

AFRO 106   Hist Arch Americas   credit: 3 Hours.
Same as ANTH 106. See ANTH 106. This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for: 
UIUC: HistPhilosoph Perspect
UIUC: US Minority Culture(s)

AFRO 199   Undergraduate Open Seminar   credit: 1 to 5 Hours.
May be repeated.

AFRO 201   US Racial & Ethnic Politics   credit: 3 Hours.
Same as AAS 201, LLS 201, and PS 201. See PS 201. This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for: 
UIUC: Social Sciences
UIUC: US Minority Culture(s)

AFRO 211   Intro to African-American Film   credit: 3 Hours.
Same as MACS 211. See MACS 211. This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for: 
UIUC: US Minority Culture(s)

AFRO 212   Intro African American Theat   credit: 3 Hours.
Same as THEA 263. See THEA 263. This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for: 
UIUC: US Minority Culture(s)

AFRO 215   US Citizenship Comparatively   credit: 3 Hours.
Same as AAS 215, AIS 295, GWS 215, and LLS 215. See AAS 215. This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for: 
UIUC: HistPhilosoph Perspect
UIUC: US Minority Culture(s)

AFRO 220   Intro to Research Methods AfAm   credit: 3 Hours.
Introduction to various methodologies to be employed in the interdisciplinary field of African American/Africana studies. Prerequisite: AFRO 100.

AFRO 221   History of the Prison   credit: 3 Hours.
Same as HIST 219 and LA 221. See LA 221. This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for: 
UIUC: HistPhilosoph Perspect
UIUC: Western Compartv Cult
AFRO 224  Humanist Persp of Afro-Am Exp  credit: 3 Hours.
Presents the Afro-centric world view as it was manifested in traditional
African society and in the Afro-American slave community. Shows that
this world view merged with European notions of art and humanity,
as revealed in modern African-American literature, art, and music. Same
as CWL 226. Approved for both letter and S/U grading. Prerequisite:
AFRO 100 or consent of instructor.
This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for:
UIUC: Literature and the Arts
UIUC: US Minority Culture(s)

AFRO 225  Race and Ethnicity  credit: 3 Hours.
Same as SOC 225. See SOC 225.

AFRO 226  Black Women Contemp US Society  credit: 3 Hours.
Sociological perspective of the experience of African American women
in the contemporary United States. Specifically, an examination of
relationships between the economy, state policy, culture, work and
motherhood for this demographic group. Same as GWS 226 and SOC 223.

AFRO 231  Lang Diff Dis: American Persp  credit: 3 Hours.
Discusses the interaction of culture, ethnicity/race and language
among American minorities. Emphasizes language difference theory as
related to social and regional dialects and bilingualism/multilingualism.
Distinguishes language differences from language disorders through
examination of assessment and treatment approaches for different aged
populations. Same as SHS 231. This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for:
UIUC: US Minority Culture(s)

AFRO 243  Pan Africanism  credit: 3 Hours.
Same as AFST 243, PS 243, and SOC 267. See PS 243. This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for:
UIUC: Non-Western Cultures
UIUC: Social Sciences

AFRO 259  Afro-American Literature I  credit: 3 Hours.
Same as CWL 259 and ENGL 259. See ENGL 259. This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for:
UIUC: US Minority Culture(s)

AFRO 260  Afro-American Literature II  credit: 3 Hours.
Same as CWL 260 and ENGL 260. This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for:
UIUC: US Minority Culture(s)

AFRO 261  Intro to the African Diaspora  credit: 3 Hours.
Introduction to the origin, development, and maturation of the African
diaspora in the Americas and the Caribbean, beginning with the
transatlantic slave trade and up to the end of the 20th century. Same as
ANTH 261. This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for:
UIUC: HistPhilosoph Perspect
UIUC: US Minority Culture(s)

AFRO 272  Minority Images in Amer Film  credit: 3 Hours.
Same as ENGL 272. This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for:
UIUC: Literature and the Arts
UIUC: US Minority Culture(s)

AFRO 275  Afro-American History to 1877  credit: 3 Hours.
Same as HIST 275. See HIST 275. This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for:
UIUC: HistPhilosoph Perspect
UIUC: US Minority Culture(s)

AFRO 276  Afro-American Hist Since 1877  credit: 3 Hours.
Same as HIST 276. See HIST 276. This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for:
UIUC: HistPhilosoph Perspect
UIUC: US Minority Culture(s)

AFRO 281  Constructing Race in America  credit: 3 Hours.
Same as AAS 281, HIST 281, and LLS 281. See HIST 281. This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for:
UIUC: HistPhilosoph Perspect
UIUC: US Minority Culture(s)

AFRO 287  African-American Women  credit: 3 Hours.
Same as GWS 287 and HIST 287. See HIST 287. This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for:
UIUC: US Minority Culture(s)

AFRO 290  Af Am Urban Hist Since 1917  credit: 3 Hours.
Examination of the changing interaction among black urban
communities, the broader urban citizenry, municipal government, the
local and national urban-industrial economy, and federal policy over
time, giving particular attention to discourses about the black “ghetto” as
both a physical space and set of social conditions. Same as HIST 284.
Prerequisite: AFRO 101, HIST 276, HIST 172, SOC 225, or PS 201. This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for:
UIUC: HistPhilosoph Perspect
UIUC: US Minority Culture(s)

AFRO 298  Spec Topics African-Am Studies  credit: 3 Hours.
Seminar on selected topics with particular emphasis on current research
trends. May be repeated to a maximum of 6 hours. Prerequisite:
AFRO 100 or AFRO 101, or consent of instructor.

AFRO 310  Race and Cultural Diversity  credit: 4 Hours.
Same as AAS 310, EPS 310, and LLS 310. See EPS 310. This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for:
UIUC: Advanced Composition
UIUC: US Minority Culture(s)

AFRO 312  Psychology of Race & Ethnicity  credit: 3 Hours.
Same as PSYC 312. See PSYC 312.

AFRO 340  Dancing Black Popular Culture  credit: 3 Hours.
Same as DANC 340. See DANC 340. This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for:
UIUC: HistPhilosoph Perspect
UIUC: US Minority Culture(s)

AFRO 341  Gov & Pol in Africa  credit: 3 Hours.
Same as PS 341. See PS 341.

AFRO 342  Black Men and Masculinities  credit: 3 Hours.
The sociological study of African American men in the contemporary U.S.
Specifically, black manhood and masculinities and the experiences of
this demographic group as it relates to the economy, state, policy, and
institutions such as family, criminal justice system, and education. Same
as SOC 325. Prerequisite: Introductory social science course.
AFRO 372  Class Politics & Blk Community  credit: 3 Hours.
Exploration of the complex history of class relations among African
Americans during the twentieth century, examining both the internal
and external shapers of black class stratification. Considers the
historical development of contemporary black "underclass", and the
parallel expansion of the black middle class today. Same as HIST 384.
Prerequisite: AFRO 101, HIST 276, or SOC 225 or consent of instructor.
This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for:
UIUC: Advanced Composition

AFRO 373  AfAm Cult Politic Mid20C  credit: 3 Hours.
Focusing on African American culture and history from World War II
until the early 1960's, topics include citizenship, migration, urban life,
the African Diaspora, Civil Rights Movement, and art forms. Approved
for both letter and S/U grading. Prerequisite: AFRO 100 and AFRO 101,
AFRO 261, ENGL 260 or HIST 276.

AFRO 378  Race and Revolutions  credit: 3 Hours.
Focus on the relationship between race and slavery during the
revolutions in American and Haiti, respectively. We will seek to
understand how the themes of slavery, revolution and race affected
blacks, whites and indigenous Americans. We will learn about life during
the Revolutionary era by reading the biographies, political pamphlets and
personal letters of former slaves, Revolutionaries and everyday men and
women as well as historical scholarship. Same as HIST 389. Prerequisite:
One African American Studies or History course at either the 100- or 200-
level or the consent of instructor.

AFRO 380  Black Women Hist & Cultures  credit: 3 Hours.
Same as GWS 380. See GWS 380.

AFRO 381  Black Women and Film  credit: 3 Hours.
An examination of the contribution of Black women film directors
to cinema. The study of documentary, experimental, animated,
fictional shorts, and feature films will reveal their unique approach to
constructions of the intersection of race and gender. Starting from the
1920’s up to the present, the course considers themes, aesthetics,
historical contexts, and ideological discourses presented in the films.
Same as MACS 381. Prerequisite: College level film course or consent of
instructor.

AFRO 382  African Amer Families in Film  credit: 3 Hours.
Uses film as case studies to examine the diverse structures, social
classes, and internal dynamics among African American families.
Critical family processes such as family formation patterns, dating mate
selection, parenting, male-female/gender relations, child adolescent, and
adult development, family routines and practices, family communication,
and family stress and coping will be examined. Also considers how
families interact within larger contexts, such as the local neighborhood
and key institutions (school, workplace, social service agencies). Films
will be supplemented with readings drawn for diverse disciplines (African
American Studies, Anthropology, Family Studies, History, Psychology,
and Sociology) that allow us to examine key substantive, theoretical,
methodological, and policy issues in the study of African American
families. Same as HDFS 324.

AFRO 383  Hist of Blk Women's Activism  credit: 3 Hours.
Examination of the history of twentieth century black women's activism,
specifically concerned with how African American female activists
have been critical to building, sustaining and leading black freedom
movements. Same as GWS 383 and HIST 383. Prerequisite: AFRO 100 or
AFRO 101 or AFRO 103 or consent of instructor.

AFRO 398  Spec Topics Afro-Am Studies  credit: 3 Hours.
Advanced seminar on selected topics with particular emphasis on current
research trends. May be repeated to a maximum of 6 hours. Prerequisite:
Junior status and one of the following: AFRO 224, or HIST 275 or
HIST 276, or ENGL 259 or ENGL 260.

AFRO 400  African Diasporic Lit Americas  credit: 3 or 4 Hours.
Critical examination of the contributions of writers of African descent
from the Caribbean (English, French, Spanish) and the United States.
Major works of fiction, poetry, drama and essays from Cuba, Guadeloupe,
Guyana, Haiti, St. Lucia, the United States and other countries are
analyzed within a post-colonial theoretical framework. Same as CWL 400.
3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours. Prerequisite: AFRO 224 or
AFRO 259 or AFRO 260 or consent of instructor.
This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for:
UIUC: US Minority Culture(s)

AFRO 407  Slavery & Race in Latin Am  credit: 2 to 4 Hours.
Same as HIST 407. See HIST 407.

AFRO 410  Hate Crimes  credit: 3 Hours.
Hate crimes represent the manifestation of intergroup bias and
aggression. Examples of these crimes will be examined while analyzing
longstanding theories in social psychology. Same as PSYC 410. 3
undergraduate hours. 3 graduate hours. Prerequisite: PSYC 201 or
consent of instructor.

AFRO 411  African American Psychology  credit: 3 or 4 Hours.
Introduction to the research, theories, and paradigms developed to
understand the attitudes, behaviors, and psychological and educational
realities of African Americans. Same as PSYC 416. 3 undergraduate
hours. 4 graduate hours. Prerequisite: AFRO 100 or one psychology
course.

AFRO 415  Africana Feminisms  credit: 3 or 4 Hours.
Explores readings and research from the perspective of feminists
throughout the African diaspora, with a focus on Black feminist thought
emanating from the United States. Same as AFST 420 and GWS 415. 3
undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours. Prerequisite: AFRO 103 and an
additional 300 or 400-level African American Studies course or consent of
the instructor.

AFRO 421  Racial and Ethnic Families  credit: 2 to 4 Hours.
Same as EPS 421, HDFS 424, and SOC 421. See EPS 421.

AFRO 435  Commodifyng Difference  credit: 3 or 4 Hours.
Same as AAS 435, GWS 435, LLS 435 and MACS 432. See LLS 435.

AFRO 453  Plantation Soc in Americas  credit: 3 or 4 Hours.
Comparative and interdisciplinary approach to study of the development
of New World societies with focus on plantation agriculture from the 15th
to 19th centuries. Course considers Portuguese, Spanish, British, French,
and Dutch colonization. Students will study the relative importance
of culture versus economy and demography in determining social
structure. Same as HIST 470. 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours.
Prerequisite: A survey course in early United States history and/or
western civilization; junior status, or consent of the instructor.

AFRO 460  Slavery in the United States  credit: 3 or 4 Hours.
Examination of slavery in the U.S. using primary sources (slave
narratives, songs and tales, plantation records, laws and newspapers)
from the 18th century through emancipation. Same as HIST 482. 3
undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours. Prerequisite: AFRO 100 or
AFRO 101 and one 300-level AFRO course.
This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for:
UIUC: Advanced Composition

Information listed in this catalog is current as of 04/2016
AFRO 465  Race, Sex, and Deviance  credit: 3 or 4 Hours.
Same as AAS 465, GWS 465, and LLS 465. See LLS 465.

AFRO 466  Race & Science  credit: 3 or 4 Hours.
Examination of the historical development of scientific theories of race, focusing on biology, anthropology, mind sciences and modern genetics. Same as HIST 483. 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours. Prerequisite: AFRO 100 or AFRO 101 and one 300-level AFRO course.

AFRO 474  Black Freed Move, 1955-Present  credit: 3 or 4 Hours.
Presents the struggle of African Americans for self-definition, self-development, and self-determination from the inception of the civil rights movement to the contemporary period. Same as HIST 478. 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours. Prerequisite: AFRO 101, HIST 276, or consent of instructor.
This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for:
UIUC: Advanced Composition

AFRO 481  Urban Communities & Public Pol  credit: 3 or 4 Hours.
Examination of how public policy has shaped urban communities and the life chances (i.e., the social, economic, mental and physical well-being) of families of color. Emphasizes the theoretical, political, and economic context of public policy making and specifically address urban issues of housing, communities and families, employment, welfare, and poverty. This course will draw on scholarship by sociologists, historians, policy analysts, race theorists, and economists. Same as SOC 472 and UP 481. 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours.

AFRO 482  Immersion Journalism  credit: 3 or 4 Hours.
Same as JOUR 482. See JOUR 482.

AFRO 490  Theory in African American St  credit: 3 or 4 Hours.
Introduction to various theories and methodologies rising out of the study of the Black world based on African American intellectual traditions. 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours. Prerequisite: AFRO 100 and one additional 400-level AFRO course, or consent of instructor.

AFRO 491  Methodology in African Amer St  credit: 3 or 4 Hours.
Introduction to various methodologies to be employed in the interdisciplinary field of African American/Africana studies. Access to personal computer SPSS software is required. 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours. Prerequisite: AFRO 100 and AFRO 220 and an additional 300 or 400-level African American Studies course or consent of instructor.

AFRO 495  Senior Thesis Seminar  credit: 3 Hours.
3 undergraduate hours. No graduate credit. Prerequisite: AFRO 100 and AFRO 220 or AFRO 490.

AFRO 498  Spec Topics African Am Studies  credit: 3 or 4 Hours.
Seminar on selected topics with particular emphasis on current research trends. 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours. May be repeated up to a maximum of 6 undergraduate hours or 8 graduate hours. Prerequisite: Upper level AFRO course (300 or above) or consent of instructor.