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 political economy, criminal justice, management and administration, city planning, marketing, policy-making, medicine and law.

AFRO Class Schedule (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/DEFAULT/DEFAULT/AFRO)

Courses

AFRO 101 Black America, 1619-Present credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/AFRO/101)
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:
Humanities - Hist Phil
Cultural Studies - US Minority

AFRO 103 Black Women in the Diaspora credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/AFRO/103)
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:
Cultural Studies - US Minority

AFRO 105 Black Literature in America credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/AFRO/105)
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:
Humanities - Lit Arts
Cultural Studies - US Minority

AFRO 106 Hist Arch Americas credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/AFRO/106)
Same as ANTH 106. See ANTH 106.
This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for:
Humanities - Hist Phil
Cultural Studies - US Minority

AFRO 132 African American Music credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/AFRO/132)
Survey of African American music, from its origins to the present with a focus on understanding details of musical performance and the ways in which music interacts with its social and political context. Examines genres such as spirituals, the blues, jazz, R&B, soul, and hip-hop. No previous musical background is necessary.
This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for:
Humanities - Lit Arts
Cultural Studies - US Minority

AFRO 199 Undergraduate Open Seminar credit: 1 to 5 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/AFRO/199)
May be repeated.

AFRO 201 US Racial & Ethnic Politics credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/AFRO/201)
Same as AAS 201, LLS 201, and PS 201. See PS 201.
This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for:
Social Beh Sci - Soc Sci
Cultural Studies - US Minority
AFRO 211 Intro to African-American Film  credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/AFRO/211)
Same as MACS 211. See MACS 211.
This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for:
Cultural Studies - US Minority

AFRO 212 Intro African American Theat  credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/AFRO/212)
Same as THEA 263. See THEA 263.
This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for:
Cultural Studies - US Minority

AFRO 215 US Citizenship Comparatively  credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/AFRO/215)
This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for:
Humanities - Hist Phil
Cultural Studies - US Minority

AFRO 220 Intro to Research Methods AfAm  credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/AFRO/220)
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. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/AFRO/221)
Same as HIST 219 and LA 221. See LA 221.
This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for:
Humanities - Hist Phil
Cultural Studies - Western

AFRO 224 Humanist Persp of Afro-Am Exp  credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/AFRO/224)
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 Afro-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:
Humanities - Lit Arts
Cultural Studies - US Minority

AFRO 226 Black Women Contemp US Society  credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/AFRO/226)
Sociocultural 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 227 Studies in Black Television  credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/AFRO/227)
Explores topics in black television in order to a) analyze the economic and political factors that lead to successful series; b) historicize black television of the Diaspora, including the U.S., Caribbean, UK, Canada, and Nigeria; c) identify conventions and define a "black aesthetic;" d) determine how black series in one genre (such as sitcoms or dramas) aid in mapping other genres; and e) discuss how these series navigate stereotypes and cultural shifts. Same as MACS 227.

AFRO 228 Hip Hop Music: History and Culture  credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/AFRO/228)
A study of hip-hop from its beginnings in the post-industrial South Bronx of the 1970s to the global present. By focusing on the work of specific artists and movements, we will compare and contrast the production and consumption of hip-hop with other forms of popular music (including jazz, rock, disco, and pop). This course shows how musicians and listeners use hip-hop to express ideas about topics such as economics, nationalism, black power, feminism, and violence.
This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for:
Humanities - Lit Arts
Cultural Studies - US Minority

AFRO 231 Lang Diff Dis: American Persp  credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/AFRO/231)
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:
Cultural Studies - US Minority

AFRO 243 Pan Africanism  credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/AFRO/243)
Provides an introduction to Pan African political movements and ideologies from the Americas to continental Africa. Examines the political, social, economic, and ideological relationships and connections between Africans and their descendants in the diaspora from an historical and comparative perspective. Same as AFST 243 and PS 243.
This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for:
Cultural Studies - Non-West
Social Beh Sci - Soc Sci

AFRO 250 Introduction to Health and Wellness in the Black Community  credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/AFRO/250)
An introduction for understanding health-related issues and disparities affecting the African American community. We will explore health status across the lifespan, social and environmental challenges, chronic diseases, lifestyle behaviors, and intervention, research and policy implications. Students will learn how to integrate and situate these complexities in a broader systemic framework and understand how this population exhibits resiliency in the face of these adversities.
This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for:
Social Beh Sci - Soc Sci
Cultural Studies - US Minority

AFRO 259 Early African American Literature and Culture  credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/AFRO/259)
Same as CWL 259 and ENGL 259. See ENGL 259.
This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for:
Cultural Studies - US Minority

AFRO 260 Modern African American Literature and Culture  credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/AFRO/260)
Same as CWL 260 and ENGL 260. See ENGL 260.
This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for:
Cultural Studies - US Minority
AFRO 261  Intro to the African Diaspora  credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/AFRO/261)
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:
Humanities - Hist Phil
Cultural Studies - US Minority
AFRO 275  Afro-American History to 1877  credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/AFRO/275)
Same as HIST 275. See HIST 275.
This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for:
Humanities - Hist Phil
Cultural Studies - US Minority
AFRO 281  Constructing Race in America  credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/AFRO/281)
Same as AAS 281, HIST 281, and LLS 281. See HIST 281.
This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for:
Humanities - Hist Phil
Cultural Studies - US Minority
AFRO 287  African-American Women  credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/AFRO/287)
Same as GWS 287 and HIST 287. See HIST 287.
This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for:
Humanities - Hist Phil
Cultural Studies - US Minority
AFRO 290  Af Am Urban Hist Since 1917  credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/AFRO/290)
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:
Humanities - Hist Phil
Cultural Studies - US Minority
AFRO 298  Spec Topics African-Am Studies  credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/AFRO/298)
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. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/AFRO/310)
Same as AAS 310, EPS 310, and LLS 310. See EPS 310.
This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for:
Advanced Composition
Cultural Studies - US Minority
AFRO 312  Psychology of Race & Ethnicity  credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/AFRO/312)
Same as PSYC 312. See PSYC 312.
AFRO 315  African American Politics  credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/AFRO/315)
Same as PS 315. See PS 315.
AFRO 340  Dancing Black Popular Culture  credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/AFRO/340)
Same as DANC 340. See DANC 340.
This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for:
Humanities - Hist Phil
Cultural Studies - US Minority
AFRO 341  Gov & Pol in Africa  credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/AFRO/341)
Same as PS 341. See PS 341.
AFRO 342  Black Men and Masculinities  credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/AFRO/342)
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 343  Criminalization and Punishment  credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/AFRO/343)
Same as AAS 343, AIS 343, GWS 343, and LLS 343. See LLS 343.
AFRO 372  Class Politics & Blk Community  credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/AFRO/372)
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:
Advanced Composition
AFRO 373  AfAm Cult Politic Mid20C  credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/AFRO/373)
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. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/AFRO/378)
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. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/AFRO/380)
Same as GWS 380. See GWS 380.

AFRO 381  Black Women and Film  credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/AFRO/381)
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. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/AFRO/382)
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. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/AFRO/383)
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. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/AFRO/398)
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 Thought in the Caribbean  credit: 3 or 4 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/AFRO/400)
Critical examination of the contributions of intellectuals of African descent in the Caribbean and its global circuits. Major streams of social/ political thought, cultural analysis, and artistic expression from across the region and its diasporas are analyzed within post- and de-colonial theoretical frameworks. Dialogues with Caribbeanists and thinkers from other parts of the world will also be considered. Same as CWL 401. 3 undergraduate hours. 4 graduate hours. Prerequisite: AFRO 261 or consent of instructor.
This course satisfies the General Education Criteria for:
Cultural Studies - Non-West

AFRO 407  Slavery & Race in Latin Am  credit: 2 to 4 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/AFRO/407)
Same as HIST 407. See HIST 407.

AFRO 410  Hate Crimes  credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/AFRO/410)
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 415  Africana Feminisms  credit: 3 or 4 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/AFRO/415)
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 100 or one psychology course.

AFRO 417  African American Psychology  credit: 3 or 4 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/AFRO/417)
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 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. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/AFRO/421)
Same as EPS 421 and HDFS 424. See EPS 421.

AFRO 435  Commodifying Difference  credit: 3 or 4 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/AFRO/435)
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. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/AFRO/453)
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.

Information listed in this catalog is current as of 04/2019
AFRO 460  Slavery in the United States  credit: 3 or 4 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/AFRO/460)
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:
Advanced Composition

AFRO 465  Race, Sex, and Deviance  credit: 3 or 4 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/AFRO/465)
Same as AAS 465, GWS 465, and LLS 465. See LLS 465.

AFRO 466  Race, Science, and Medicine  credit: 3 or 4 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/AFRO/466)
Examines the development of race in in medical and scientific thought; how public health and medical institutions deploy the concept; and the process by which race emerged as a valid though controversial topic of scientific and biomedical inquiry. Also addressed is the relationship between slavery and nineteenth-century medicine, the birth of the eugenics movement, legacies of medical exploitation and mistrust, trends in genetic medicine, and contemporary disparities in health outcomes and health care delivery. 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. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/AFRO/474)
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:
Advanced Composition

AFRO 481  Urban Communities & Public Pol  credit: 3 or 4 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/AFRO/481)
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. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/AFRO/482)
Same as JOUR 482. See JOUR 482.

AFRO 490  Theory in African American St  credit: 3 or 4 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/AFRO/490)
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 495  Senior Thesis Seminar  credit: 3 Hours. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/AFRO/495)
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. (https://courses.illinois.edu/schedule/terms/AFRO/498)
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.