African American Studies

INTRODUCTION

African American Studies is a multidisciplinary approach to understanding the black experience in a global context. In addition to degree programs in African American Studies, the department provides coursework in Ethnic Studies (e.g., Intracultural Socialization). Our faculty areas of expertise are diverse and include political science, history, urban planning, psychology, sociology and literature.

African American studies majors and minors go on to pursue graduate degrees in the humanities, social sciences and sciences. Our graduates make career choices that reflect a commitment to leadership and development. These areas include law, medicine, civil service, research, education and a number of other professional occupations.

LEARNING GOALS AND STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

The following learning goals and learning outcomes have been established for students pursuing a degree in African American Studies:

Knowledge

▪ Describe and characterize the history and experiences of enslavement, colonialism, democratic ideals, and societal realities that foster inclusion and/or marginalization of racial and ethnic groups, particularly African Americans

▪ Identify economic, political and social challenges impacting ethnic groups, particularly African American

▪ Provide casual explanations, including racism, to explain the problems of marginalized racial and ethnic groups, particularly African Americans

▪ Determine the nature and extent of information needed to critically evaluate information sources used in responding to the identified challenges facing African Americans and minority communities

Critical Thinking

▪ Demonstrate knowledge and application of theory, research and contexts of development when analyzing experiences of ethnic groups, particularly African Americans

Critical Writing

▪ Perform independent research using qualitative and quantitative research methods and communicate information and interpretations orally and in writing

Leadership

▪ Engage technology and multimedia in the communicating of written and oral presentations

▪ Engage in self-assessments, reflecting on the influence of diversity in one’s life and society and on social responsibility for participating in creating economic, political, and social change

DEPARTMENT CHAIR
Alexandro José Gradilla

DEPARTMENT OFFICE/WEBSITE
Humanities 314
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PROGRAMS OFFERED
Bachelor of Arts in Ethnic Studies
Option in African American Studies
Minor in African American Studies

FACULTY
Stan Breckenridge, Julie Stokes, Lezlee Hinesmon-Matthews, Kendall Radcliffe
Social/Global Awareness

- Exposure to issues of culture, ethnicity and gender
- Examine and critically assess normative standards of governing social relations, practices, and institutions, including a wide range of human activities dependent upon value judgments

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN ETHNIC STUDIES (120 UNITS)

The Bachelor of Arts in Ethnic Studies includes courses for the option, General Education, all-university requirements and free electives.

OPTION IN AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES (30 UNITS)

Lower-Division Courses (6 units)
AFAM 101 Introduction to Ethnic Studies (3) and/or
AFAM 107 Introduction to Afro-American Studies (3) and/or
AFAM 190 Survey of American History with Emphasis on Ethnic Minorities (3)

Upper-Division Courses (24 units minimum)

Core Courses (15 units required), selected from the following:
AFAM 304 The Black Family (3)
AFAM 311 Intracultural Socialization Patterns (3)
AFAM 317 Black Politics (3)
AFAM 320 Black Political Thought (3)
AFAM 322 Psychology of African Americans (3)
AFAM 324 Afro-American Literature (3)
AFAM 335 History of Racism (3)
AFAM 346 African Experience (3)
AFAM 381 African Literature (3)

Upper-Division Electives (9 units minimum)
Select three additional AFAM courses in consultation with departmental adviser.

Upper-Division Writing Requirement (3 units)
AFAM 307 Research and Writing in Ethnic Studies (3)
OR ENGL 301 Advanced College Writing (3)

MINOR IN AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES (21 UNITS)

Lower-Division Courses (6 units)
AFAM 101 Introduction to Ethnic Studies (3) and/or
AFAM 107 Introduction to Afro-American Studies (3) and/or
AFAM 190 Survey of American History with Emphasis on Ethnic Minorities (3)

Upper-Division Courses (15 units)
Select 15 units of coursework in consultation with academic adviser.

AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES COURSES

Courses are designated as AFAM in the class schedule.

101 Introduction to Ethnic Studies (3)
Prerequisite: completion of General Education (G.E.) Category D.1. Perspective through which people of color have come to see themselves in terms of their own heroes, culture and contributions to societies in which they live, and world society in general. (Same as ASAM/CHIC/WMST 101)

107 Introduction to Afro-American Studies (3)
Prerequisite: completion of G.E. Category D.1. Aims and objectives of African American studies. Basic terms and references that give substance to African American studies.

108 Linguistics and Minority Dialects (3)
(Same as LING 108)

190 Survey of American History with Emphasis on Ethnic Minorities (3)
(Same as ASAM/CHIC/HIST 190)

210 Introduction To Hip Hop (3)
Origins and influences of hip hop on culture, fashion, movies, television, advertising, attitude, music, dancing and slang among African Americans. The impact of the hip hop culture phenomenon on American and global societies.

301 African-American Culture (3)
African cultural characteristics in the New World and contemporary events, including art, ideas, dance and literature.

304 The Black Family (3)
Prerequisite: SOCI 101 or completion of G.E. Category D.1. American social conditions that shaped the black family from the African cultural patterns to the family that exists today. Roles of poverty, racism and discrimination. (Same as SOCI 304)

306 American Indian Women (3)
Prerequisite: completion of G.E. Category D.1. Female role in American Indian tribal lifestyles. Labor divisions, leadership, political and social activities from a number of tribes. Historical and contemporary issues as they affect American Indian women. (Same as WMST 306)

307 Research and Writing in Ethnic Studies (3)
(Same as ASAM 307)

308 African American Males in American Social Systems (3)
Prerequisite: completion of G.E. Category D.1. Critical examination of the significant life experiences of African American males. Emphasizes family, community, school and broader social systems that affect African American males’ functioning within legal, educational, economic and social environments.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Prerequisite</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>310</td>
<td>Black Women in America (3)</td>
<td>completion of G.E. Category D.1.</td>
<td>Issues in the study of black women in America, including social, political, economic and intellectual development. Historical and contemporary issues as they affect black American women. (Same as WMST 310)</td>
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<td>311</td>
<td>Intracultural Socialization Patterns (3)</td>
<td>completion of G.E. Category D.1.</td>
<td>Patterns of role learning as they vary within subpopulations; changes over time in the values, attitudes and goals of the general culture and of subcultures; stereotypes and realities; understanding and dealing with cultural variation, as well as cultural &quot;norms.&quot; One or more sections offered online. (Same as HUSR 311)</td>
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<tr>
<td>317</td>
<td>Black Politics (3)</td>
<td>POSC 100.</td>
<td>Blacks' struggle for political equality and relief from political oppression. Public policies concerning blacks' freedoms, liberties and property rights. (Same as POSC 317)</td>
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<tr>
<td>320</td>
<td>Black Political Thought (3)</td>
<td>completion of the G.E. Category C.2.</td>
<td>African American intellectual from slavery to contemporary times, with special emphasis on black contributions to American political and social thought, as well as their contributions in America's social development.</td>
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<td>321</td>
<td>Grassroots Planning and Community Development Planning in Minority Communities (3)</td>
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<td>Planning and community development trends in minority communities in urban, suburban and rural areas. Theoretical perspectives and practices embraced by grassroots planners. Public and private sector approaches. Topics include neighborhood planning, community development, economic development and grassroots organizing.</td>
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<td>322</td>
<td>Psychology of African Americans (3)</td>
<td>completion of G.E. Category D.1.</td>
<td>Uses psychological principles and practices to guide students' comprehension of life as an African American. Introduction to a holistic perspective that expands ways of conceptualizing psychology from an African American world view. (Same as PSYC 322)</td>
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<td>324</td>
<td>African-American Literature (3)</td>
<td>completion of G.E. Category C.2.</td>
<td>Literary contributions by major black American authors. Contemporary black writers and the recurring themes of protest and quest for identity. Not available for graduate degree credit. (Same ENGL 324)</td>
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<td>325</td>
<td>African-American Religions and Spirituality (3)</td>
<td>completion of G.E. Category D.1.</td>
<td>African-American belief systems and denominations. Folk beliefs among Blacks, African-American religious groups, and the role of the Black Church in politics and social change in the Black community. (Same as CPRL 325)</td>
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<td>335</td>
<td>History of Racism (3)</td>
<td>completion of G.E. Category D.1.</td>
<td>Historical roots and current expressions of racism. How racism manifests itself through individual, social, political, economic and religious institutions and proposes methods of combating it.</td>
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<td>337</td>
<td>American Indian Religions and Philosophy (3)</td>
<td>completion of the G.E. Category C.2.</td>
<td>American Indian religious and philosophic perspectives. Religious interpretations and thought in various facets of belief, ranging from traditional Indian religion to Christianity. Highlights contemporary religious activities. Not available for graduate degree credit. (Same as CPRL 337)</td>
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<td>346</td>
<td>The African Experience (3)</td>
<td>completion of G.E. Category D.1.</td>
<td>African history from the origin of the black man and traditional African civilization through the African diaspora to the institutional realities of Africa today. Not available for credit to students who have completed HIST 355.</td>
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<td>356</td>
<td>African-American Music Appreciation (3)</td>
<td>junior/senior standing.</td>
<td>Black music in America; the sociological conditions that help produce various forms of black music. One or more sections offered online. (Same as MUS 356)</td>
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<td>357</td>
<td>Blacks in the Performing Arts (3)</td>
<td>completion of G.E. Category C.1.</td>
<td>African-American culture through the performing arts. Examines Blacks in the entertainment industry as a means of understanding and revealing important aspects of African-American culture. (Same as MUS/THTR 357)</td>
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<td>370</td>
<td>Development of African American Children and Youth (3)</td>
<td></td>
<td>(Same as CAS 370)</td>
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<tr>
<td>381</td>
<td>African Literature (3)</td>
<td></td>
<td>(Same as ENGL/CPLT 381)</td>
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<td>405</td>
<td>Hollywood v. History: An Interpretive History of Blacks through Film (3)</td>
<td>AFAM 107.</td>
<td>Critical study of black images in motion pictures, past and present. Explores the tension between historical Black consciousness, authenticity, imitation and alternative adaptation.</td>
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430  A Social Psychological Study in Ethnic Minority Behavior (3)
    Prerequisites: AFAM 101 or 107; or PSYC 101. Central role of culture, race and ethnicity in the human condition. Social psychological theory and research provides the context of the course. Cultural pluralism and diversity. Course offered online. (Same as PSYC 430)

458A  West Africa and the African Diaspora (3)
    (Same as HIST 458A)

458B  Southern Africa in the 20th Century (3)
    (Same as HIST 458B)

458C  African History Since 1935 (3)
    (Same as HIST 458C)

485  Schools, Education and Ethnic Minority Groups (3)
    Prerequisite: completion of G.E. Category D.5. Ways in which the constraints of formal schooling affect the behaviors and attitudes of ethnic minority group members. Role of the community and family in school readiness and the psychological consequences of schooling. One or more sections offered online.

490  Ethnic Studies Senior Seminar (3)
    Prerequisites: completion of G.E. Categories C.2, D.1, D.5, E; completion of African American Studies core requirements. Required senior seminar for Ethnic Studies majors with an option in African American, Asian American or Chicana/o Studies.

499  Independent Study (1-3)
    Prerequisites: junior/senior standing and acceptance of the subject by department chair and instructor directing the study.