Africana Studies (AFS)

Major and Minor in Africana Studies

Department of Africana Studies, College of Arts and Sciences

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Minors of particular interest to students majoring in Africana Studies: Anthropology (ANT), Economics (ECO), English (EGL), History (HIS), Philosophy (PHI), Political Science (POL), Sociology (SOC)

Faculty

Amiri Baraka, Professor Emeritus: Playwriting; Pan-Africanism; contemporary affairs; literature.
Floris Barnett Cash, Associate Professor, Ph.D., Stony Brook University: Joint appointment with History; U.S. social and political history; African-American history; Latin American history.
David L. Ferguson, Professor, Ph.D., University of California, Berkeley: Joint appointment with Department of Technology and Society; Quantitative methods; computer applications (especially intelligent tutorial systems and decision support systems); mathematics, science and engineering education.
Georges Fouron, Professor, Ed.D., Columbia University: Social studies education; bilingual education; identity; Haiti; immigrants’ experience in America; transnationalism.
Barbara Frank, Associate Professor, Ph.D., Indiana University: Joint appointments with Art and Anthropology; African art history, especially West Africa; arts of the African Diaspora and ancient Mesoamerica.
E. Anthony Hurley, Associate Professor, Ph.D., Rutgers University: Joint appointment with European Languages, Literatures, and Cultures; Francophone literature of the Caribbean and Africa; Caribbean poetics; Afro-Caribbean culture; Caribbean American literature.
Aisha Khan, Associate Professor, Ph.D., City University of New York: Joint appointment with Anthropology; Race and ethnicity; theory and method in diaspora studies; social inequality, postcolonial societies, colonialism; Caribbean, Central America, U.S.
Leslie H. Owens, Associate Professor, Ph.D., University of California, Riverside: African-American social history; black family; civil rights movement; slavery.
Olufemi Vaughan, Professor, D.Phil., University of Oxford: Joint appointment with History; African politics and history; international relations. Recipient of the State University Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching, 1997, and the President's Award for Excellence in Teaching.
Carlos M. Vidal, Associate Professor, Ph.D., Fordham University: Joint appointment with School of Social Welfare; Hispanic families, culture, diversity; social movements, social policy.
Tracey Walters, Assistant Professor, Ph.D., Howard University: African American literature; Caribbean literature; African literature, Pan-African Literature, Black British literature and culture; 20th-century American and British literature, journalism.

Adjunct Faculty

Estimated number: 2

Teaching Assistants

Estimated number: 3

Interdisciplinary in nature, the Department of Africana Studies considers the experiences of persons of African descent throughout the world. The major in Africana Studies is designed to explore African civilizations and their influences on other parts of the Black Diaspora. Issues within the black international communities in Africa, the United States, and elsewhere are examined from both historical and contemporary perspectives. Particular attention is focused on political concepts, cultural development, legal relations, and social theories.

The major in Africana Studies provides students with a thorough background in the historical, political, social, and economic conditions of people of African descent. Because of this field's interdisciplinary approach, students are exposed to the critical contributions of scholars representing a variety of theoretical approaches and intellectual perspectives, enhancing the student's knowledge and understanding, while encouraging higher-level thinking and the ability to critically evaluate ideas and information.

Many Africana Studies majors and minors have gone on to graduate and professional schools better prepared in various disciplines and professions including law, medicine, business, engineering, nursing, social work, and education. Africana Studies courses also benefit students who go on to do graduate work in history, politics, anthropology, sociology, literature, and other fields.

Courses in Africana Studies

See the Course Descriptions listing in this Bulletin for complete information.

AFH 206-B Great Books of the Black Experience
AFH 249-K African-American Literature and Music in the 19th and 20th Centuries
AFH 329-J, 330-J Pan-African Literature I, II
AFH 339-G Arts of the African Diaspora
AFH 368-G Caribbean and American Connections in Literature
AFH 379-K Philosophy of Race (III)
AFH 385-J French Caribbean Literature
AFH 390-G, 391-G Topics in Africana Studies
AFH 417 Advanced Topics in Africana Studies
AFH 447 Readings in Africana Studies
AFH 475, 476 Undergraduate Teaching Practica I, II
AFH 487 Research in Africana Studies
AFS 101-F, 102-F Themes in the Black Experience I, II
AFS 221-J Introduction to Modern African History
AFS 239-J Introduction to the Caribbean Experience
AFS 240-J Issues in Caribbean Society
AFS 277-K The Modern Color Line
AFS 283 Community Service
AFS 300-K Blacks in the City
AFS 310-K American Attitudes Toward Race
AFS 319-F The Politics of Race
AFS 325-K The Civil Rights Movement
AFS 337-J The Politics of Africa
AFS 345-J Culture and Gender: Women in Africa and the Caribbean
AFS 346-J Political and Social History of Africa

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AFS 360-K  African-American Social Commentary
AFS 363-F  Blacks and Mass Media
AFS 365-J  Introduction to African Society
AFS 370-K  The African-American Family
AFS 372-K  African-American Political Thought
AFS 375-F  Slavery in Latin America and the Caribbean
AFS 380-J  Race and Ethnicity in Latin America and the Caribbean
AFS 381-H  AIDS, Race, and Gender in the Black Community
AFS 388-J  Slavery in Latin America and the Caribbean
AFS 395-J  Religions of the Caribbean
AFS 400  Ancient Egypt (KMT): Historical and Contemporary Views
AFS 410  Computers and Third World Social Issues
AFS 421, 422 Topics in Africana Studies
AFS 447 Readings in Africana Studies
AFS 475, 476 Undergraduate Teaching Practicum I, II
AFS 487 Research in Africana Studies
AFS 491 Interdisciplinary Seminar in Africana Studies

Requirements for the Major in Africana Studies (AFS)
The major in Africana Studies leads to the Bachelor of Arts degree. All courses for the major, except those graded S/U, must be passed with a letter grade of C or higher.

Completion of the major requires 45 credits, including 27 upper-division credits (from courses numbered 300 or higher).

1. Foundation Courses
   AFS 101, 102  Themes in the Black Experience I, II
2. Two courses from each of the following areas:
   a. Africana Studies in the Humanities
      AFH 206  Great Books of the Black Experience
   b. Africana Studies in the Social Sciences
      AFS/HIS 221  Introduction to Modern African History
      AFS 239  Introduction to the Caribbean Experience
      AFS 240  Issues in Caribbean Society
   c. The African American Experience
      AFS 300  Blacks in the City
      AFS 310  American Attitudes Toward Race
      AFS 319  The Politics of Race
      AFS/HIS 325  The Civil Rights Movement
      AFS/WST 350 African American Women and Social Change

AFH/EGL 249  African-American Literature and Music in the 19th and 20th Centuries
AFH 329/HUF 318  Pan-African Literature I
AFH 330  Pan-African Literature II
AFH/EGL 368  Caribbean and American Connections in Literature
AFH/HUF 385  French Caribbean Literature

AFS/HIS 277  The Modern Color Line
AFS/SOC 365  Introduction to African Society
AFS 372  African American Political Thought
AFS/ANT 395  Religions of the Caribbean

*Course may not be crosslisted with AFH or AFS.
AFS 360  African American Social Commentary
AFS 363  The Media and Black America
AFS 370  The African American Family
AFS 375  Slavery
d. The Global African Experience
AFH/PHI 379  Philosophy of Race
AFS 345  Culture and Gender: Women in Africa and the Caribbean
AFS/POL 337  The Politics of Africa
AFH 339/ARH 329  Arts of the African Diaspora
AFS/HIS 346  Political and Social History of Africa
AFS/ANT 380  Race and Ethnicity in Latin America and the Caribbean
AFS/WST 381  Race, Gender, Class, and the Epidemiology of AIDS
AFS/HIS 388  Slavery in Latin America and the Caribbean
AFS 400  Ancient Egypt (KMT): Historical and Contemporary Views
3. Three credits in AFH or AFS 447 Readings in Africana Studies
or AFH or AFS 487 Research in Africana Studies taken in the junior or senior year.
4. Twelve upper-division elective credits chosen from courses offered by the Department of Africana Studies. (See note 1.)
5. Upper-Division Writing Requirement
Africana Studies majors are required to submit two essay or term paper assignments, completed for two upper-division AFS courses, with grades of B or higher. They must also submit an evaluation form for the writing samples, signed by the professor(s) who read the samples, which indicates that the writing proficiency requirement has been met. Students must inform instructors in advance if they plan to use papers from their courses to fulfill the writing requirement for the major. Submitted papers must be a minimum of 15 pages in length.

Notes:
1. Three courses offered by other departments (including special topics courses) are acceptable for the major with the approval of the undergraduate studies director.
2. Students must take at least two 200-level courses in Africana Studies prior to beginning their junior year.
3. Only six credits of directed readings or independent study courses (courses numbered 447 and 487) may be used toward the major.
4. The following courses may not be used to fulfill major requirements: AFS 283, 475, 476, 488; AFH 475, 476.
5. Transfer students must take at least 12 credits of upper-division Africana Studies courses in residence at Stony Brook to complete the AFS major.

Requirements for the Minor in Africana Studies (AFS)
The minor in Africana Studies is intended for students interested in exploring aspects of the Black experience in ways that relate to their own major field of study. The sequence of lower- and upper-division courses gives the student a well-balanced analysis of the varied aspects of the African and African American experience. All courses offered for the minor, except those graded S/U, must be passed with a letter grade of C or higher. Completion of the minor requires 24 credits, including 12 upper-division credits.

1. AFS 101, 102 Themes in the Black Experience I, II
2. One course from each of the following areas (see above):
   a. Africana Studies in the Humanities
   b. Africana Studies in the Social Sciences
   c. The African-American Experience
   d. The Global African Experience
3. One additional upper-division course selected from one of the areas listed in requirement 2.
4. Three credits in AFH or AFS 447 Readings in Africana Studies
   or AFH or AFS 487 Research in Africana Studies taken in the junior or senior year.