Africana Studies (AFS)

Major and Minor in Africana Studies

Department of Africana Studies, College of Arts and Sciences

CHAIRPERSON: Floris Cash  DIRECTOR OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES: Tracey Walters  ASSISTANT TO THE CHAIR: Phyllis Bartolomeo-Zenker

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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.
Peniel Joseph, Associate Professor, Ph.D., Temple University: (American History) Civil Rights/Black Power Movement; African American History; African American Intellectual History; Comparative Black Nationalism; Twentieth Century American Social History; African Diaspora; Pan-Africanism.
Leile 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, Associate 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

Courses in Africana Studies

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.

Spring 2009: updates since Spring 2007 are in red

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 366-G Caribbean and American Connections in Literature
AFH 379-K Philosophy of Race (III)
AFH 382-G Black Women’s Literature of the African Diaspora
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 249-J Issues in Caribbean Society
AFS 277-K&4 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 320-K Black Popular Culture and the Terrain

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AFS 325-K&4 The Civil Rights Movement
AFS 337-J The Politics of Africa
AFS 339-K Recent African American History
AFS 345-J Culture and Gender: Women in Africa and the Caribbean
AFS 346-J Political and Social History of Africa
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
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 392-K The Black Power Movement
AFS 393-K The Caribbean Immigrants in the United States: Dreams and Realities
AFS 394-K Black Nationalism in America
AFS 396-K&4 Topics in African-American History
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 488 Internship
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 39 credits, including at least 21 upper-division credits (from courses numbered 300 or higher). Courses taken pass/fail with an AFS or AFH designator (283, 475, 476, and 488) are considered enhancements to the major experience but do not count towards major requirements. They may fulfill university requirements.

1. Foundation Courses
AFS 101, 102 Themes in the Black Experience I, II
2. Two courses from each of the following areas (at least two courses selected from 200-level courses, and at least five upper-division courses at the 300 or 400-level):
   a. Africana Studies in the Humanities
      AFH 206 Great Books of the Black Experience
      AFH/EGL 249 African-American Literature and Music in the 19th and 20th Centuries
      AFH 329/HUF 318 Pan-African Literature I

Sample Course Sequence for the Major in Africana Studies

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<td>Course from area c</td>
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*Course may not be crosslisted with AFH or AFS.
AFH 330 Pan-African Literature II
AFH/EGL 368 Caribbean and American Connections in Literature
AFH/HUF 385 French Caribbean Literature

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
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

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/HIS 339 Recent African American History
AFS/WST 350 African American Women and Social Change
AFS 360 African American Social Commentary
AFS 363 The Media and Black America
AFS 370 The African American Family
AFS 375 Slavery
AFS 392 The Black Power Movement
AFS 394 Black Nationalism in America
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 AIDS, Race, and Gender in the Black Community
AFS/HIS 388 Slavery in Latin America and the Caribbean
AFS 393 Caribbean Immigrants in U.S.
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. Seniors are required to present their research orally to the AFS faculty.

4. Two additional AFS or AFH courses at the 300 or 400 level, or two upper-division courses outside of the department (approval of the undergraduate studies director is necessary when taking courses outside of the department for major credit).

5. Upper-Division Writing Requirement Africana Studies Majors are required to submit a writing sample completed for an upper-division course in the Africana Studies Department and must submit evaluation forms signed by a professor with grades of B or higher. Students must inform the instructor of the courses in advance of their plan to use the paper(s) in fulfillment of the writing requirement for the major. A minimum of 15 pages of material must be submitted.

Notes:
1. Students are recommended, but not required, to take AFS 491 Interdisciplinary Seminar.
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.

Departmental Honors Program
Departmental majors with a minimum G.P.A. of 3.33 in Africana Studies courses as specified in the major requirements and an overall G.P.A. of 3.0 are eligible to enroll in the Africana Studies Honors program at the beginning of their senior year. The student must submit a proposal to the Department indicating the merit of the proposed research after asking a faculty member to be a sponsor for the project. This should be done in the semester prior to beginning the project. The faculty sponsor must submit a statement of support for the proposal. The resulting project is read and evaluated by a committee consisting of the faculty sponsor and two faculty members (one may be a member of a department outside of Africana Studies). If the honors project is completed successfully, honors are conferred.

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 21 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.