
AFRICAN-AMERICAN STUDIES

Director, *Professor Cheryl Townsend Gilkes*

Program Faculty: *Professor Cheryl Townsend Gilkes (African-American Studies and Sociology) and Associate Professor Chandra Bhimull (African-American Studies and Anthropology)*

Affiliated Faculty and Advisory Committee: *Professors Catherine Besteman (Anthropology), Cedric Gael Bryant (English), Jill Gordon (Philosophy), Bénédicte Mauguère (French), and Robert Weisbrot (History); Associate Professors Mouhamédoul Niang (French) and Tanya Sheehan (Art); Assistant Professors Laura Seay (Government) and Sonja Thomas (Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies)*

The African-American Studies Program is an interdisciplinary program of courses organized to provide an overview and introduction to the experiences of peoples of African descent in the United States and to connect those experiences to the literatures, histories, and cultures of Africa and of Latin America and the Caribbean. The program offers students the opportunity to explore the human experience of persons and peoples through the multiple perspectives offered by diverse social science and humanistic disciplines. Courses in the program expose students to classical and contemporary literature, to issues of public policy, to critical debates in history and social science, and to main currents of historical analysis and contemporary cultural expression. Students may elect a major or a minor in African-American studies built on courses in American studies, anthropology, art, history, literature, economics, government, music, philosophy, religious studies, and sociology. The program not only exposes students to the history, literature, and cultures of African Americans and people of African descent throughout the Americas, but it also requires exploration of African history, cultures, and artistic expressions. While the African-American Studies Program's use of the phrase African American includes persons and peoples of African descent throughout the Americas, the program's primary focus is on the literature, history, and culture of people of African descent in the United States and the Caribbean.

Requirements for the Major in African-American Studies

Eleven courses selected from courses specifically focused on African Americans and on peoples and cultures of Africa and the Caribbean. Six required courses: American Studies 276, English 343, History 247; at least one course focused specifically on Africa; at least one course focused specifically on the Caribbean or African-derived cultures in Latin America or the African diaspora (e.g., Anthropology 231); and at least one course focused on art, music, theater, dance, or other aspects of expressive culture. Four or more electives from among the relevant courses in the social sciences, humanities, and relevant interdisciplinary studies programs (e.g., American Studies; Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies; English/Creative Writing; Latin American Studies; Education); at least one of the courses should be taken at the 300 or 400 level. Courses not specifically listed may be counted toward the major with permission of the advisor if substantial relevance can be established during a particular semester or in an off-campus program. At least one seminar at the 300 or 400 level with a member of the African-American Studies Program faculty or with affiliated faculty where a substantial final paper or equivalent project explores in depth and engages significant debates about an aspect or aspects of African-American life and culture in the United States or in the African diaspora. Such courses could include, when the subject material is appropriate and with the permission of the advisor, American Studies 493, English 413 and 493, and Music 493. Course substitutions and exchanges may be made in consultation with the African-American Studies Program advisor.

Requirements for the Minor in African-American Studies

Seven courses including American Studies 276; History 247; American Studies 493; at least one course focused on Africa or the Caribbean; and two courses selected from American Studies 493, Anthropology 231, English 346, 413 (when appropriate), Government 255, 336, 455, Philosophy 213, Religious Studies 256, or Sociology 252, 355, 357, 358. Course substitutions and exchanges may be made in consultation with the African-American Studies Program advisor.

Interested students also may consider an independent major in Africana studies (a selection of courses combining study of the Caribbean, the Americas, and Africa) or an independent major that combines African-American studies with another relevant discipline or program, especially American studies, anthropology, art, government, Latin American studies, music, religious studies, or sociology.

Majors and minors are instructed to inform faculty in various programs and departments that they are African-American studies majors or minors when seeking the permission of an instructor to register for courses restricted to majors in other disciplines or when asking that prerequisites be waived.

Courses That Apply to the African-American Studies Major

American Studies

- 276 African-American Culture in the United States

Anthropology

- 231 Caribbean Cultures
- 258 Anthropology, History, Memory
- 333 Contemporary Theory

- 341 Culture, Mobility, Identity: Encounters in the African Diaspora
- 421 Anthropology of Creativity

Art

- 256 African-American Art

English

- 343 African-American Literature: Speaking in Tongues
- 346 Culture and Literature of the American South
- 354 Slavery and the American Literary Imagination
- 413A Author Course: Toni Morrison
- 457 American Gothic Literature

French

- 236 Introduction to the Francophone World: The Americas
- 237 Francophone African Cinema
- 361 Creolization, Culture, and Society in the Indian Ocean Islands

Global Studies

- 316 Religion and Social Change in Contemporary Africa

Government

- 255 Introduction to African Politics
- 336 Politics of Development in Africa
- 338 Field Study in African Development
- 455 Seminar: Conflict and Crisis in Africa

History

- 247 African-American History, from Slavery to Freedom
- 297J Freedom Now and Then: The Black Freedom Struggle and Its Legacies
- 334 The Great Depression: America in the 1930s
- 342 Crisis and Reform: American Society and Politics in the 1960s

Music

- 114 Jazz Improvisation
- 118 African Music

Philosophy

- 213 Philosophical Inquiries into Race

Religious Studies

- 256 The African-American Religious Experience

Sociology

- 214 African-American Elites and Middle Classes
- 252 Race, Ethnicity, and Society
- 355 African-American Women and Social Change
- 357 Civil Rights, Black Power, and Social Change
- 358 The Sociology of W.E.B. Du Bois
- 359 Sociologies of Slavery and Slave Communities in the United States

Theater and Dance

- 118 Dance Technique Lab: Dance Forms of the African Diaspora

Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

- 223 Critical Race Feminisms and Tap Dance

Note: Additional courses, often taught by visiting faculty, may be available from time to time as temporary offerings, and such courses may be counted toward the major or the minor with permission of the African-American Studies Program advisor.

Course Offerings

- AA118s Dance Technique Lab: Dance Forms of the African Diaspora: Hip-hop** Listed as Theater and Dance 118. *Two credit hours.* AKUCHU
- [AA214] African-American Elites and Middle Classes** Listed as Sociology 214. *Three credit hours.* S, U.
- AA223s Critical Race Feminisms and Tap Dance** Listed as Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies 223. *Four credit hours.* A, U. THOMAS
- AA231s Caribbean Cultures** Listed as Anthropology 231. *Four credit hours.* I. BHIMULL
- [AA236] Introduction to the Francophone World: The Americas** Listed as French 236. *Four credit hours.* I.
- AA237f Introduction to the Francophone World: Africa** Listed as French 238. *Four credit hours.* I. NIANG
- AA247f African-American History, from Slavery to Freedom** Listed as History 247. *Four credit hours.* H, U. WEISBROT
- AA252f Race, Ethnicity, and Society** Listed as Sociology 252. *Four credit hours.* U. GILKES
- AA255f Introduction to African Politics** Listed as Government 255. *Four credit hours.* S, I. SEAY
- [AA256] African-American Art** Listed as Art 256. *Four credit hours.* A, U.
- [AA258] Anthropology, History, Memory** Listed as Anthropology 258. *Four credit hours.*
- AA276s African-American Culture in the United States** Listed as American Studies 276. *Four credit hours.* S, U. GILKES
- AA297f Introduction to African History to 1880** Listed as History 297B. *Four credit hours.* H, I. DUFF
- AA298s Introduction to African History, 1800-1994** Listed as History 298. *Four credit hours.* H, I. DUFF
- AA333f Contemporary Theory** Listed as Anthropology 333. *Four credit hours.* BHIMULL
- [AA336] Politics of Development in Africa** Listed as Government 336. *Four credit hours.* I.
- AA338j Field Study in African Development** Listed as Government 338. *Three credit hours.* SEAY
- AA341s Culture, Mobility, Identity: Encounters in the African Diaspora** Listed as Anthropology 341. *Four credit hours.* S, I. BHIMULL
- [AA342] Crisis and Reform: American Society and Politics in the 1960s** Listed as History 342. *Four credit hours.* H.
- [AA343] African-American Literature: Speaking in Tongues** Listed as English 343. *Four credit hours.* L, U.
- AA344f Black Radical Imaginations** Listed as Anthropology 344. *Four credit hours.* BHIMULL
- AA352f Hang and Rattle: The West in the American Imaginary** Listed as English 352. *Four credit hours.* L, U. BRYANT
- [AA354] Slavery and the American Literary Imagination** Listed as English 354. *Four credit hours.* L, U.
- AA355f African-American Women and Social Change** Listed as Sociology 355. *Four credit hours.* U. GILKES

- AA357fs Civil Rights, Black Power, and Social Change** Listed as Sociology 357. *Four credit hours.* **S, U.** GILKES
- [AA358] The Sociology of W.E.B. Du Bois** Listed as Sociology 358. *Four credit hours.* **S, U.**
- [AA359] Sociologies of Slavery and Slave Communities in the United States** Listed as Sociology 359. *Four credit hours.* **S, U.**
- AA361s Creolization, Culture, and Society in the Indian Ocean Islands** Listed as French 361. *Four credit hours.* **I.**
MAUGUIERE
- AA370s Corps, Espace, et Genre: Postcolonial Space in Francophone Africa** Listed as French 370. *Four credit hours.* **I.**
NIANG
- [AA375] Narratives of Identities in Francophone African Literature** Listed as French 375. *Four credit hours.*
- AA398s South African Women's Memoir** Listed as History 398B. *Four credit hours.* **H, I.** DUFF
- [AA413] Author Course: Toni Morrison** Listed as English 413A. *Four credit hours.* **L.**
- [AA421] Anthropology of Creativity** Listed as Anthropology 421. *Four credit hours.*
- [AA455] Seminar: Conflict and Crisis in Africa** Listed as Government 455. *Four credit hours.* **I.**
- AA491f, 492s Independent Study** Individual study of special problems in African-American studies in areas where the student has demonstrated the interest and competence necessary for independent work. *Prerequisite:* Permission of the instructor and of the program director. *One to four credit hours.* FACULTY