

---

## AFRICAN-AMERICAN STUDIES DEPARTMENT

**Chair,** *Associate Professor Chandra Bhimull*

**Department Faculty:** *Associate Professor Chandra Bhimull (African-American Studies and Anthropology); Assistant Professor Sonya Donaldson (African-American Studies)*

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

The African-American Studies Department is an interdisciplinary program of courses organized to provide an introduction to, overview of, and multiple disciplinary perspectives on 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 department 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 department 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 other department and programs such as American studies, anthropology, art, history, literature, economics, government, music, philosophy, religious studies, sociology, and women's, gender, and sexuality studies. The department 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 Department's use of the phrase African American includes persons and peoples of African descent throughout the Americas, the department'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 or an equivalent, 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 and departments (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 Department 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 Department 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 343, 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 Department 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 and Minor

*African-American Studies*

- 276 African-American Culture in the United States

### *Anthropology*

- 231 Caribbean Cultures
- 258 Anthropology, History, Memory
- 2xx Black Joy
- 333 Contemporary Theory
- 341 Culture, Mobility, Identity: Encounters in the African Diaspora
- 344 Black Radical Imaginations
- 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
- 351 Minority Issues and Social Change in the Americas
- 361 Creolization, Culture, and Society in the Indian Ocean Islands

### *Global Studies*

- 316 Religion and Social Change in Contemporary Africa

### *Government*

- 228 Introduction to Race, Ethnicity, and Politics
- 255 Introduction to African Politics
- Minority Representation
- 336 Politics of Development in Africa
- 338 Field Study in African Development
- 455 Seminar: Conflict and Crisis in Africa

### *History*

- 138 America Between the World Wars, 1919-1939
- 247 African-American History, from Slavery to Freedom
- 297J Freedom Now and Then: The Black Freedom Struggle and Its Legacies
- 3XX Global Histories of Food
- 3XX Race, Labor, and Gender in 19th-Century United States
- 3XX Africa in New England, New England in Africa
- 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

### *Performance, Theater, and Dance*

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

### *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

*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 Department advisor.*

## Course Offerings

**[AA118] Dance Technique Lab: Dance Forms of the African Diaspora: Hip-hop** Listed as Theater and Dance 118. *Two credit hours.*

**[AA118A] Technique Lab: Contemporary Dance & Movement of the African Diaspora** Listed as Theater and Dance 118A. *Two credit hours.*

**[AA118B] Dance Technique Lab: Intermediate Hip-hop** Listed as Theater and Dance 118B. *One credit hour.*

**[AA120] Race, Gender, and Sport** Listed as Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies 120A. *Four credit hours.* **W1, U.**

**AA120Bfs Critical Inquiries in Medical Ethics** Listed as Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies 120B. *Four credit hours.* **W1.**  
SIBARA

**AA125fs Introduction to African American Cultures** Offers a critical introduction to the cultural, political, and social forces that have shaped the identity of people of African descent in the United States. We will focus on the experiences of African Americans from the Transatlantic Slave trade through contemporary social movements such as Black Lives Matter. Through readings, viewing, listening, and creating, we will examine the major movements, people, and ideas that have shaped African American identity and culture and gain an understanding of how African Americans have informed the broader national and global cultural and political landscapes. *Four credit hours.* **L, U.** DONALDSON

**AA132s Survey of U.S. History, 1865 to Present** Listed as History 132. *Four credit hours.* **H.** WEISBROT

**[AA157] American Art: Identity and Belonging Since 1619** Listed as Art 157. *Four credit hours.* **A, U.**

**AA162f History of the Atlantic World** Listed as History 162. *Four credit hours.* **H, I.** BRIGNAC

**AA164s Africans and the Making of the Atlantic World** Listed as History 164. *Four credit hours.* **H, I.** BRIGNAC

**[AA213J] Philosophical Inquiries into Race** Listed as Philosophy 213J. *Three credit hours.* **S, U.**

**[AA216] Deconstructing *Daughters of the Dust*: African American Origins** Intensive exploration and analysis of Julie Dash's film *Daughters of the Dust* in order to examine Gullah/Geechee culture and its vital role in the origins of African-American culture in the United States and its connection to the African Diaspora. In addition to an introductory historical overview of the African-American experience, the film and readings invite examination of African ethnicities, family, foodways, religion, music, political activism, migration, gender, spirituality, political economy, slavery, and social change. *Three credit hours.* **S, U.**

**[AA223] Critical Race Feminisms and Tap Dance** Listed as Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies 223. *Four credit hours.*  
**A, U.**

**[AA225] Race and Democracy in the Nation's Capital** Listed as History 225. *Three credit hours.* **H, U.**

**[AA227] Visual Ways of Knowing: Transcultural Documentary Filmmaking** Listed as Global Studies 227. *Four credit hours.*

**AA228f Introduction to Race, Ethnicity, and Politics** Listed as Government 228. *Four credit hours.* **S, U.** LEVAN

**[AA231] Caribbean Cultures** Listed as Anthropology 231. *Four credit hours.* **I.**

**AA232s Early African American Literature** Listed as English 232. *Four credit hours.* **L, U.** PLASENCIA

**AA233s Black Germany** Listed as German 233. *Four credit hours.* **L, I.** ELLIS

**[AA236] Introduction to the Francophone World: The Americas** Listed as French 236. *Four credit hours.* **I.**

**AA237f Francophone African Cinema** Listed as French 237. *Four credit hours.* NIANG

**AA238s Introduction to the Francophone World: Africa** Listed as French 238. *Four credit hours.* **I.** NIANG

**AA239f Making Modern Science** Listed as American Studies 238. *Four credit hours.* **H, U.** SALTZ

**AA241f Foundations of Disability Studies** Listed as Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies 241. *Four credit hours.* **L, U.**  
SIBARA

**[AA242] Acts of Activism** Listed as Theater and Dance 242. *Four credit hours.* **A.**

**[AA244] Black Digital Humanities** The digital humanities center on humanistic inquiry and its intersections with digital tools and discourses. In this course, students will encounter and engage with textual and digital works that focus on black studies theorization and methodologies. This is a reading, workshop, and ?critical making? course, which emphasizes skill-building through analysis and creation of public-facing digital works. We will read a variety of texts on African Diasporic thought and the digital humanities; students will gain an understanding of the breadth of thought on a range of topics, including digitality, Afro-Futurism, ethics, memory, and the ?queering? of technologies. No prior digital humanities or programming skills/expertise are required. *Prerequisite:* African-American Studies 125 or permission of instructor. *Four credit hours.* **I.**

**AA247f African-American History, from Slavery to Freedom** Listed as History 247. *Four credit hours.* **H, U.** WEISBROT

**[AA248] Performing the Museum** Listed as Theater and Dance 247. *Four credit hours.* **A.**

**AA251f Tomorrow Will Be Bigger! Performing Protest in Brazil** Listed as Theater and Dance 251. *Four credit hours.* **A, I.**  
SOIFER

**[AA252] Race, Ethnicity, and Society** Listed as Sociology 252. *Four credit hours.* **U.**

**[AA255] Introduction to African Politics** Listed as Government 255. *Four credit hours.* **S, I.**

**[AA256] African-American Art** Listed as Art 256. *Four credit hours.* **A, U.**

**AA258s Anthropology, History, Memory** Listed as Anthropology 258. *Four credit hours.* BHIMULL

**[AA262] Topics in Dance: Collaborative Company** Listed as Theater and Dance 262. *Four credit hours.*

**[AA263] Black Joy** Listed as Anthropology 263. *Four credit hours.* **S, I.**

**AA266f Introduction to African History,1800-1994: Cultural Artefacts inMuseums** Listed as History 266. *Four credit hours.* **H, I.**  
COULON

**AA266Jj Introduction to African History,1800-1994: Cultural Artefacts inMuseums** Listed as History 266J. *Three credit hours.*  
**H, I.** COULON

- [AA276] **African-American Culture in the United States** Listed as American Studies 276. *Four credit hours.* **S, U.**
- [AA312] **Suburban Politics** Listed as Government 312. *Four credit hours.* **U.**
- [AA315] **Minority Representation** Listed as Government 315. *Four credit hours.* **S, U.**
- [AA319] **Art, Medicine, and Race** Listed as Art 319. *Four credit hours.* **U.**
- [AA324] **Ideologies of Africans: Negritude, Pan-Africanism, and Afroisms** Listed as French 324. *Four credit hours.* **L.**
- [AA326] **Slavery and Freedom in American Art** Listed as Art 326. *Four credit hours.* **A, U.**
- AA328s African American Girlhood** This course focuses on African American girlhood and the ways that African American girls have been constructed and imagined and how they define themselves. We will concentrate on topics such as race and the inner lives of Black girls, centering on the transformative possibilities of African American girlhood. We will engage critical questions such as: What does African American girlhood look like? Sound like? How is African American girlhood defined and what defines it? How do black girls understand themselves and construct spaces of liberation, resistance, and joy? *Prerequisite:* African-American Studies 125 or permission of instructor. *Four credit hours.* **U.** DONALDSON
- [AA330] **Global Histories of Food** Listed as History 330. *Four credit hours.* **H, I.**
- [AA331] **Slavery and Capitalism** Listed as History 331. *Four credit hours.* **H, I.**
- AA333f Contemporary Theory** Listed as Anthropology 333. *Four credit hours.* BHIMULL
- AA334f The Great Depression: America in the 1930s** Listed as History 334. *Four credit hours.* **H, U.** WEISBROT
- [AA336] **Politics of Development in Africa** Listed as Government 336. *Four credit hours.* **I.**
- AA337f Gentrification** Listed as American Studies 337. *Four credit hours.* **U.** LISLE
- [AA338] **Field Study in African Development** Listed as Government 338. *Three credit hours.*
- AA341f Culture, Mobility, Identity: Encounters in the African Diaspora** Listed as Anthropology 341. *Four credit hours.* **S, I.** BHIMULL
- AA342s Crisis and Reform: American Society and Politics in the 1960s** Listed as History 342. *Four credit hours.* **H.** WEISBROT
- [AA343] **African-American Literature: Speaking in Tongues** Listed as English 343. *Four credit hours.* **L, U.**
- [AA344] **Black Radical Imaginations** Listed as Anthropology 344. *Four credit hours.*
- [AA346] **Race, Rights, and Land in the Americas** Listed as Spanish 346. *Four credit hours.* **I.**
- [AA348] **The Afro-Americas: Race, Power, and Subjectivity** Listed as Spanish 348. *Four credit hours.* **L, I.**
- AA349s Queer of Color Critique** Listed as Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies 349. *Four credit hours.* **U.** SIBARA
- [AA351] **Minority Issues and Social Change in the Americas** Listed as French 351. *Four credit hours.* **L, I.**
- AA352s Hang and Rattle: The West in the American Imaginary** Listed as English 352. *Four credit hours.* **L, U.** BRYANT

- AA353f Gender, Sexuality, and Power in Atlantic Slavery** Listed as History 353. *Four credit hours.* **H, I.** BRIGNAC
- [AA355] African-American Women and Social Change** Listed as Sociology 355. *Four credit hours.* **U.**
- [AA356] Donning the Mask IN THE WAKE: The Persona Poem** Listed as English 358. *Four credit hours.* **L, U.**
- [AA357] Civil Rights, Black Power, and Social Change** Listed as Sociology 357. *Four credit hours.* **S, U.**
- [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
- [AA370] Corps, Espace, et Genre: Postcolonial Space in Francophone Africa** Listed as French 370. *Four credit hours.* **I.**
- AA372s Black and Native Protest Literatures to 1900** Listed as English 372. *Four credit hours.* **L, U.** PLASENCIA
- [AA375] Narratives of Identities in Francophone African Literature** Listed as French 375. *Four credit hours.*
- AA393f Junior Seminar: Theories of Culture** Listed as American Studies 393. *Four credit hours.* **U.** SALTZ
- [AA3XX] African American Childhood** *Four credit hours.*
- [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
- AA493s Seminar: American Gothicism in the Neo-Slave Narrative Tradition** Listed as English 493Q. *Four credit hours.* **L.**  
BRYANT