AFRICAN-AMERICAN STUDIES PROGRAM

Director: Associate Professor Chandra Bhimull
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 Mauguière (French), Tanya Sheehan (Art), and Robert Weisbrot (History); Associate Professors 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 Program 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 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 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 (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 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 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
• 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

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

[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.

AA120f  Race, Gender, and Sport  Listed as Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies 120A.  Four credit hours.  W1, U.

THOMAS

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

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.


AA223s  Critical Race Feminisms and Tap Dance  Listed as Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies 223.  Four credit hours.  A, U.

THOMAS

AA225j  Race and Democracy in the Nation’s Capital  Listed as History 225.  Three credit hours.  H, U.  ASCH


[AA228]  Introduction to Race, Ethnicity, and Politics  Listed as Government 228.  Four credit hours.  S, U.

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.

[AA237]  Introduction to the Francophone World: Africa  Listed as French 238.  Four credit hours.  I.

AA242f  Acts of Activism  Listed as Theater and Dance 242.  Four credit hours.  A.  BROWN

AA248f    Performing the Museum  Listed as Theater and Dance 247.  Four credit hours.  A.  SHANKS

AA252f    Race, Ethnicity, and Society  Listed as Sociology 252.  Four credit hours.  U.  HIKIDO

AA255fs Introduction to African Politics  Listed as Government 255.  Four credit hours.  S, I.  SEAY


[A258]  Anthropology, History, Memory  Listed as Anthropology 258.  Four credit hours.

AA262s    Topics in Dance: Collaborative Company  Listed as Theater and Dance 262.  Four credit hours.  SHANKS

AA263f    Black Joy  Listed as Anthropology 263.  Four credit hours.  S, I.  BHIMULL


AA269s    African-American Culture in the United States  Listed as American Studies 269.  Four credit hours.  S, U.

AA276f    Suburban Politics  Listed as Government 276.  Four credit hours.  U.

AA304s    Minority Representation  Listed as Government 304.  Four credit hours.  S, U.  LEVAN

AA309s    Art, Medicine, and Race  Listed as Art 309.  Four credit hours.  U.  SHEEHAN

AA339s    Art, Medicine, and Race  Listed as Art 339.  Four credit hours.  U.  SHEEHAN

AA342s    Crisis and Reform: American Society and Politics in the 1960s  Listed as History 342.  Four credit hours.  H.  WEISBROT

AA343f    Black Radical Imaginations  Listed as Anthropology 343.  Four credit hours.  BHIMULL

AA346f    Race, Rights, and Land in the Americas  Listed as Spanish 346.  Four credit hours.  I.
AA348f  The Afro-Americas: Race, Power, and Subjectivity  Listed as Spanish 348.  Four credit hours.  L, I.  RAMOS FLORES

AA349fs  Queer of Color Critique  Listed as Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies 349.  Four credit hours.  U.  HUBER, SIBARA


AA356f  Donning the Mask IN THE WAKE: The Persona Poem  Listed as English 358.  Four credit hours.  L, U.  WHITE

[AA357]  Civil Rights, Black Power, and Social Change  Listed as Sociology 357.  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.

[AA361]  Creolization, Culture, and Society in the Indian Ocean Islands  Listed as French 361.  Four credit hours.  I.


AA413s  Author Course: Toni Morrison  Listed as English 413A.  Four credit hours.  L.  BRYANT

AA421s  Anthropology of Creativity  Listed as Anthropology 421.  Four credit hours.  BHIMULL

AA455s  Seminar: Conflict and Crisis in Africa  Listed as Government 455.  Four credit hours.  I.  SEAY

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