

Africana Studies (AS)

Simms

Africana Studies is an interdisciplinary program designed to apply the scholarly approach of a number of traditional disciplines, such as sociology, theology, and history, to a consideration of the Black experience. The program seeks to nurture the student's intellectual, social, and political development through an examination of the rich and multifaceted cultures, literatures, religions, and histories of Blacks in Africa and the African Diaspora. This approach emphasizes both the political struggle of Black people and their contribution to Western civilization.

Major requirements for the B.A. degree in Africana Studies

Required semester hours

36 sh

Prerequisite

AS 2500

Required core courses

AS 3010, 3020, 4970, SOC 2090 or SOC 2100; one course from AS 3030 or AS 3040

Electives

3 courses from the following: AS 2220, 2840, 3910, 3920; HIST 3210, 3220, 3230, 3240, 3250, 3260, 3290

Minor requirements in Africana Studies

Required semester hours

20 sh

Prerequisite

AS 2500

Required core courses

AS 3010, 3020, SOC 2090 or SOC 2100

Electives

AS 2220, 2840, 3030, 3040, 3910, 3920, HIST 3210, 3220

Notes and restrictions

1. Students must complete a form listing the courses they have taken to complete the minor, to be obtained from the department and on the department website.
2. Students must turn in a simple portfolio to the chair of the department containing the following:
 - A statement of their specific goals upon entering the program
 - A self-assessment of the achievement of those goals-including what educational experiences most enhanced their learning, curricular and extracurricular.
 - Two samples of student work from each course: completed: projects, essays or exams.

GE Designates a course that fulfills all or part of a General Education (G.E.) requirement; see the General Education Program section of the catalog for more information.

2220 **The Struggle for Freedom: Black Leaders of the Twentieth Century (4 sh)**

Examines the philosophies and strategies of Black leaders in the struggle for freedom during the 1900s in the history of Africa and the United States. Focuses on key figures from the continent such as Kwame Nkrumah and Jomo Kenyatta, revolutionaries who fought against European colonialism, and preeminent African-American leaders such as Ida B. Wells and W.E.B. DuBois, organizers of protest against White American racism.

2500 **Introduction to Africana Studies (4 sh) GE**

Utilizing the disciplines of history, sociology, and anthropology, this course presents, discusses, and analyzes the African-American experience from pre-slavery West Africa to contemporary U.S., with particular emphasis on current cultural, theological, social, economic, and political issues that exist within the African-American community. Cross-listed with SOC 2500.

2540 **The Sankofa Experience (2 sh)**

Creates more meaningful and sensitive relationships and more intelligent and sincere communication between students of varying ethnic backgrounds. Features a 60-hour bus tour through several southern states with stops at sites relevant to the Civil Rights movement of the 1960s. Includes pre-trip lectures and films on such topics as racism and prejudice. Assigns each student a partner of a different ethnic background with whom to discuss and experience cultural diversity before, after, and during the trip.

2730 **Speaking Truth to Power: The Politics of Mexicans in America (4 sh)**

Surveys Mexican history from Pre-Columbian Period to the present and emphasizes Mexican American politics. Employs Marxian and Gramscian theory in examining the political influence of such organizations as the League of United Latin American Citizens and the protest rhetoric of Chicano leaders like Cesar Chavez. Examines selected points of common political interests shared by Mexican- and African-Americans. Cross-listed with LAS 2730.

2840 **African-American Church History and Religious Thought (4 sh)**

Studies the religious thought of African-Americans, employing as a frame of reference the Black Christian church from its beginning during slavery to its maturity in the present day. Includes the ideas of a variety of spiritual leaders such as Jupiter Hammon, David Walker, Marcus Garvey, Father Divine, John Perkins, James Cone, and E.V. Hill. Examines the influence of slavery, emancipation, migration, and White racism on the development of African-American religion. Cross-listed with BTS 2840.

2950 **Rap Music in Urban America: An Introduction to the Politics of Black and Latino Culture (4 sh)**

The class employs Marxism and Gramscian theory in interpreting rap music specifically and hip hop culture generally as forms of resistance to the oppressive ideas and discriminatory policies of U.S. society. It offers a critical examination of Latino and Black political rappers viewing them as socially conscious activists committed to the uplift of their respective communities. Cross-listed with LAS 2950.

3010 **African-American History to 1865 (4 sh)**

Explores the history of African-Americans beginning with African origins and continuing through the Civil War. Focuses on Black religion, identity formation, participation in plantation society, and contribution to American culture. Emphasizes African-American self-expression through a reading of primary sources, especially slave narratives.

3020 African-American History from 1865 to Present (4 sh)

Explores the history of African-Americans from the end of the Civil War to the present. Investigates Black identity formation, migration and urbanization, leadership production, protest strategies, and recent political movements. Gives attention to the writings of African-American authors, especially those of the Harlem Renaissance and the Civil Rights Movement.

3030 Civil Rights Movement 1954-1970's (4 sh)

Emphasizes the period from 1954 through the 1970s as a time of social turmoil and change in American society, during which African-Americans insisted on inclusion in the nation's mainstream and power in their own right. Employs social movement theory in examining the history, progress, and effects of the Civil Rights Movement in general and in studying such organizations as the NAACP and such leaders as Martin Luther King in particular. Cross-listed with SOC 2530.

3040 The Literature of the Black Diaspora (4 sh)

Traces the literary history of Black people beginning with the hieroglyphics of Ancient Egypt and concluding with works by such modern writers as Toni Morrison and Alice Walker. Emphasizes the literature production of African, African-American, and Caribbean authors in exploring the dynamics of the Black Diasporic experience. Uses techniques of literary analysis in examining representative poems, novels, plays, autobiographies, tracts and essays. Highlights the contribution of history to interpreting the work of Black artists. Prerequisite: ENG 1750.

3910 Topics in Africana Studies (2-4 sh)

Focused examination of a particular theme within the sociopolitical framework of the Black experience. Possible subjects include in-depth studies examining the lives of such artists as Nikki Giovanni and historical analyses of such topics as the pro-slavery ideology of the antebellum South. Student must have consent of the instructor and chairperson of the division.

3920 Francophone Literature (4 sh)

Exploration of major regions of the Francophone world: Africa and the Caribbean; their culture, political, economic, and social problems, religion, etc. Quebec may be included if taught in French. Prerequisite: FREN 3010.

4910 Independent Study in Africana Studies (2-4 sh)**4970 Internship in Africana Studies (1-4 sh)**

Please refer to the Internship Section of the catalog for internship requirements and guidelines.