African American and African Studies

(College of Letters and Science)

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The Major Program
African American and African Studies is an interdisciplinary field of study in the humanities, arts, and social sciences. This major introduces students to the social, cultural, historical and artistic dimensions of global African Diaspora and Black communities in the United States, Africa, Europe, Asia, Caribbean, Latin America and Pacific regions of the world. The instructors are creative, accessible and highly qualified, with specializations across a range of disciplines. Students are exposed to and trained to think critically about the conditions and demands of global societies. Students may choose to enrich their education studying for a summer, a quarter, or a year in Africa, or by studying for a quarter in the Caribbean. Majors and Minors are also encouraged to take advantage of relevant internship opportunities.

The Program, The purpose of this program is to give African-American sense of the individual characteristics and common concerns of Black communities in Africa, the United States, and in the wider Diaspora. The African American emphasis includes courses on history, culture, and the impact of developments in politics and the economy on the social organization of Black people in the United States. The African Diaspora emphasis enables students to study the ways that Black people outside Africa and the United States have dealt with questions of race and ethnicity. It also considers how they have defined their identity in the political arena as well as by using religion, theory and dance, literature and film. The African emphasis allows students to focus on Africa’s recent history, social issues, and contemporary culture.

Career Alternatives, Students majoring in African American and African Studies gain knowledge and strong critical thinking and analytical skills, problem-solving skills and communication skills, all suited for advanced studies in the social sciences, low, education and professional schools. Graduates in the major have pursued careers in education, the private and public sectors, the non-profit sector, international development agencies and in human serv-vice. The interdisciplinary nature of African American and African Studies is excellent preparation for professional organizations as the Urban League, NAACP, and the Office of Economic Opportunity.

A.B. Major Requirements: The major program must be developed in consultation with the African American and African Studies Staff Adviser, and approved by the program’s Faculty Adviser.

Preparatory Subject Matter: 28
One course from: African American and African Studies 10, 12 ................................. 4
One course from: African American and African Studies 15, 17, 18, 50, 51, 52, 80 ................................. 4
One course from: Anthropology 2, Economics 1A, 1B, Geography 2; Sociology 1; Political Science 1; 2, Psychology 1................................. 4
One course from: Chicago 6 Studies 10; Native American Studies 1, 10; Women & Gender Studies 50, American Studies 10; Asian American Studies 1, 2 ................................. 4
Two courses from: History 153, 171, 178...................................................... 8
Four units from: African American and African Studies 15, 51, 54, 155A, 155A
Dramatic Art 41A, 41B, 44A, 44B; Music 28, 105, 106 ........................................... 4

Depth Subject Matter: 36
One course from: African American and African Studies 111, 123, 130, 133, 141, 145A, 145B, 156, 162, 163, 165, 172, 176, 177 ................................. 4
A coordinated program of upper division courses, selected and approved in consultation with the major adviser and chosen to reflect the student’s major emphasis ........................................... 24
Possible areas of emphasis include the following: Creative arts in the black community worldwide, social and political trends in the global black community, African American society and culture, Africa, African Diasporas. These areas of emphasis may be tailored to the student’s major. They are not the only areas of emphasis that students may choose for the major.

Related Upper Division Courses
The following courses are offered by faculty members in other disciplines and focus on African American studies, African diaspora studies, or African studies.


Total Units for the Major: 64
Major Adviser, Contact Program office.

Minor Program Requirements: 24
Select one course from: African American and African Studies 10, 12, 15, 17, 18, or 80 ................................. 4
Select any five upper division courses offered in African American and African Studies, but not including African American and African Studies 154.

Note: Although a course may be listed more than once, such a course may satisfy only one requirement.

American History and Institutions, This University requirement may be satisfied by completion of African American Studies 100; see also under University Requirements, on page 96.

Courses in African American and African Studies (AAS)

Lower Division

10. African-American Culture and Society
Lecture—3 hours; discussion—1 hour. Critical examination of the historical, political, social, and economic factors that have affected the development and status of African-American people in contemporary society. GE credit: SocSci, Div | ACGH, DD, SS, WE—II. (I.) Harrison

12. Introduction to African Studies
Lecture/discussion—4 hours. Introduction to African Studies which will focus on the various disciplinary perspectives through which African society and culture are generally studied. A survey of methods, resources and conceptual tools for the study of Africa. GE credit: ArtHum or SocSci, Div, Wrt | AH or SS, WC, WE—II. (II.) Adebanwi, Adejunmobi

15. Introduction to African American Humanities
Lecture—3 hours; discussion—1 hour. Introduction to the humanist tradition developed by writers, philosophers, and artists of African descent in the West. Attention also given to African sources, as well as European, Caribbean, Latin-American, and North American variations on this tradition. Class size limited to 165 students. GE credit: Wrt | ACGH, AH, DD—II. (II.) Harrison, Osumare

16. Verbal and Performance Arts in Africa
Lecture/discussion—4 hours. African verbal arts; oral texts from different African cultures. Types of critical response to oral texts, role of oral artists, context and esthetics of oral performance in Africa. GE credit: ArtHum, Div, Wrt | AH, VL, WE—II. (II.) Adejunmobi

17. Women in African Societies
Lecture/discussion—4 hours. Gender relations in traditional and contemporary African society. Involvement of African women in politics, religion, the economy, the arts. African responses to feminist theory. Images of women in African literature. GE credit: SocSci, Div, Wrt | SS, WC, WE—II. (II.) Adejunmobi

18. Introduction to Caribbean Studies
Lecture—3 hours; discussion—1 hour. Introduction to the contemporary culture, peoples, politics, and societies of the Caribbean. Topics include movements of people, goods and ideas across the Atlantic world and creative productions within the Caribbean. GE credit: ArtHum or SocSci | AH or SS, WC, WE—II. (II.) Ng’weno

50. Black Popular Culture
Lecture—3 hours; discussion—1 hour. Survey of the African American images in popular culture (film, television, comedy, sports and music). GE credit: AH or SS, WC—III. (III.) Harrison

51. History of African American Dance
Lecture—4 hours. Evolution of African-American dance, tracing its history and development from West and Central Africa to the United States. Investi-
gates the social and cultural relevance of African American dance and its artistic merits through contributions from its choreographers and performers. GE credit: ArtHum | AH, DD, VL.—Ill. (III.) Osumare

52. African Traditional Religion (4)
Lecture—2 hours; discussion—2 hours. Introduction to traditional religions of the sub-Saharan African peoples, emphasizing myths, rituals and symbols in West, East, Central and South African indigenous religions. Examines themes: sacred kingship, divination system, women, prophecy, conversion and adaptation to Islam and Christianity. GE credit: ArtHum, Div, Wrt | AH, WC.—II. (II.)

80. Introduction to Black Politics (4)
Lecture—4 hours. Introduction to the analysis of Afro-American politics, using conceptual frameworks from political science and other social sciences. GE credit: SocSci, Div, Wrt.—III.—Ill. (III.) Harrison

99. Special Study for Undergraduates (1-5)
Prerequisite: consent of instructor. (P/NP grading only)

Upper Division

100. Survey of Ethnicity in the U.S. (4)
Lecture—3 hours; discussion—1 hour. Prerequisite: upper division standing or consent of instructor. Limited enrollment. Sociological and historical analysis of the experience, culture, and relations of and between groups considered racial and/or ethnic minorities in the United States. GE credit: ArtHum | ACGH, AH, DD.—II.—II. (II.) Harrison, Osumare

101. Introduction to Research in the Afro-American Community (4)
Lecture—4 hours. Prerequisite: course 10 or consent of instructor. Introduction to Survey of Afro-American Studies methods and techniques; problems and methodology in Afro-American Studies.—III.—III. (III.) Harrison, White

107A. African Descent Communities and Culture in the Caribbean and Latin America (4)

107B. African Descent Communities and Culture in North America (4)
Lecture—2 hours; discussion—1 hour; term paper. Prerequisite: upper division standing. Origin and development of African descent communities and cultures in the United States, Canada, and Mexico from the African slave trade to contemporary urban society. Offered in alternate years. GE credit: ArtHum, Div, Wrt.—II.—II. (II.) White

107C. African Descent Communities and Culture in Europe and Asia (4)
Lecture/discussion—4 hours. Prerequisite: upper division standing. The study of the origin and development of African descent communities and cultures in Europe and Asia. Offered in alternate years. GE credit: ArtHum or SocSci, Div, Wrt | AH or SS, WC.—II.—II. (II.) Adebanwi, Adejunmobi

110. West African Social Organization (4)
Lecture—4 hours. Ecology, population, social and political organization, and culture of West Africa in the precolonial, colonial, and post-colonial periods. GE credit: SocSci, SS, Wrt.—II.—II. (II.) Adebanwi, Adejunmobi

111. Cultural Politics in Contemporary Africa (4)
Lecture/discussion—4 hours. Prerequisite: upper division standing. Themes and style of new cultural forms in Africa as displayed in art, music, film and writing, especially in regard to blending of indigenous and foreign influences. Social and political forces shaping contemporary cultural expression. Offered in alternate years. GE credit: ArtHum or SocSci, Div, Wrt | AH or SS, WC.—II.—II. (II.) Adewale, Adebanwi

123. Black Female Experience in Contemporary Society (4)
Lecture—4 hours. Prerequisite: upper division standing or consent of instructor. Black female social, intellectual, and political development. Black women’s contributions in history, literature, and social science; life experiences of Black women and philosophical underpinnings of the feminist movement—Offered in alternate years. GE credit: ArtHum or SocSci, Div | ACGH, DD, SS.—III.—III. (III.) Lambert

130. Education in the African American Community (4)
Lecture—2 hours; discussion—1 hour; fieldwork—3 hours. Prerequisite: upper course 100, completion of the subject A requirement. Examination of the history of the education of African Americans in the United States. Examination and critique of contemporary systems.—II.—II. (II.) Harrison

133. The Black Family in America (4)
Lecture—3 hours; discussion—1 hour. Prerequisite: upper division standing or consent of instructor. Analysis of social science research to examine relationship between black (African-descent) family structures, patterns of functioning, and political, economic, and cultural development in the U.S. Offered in alternate years. GE credit: SocSci, Div | ACGH, DD, SS.—III.—IV, (III, IV) Harrison

141. Psychology of the African American Experience (3)
Lecture—2 hours; discussion—1 hour. Prerequisite: course 10 or consent of instructor. Introduction to the psychological issues faced by African Americans. Analysis of issues from European/Western and Afro-centric frame of reference. Emphasis on Optimality Theory, a psychological theory based on an Afro-centric world view.—III.—III. (III.) Haggins

145A. Black Social and Political Thought (4)
Lecture—4 hours. Prerequisite: course 10 or 80, or consent of instructor. Exploration and analysis of Black social and political thought in the Americas. Offered in alternate years. GE credit: SocSci, Div | SS.—III.—III. (III.) Harrison

145B. Black Intellectuals (4)
Lecture—4 hours. Prerequisite: course 10, 80, 145A, or consent of instructor. Exploits and critical analysis of selected theoretical writings of Black intellectuals, and especially political and social thinkers, in the Americas and in contemporary years. GE credit: SocSci, Div | DD, SS, WE.—III.—III. (III.) Harrison, Osumare

150A. Afro-American Visual Arts Tradition: A Historical and Cultural Study (4)
Lecture—4 hours. Prerequisite: upper division standing. Afro-American visual arts tradition, folk and formal, in historical and cultural context, from 1600 through Reconstruction. GE credit: ArtHum, Div.—I.—I. (I.)

150B. Afro-American Visual Arts Tradition: A Historical and Cultural Study (4)
Lecture—4 hours. Prerequisite: upper division standing. Afro-American visual arts tradition, folk and formal, in historical and cultural context, from Reconstruction to the present. GE credit: ArtHum, Div.—II.—II. (II.)

151. Afro-American Vernacular Music and Verbal Arts (4)
Lecture—2 hours; discussion—2 hours. Sociopolitical dimensions of Afro-American musical forms such as spiritual, work song, minstrelsy blues, rhythm and blues, jazz, gospel, soul and contemporary pop, and related verbal arts like preaching, talking, rap—III.—III. (III.)

152. Major Voices in Black World Literature (4)
Lecture—2 hours; discussion—1 hour; term paper. Prerequisite: upper division standing, completion of course 10, or course 12, or course 18. Recurrence of cultural tropes in the works of major black world authors and formation of an African-oriented canon. Prerequisite: activities include critical reading and discovery of literature as a cultural resource. Offered in alternate years. GE credit: ArtHum, Div, Wrt | AH, DD, WC, WE.—II.—II. (II.) Adejunmobi

153. African Literature (4)
Lecture—3 hours; term paper. Prerequisite: completion of Entry Level Writing Requirement (ELWR). Colonial and post-colonial sub-Saharan African literature and the African oral traditions from which it emerged. Genres and themes of African literature from the nineteenth century to the present. Offered in alternate years. [Same course as Comparative Literature 154.] GE credit: ArtHum, Div, Wrt | AH, WC, WE.—III.—III. (III.) Osumare

155A. African-American Dance and Culture in the United States, Brazil and the Caribbean (4)
Lecture/discussion—4 hours. Comparative study of the social, historical and cultural settings of the influence on Afro-Caribbean dance forms. Offered in alternate years. GE credit: ArtHum | AH, VL, WC.—II.—II. (II.) Osumare

156. Language and Identity in Africa and the African Diaspora (4)
Lecture/discussion—4 hours. Prerequisite: upper division standing or course 12. Relationship between language and identity in literature from Africa and the African Diaspora. Use of pidgins, creoles, translation from African language to impact of language policies. Offered irregularly. GE credit: ArtHum, Div | AH, DD, WC.—III.—III. (III.) Adejunmobi

157. Literature and Society in South Africa (4)
Lecture/discussion—4 hours. Prerequisite: upper division standing. Political and social developments in 20th-century South Africa as illustrated by a range of South African writing. Response of different writers to race relations, impact of government policy on types and context of writing. Offered in alternate years. GE credit: ArtHum, Div, Wrt | AH, WC, WE.—II.—II. (II.) Adejunmobi

160. African-American folklore (4)
Lecture—2 hours; discussion—1 hour; fieldwork—3 hours. Prerequisite: course 10. Theory and history of African American folklore and folklife, including music, material culture, oral literature, humor and humor. African and Caribbean cultural influences on New World folk genres will be probed. GE credit: ArtHum, Div.—III.—III. (III.)

162. Islam in Africa and the Americas (4)
Lecture/discussion—4 hours. Prerequisites: 10 or 15. Comparative studies in African and Latin American: Jamaica, Trinidad, Cuba, U.S.A., Haiti, and Brazil. Emphasis on the origins and development of Candomble, Santeria, Shango, Vodun, and Rastafarianism in the New World. [Former course 153.] GE credit: ArtHum, Div, Wrt | AH, WC, WE.—III.—III. (III.)

163. African Religions in the Americas (4)
Lecture—2 hours; discussion—2 hours. Prerequisite: course 10; course 15 or consent of instructor. Comparative study of Afro-American religions in the Americas: Jamaica, Trinidad, Cuba, U.S.A., Haiti, and Brazil. Emphasis on the origins and development of Candomble, Santeria, Shango, Vodun, and Rastafarianism in the New World. [Former course 153.] GE credit: ArtHum, Div, Wrt | AH, WC, WE.—III.—III. (III.)

165. Afro-Christianity and the Black Church (4)
Lecture—3 hours; discussion—1 hour. Prerequisite: upper division standing; course 10, 15 or consent of instructor. Examination of the historical role of Christian belief and practice as well as the institution of the Black Church in the experience of African Americans, from slavery to the present. Offered in alternate years. GE credit—SocSci, Div | ACGH, DD, SS.—III.—III. (III.) Harrison