

AFRICAN-AMERICAN STUDIES

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The Minor Program in African-American Studies (18 credits)

The minor in African-American studies provides students with a focused understanding of the vital role of African-American culture and contributions in American life.

The interdepartmental and interdisciplinary features of the program allow for a broad and varied exposure to North American Black culture, economics, politics, and history from Africa to the Americas. Students will acquire a basic knowledge of the African-American experience by understanding that the racial system of the United States was never simply black and white. Through the prism of black experiences, the courses shed light on general principles of cultural pluralism, racial diversity, and social stratification in the U.S. and other national and transnational contexts relevant to the black diaspora. Race is not something that affects only racial minorities, for everyone in this country is viewed through the prism of ideas about race. The African-American studies minor's teaching places a special emphasis on reaching out beyond those who make the field the focus of their study.

The course offerings are designed for a broad student constituency interested in learning about Black experiences and honing skills in critical thinking and effective writing. The African-American studies minor pairs well with all majors. Consequently, everyone who has an interest is not only invited to take on the minor, but strongly encouraged.

Program Objectives:

1. Underscore the contributions of people of African descent to American history and emphasize the importance of diversity in American culture.
2. Cultivate students' ability to think critically, to express themselves effectively, and to respect cultural and gender diversity.

Program Requirements:

Students should work with the director to complete program.

1. A minimum of 18 credits as listed below are needed to complete the minor; four courses (12 of the 18 credits) must come from courses at the 300- or 400-level.
2. Core requirement: ENGL 345 or HIST 349 and one additional core course (3 credits);
3. Three additional courses (9 credits) from electives;

4. One course (3 credits) from either the core or electives;
5. Courses from three different disciplines must be represented in the 18 credits;

THE CURRICULUM IN AFRICAN-AMERICAN STUDIES

The following course descriptions appear in appropriate sections throughout the catalog.

Core

- ENGL 345 African-American Literature and Culture
 HIST 349 The Rise and Fall of American Slavery
 HIST 355 Civil War and Reconstruction
 HIST 341 The Long Civil Rights Movement
 PHIL 252 African Philosophy
 SOCL 316 Racial and Ethnic Relations

Elective

- ANTH 330 Language and Culture
 SOCL 330 Language and Culture
 ENGL 342 Financial Fictions and the Rise of Realism
 ENGL 343 Postmodern America
 ENGL 346 Black Presence and Presentation on the American Stage
 ENGL 381 The Roaring Twenties: Film, Literature, and Drama of the Jazz Age
 FNAR 380 Caribbean Art
 FNAR 381 African Art
 HIST 357 Twentieth Century American, 1920-1960
 HIST 370 Twentieth Century Africa
 MUSC 408 Jazz History and Literature
 POLS 204 Hate Crime Realities and Consequences
 POLS 316 Constitutional Law
 SOCL 205 Identity, Community, and the Individual
 SOCL 303 The Family in Transition
 SOCL 304 Socialization and Society