

Africana Studies (AFH)

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Degree awarded: M.A. in Africana Studies

The Department of Africana Studies, in the College of Arts and Sciences, offers a course of studies leading to the degree of Master of Arts in Africana Studies. The purpose of the M.A. in Africana Studies is threefold: to meet the need for academic inquiry at the graduate level into the history, experiences, and perspectives of peoples of African heritage worldwide; to broaden the scope of academic offerings at the graduate level within the SUNY system and at Stony Brook University specifically; to enhance professional development in careers in a range of professions where knowledge of the Black experience is increasingly useful, such as cinema studies, education, law, management, medicine, museum curator studies, public health, public service, and social welfare.

The M.A. degree requires a total of 30 graduate course credits with an overall minimum GPA of 3.0. Eighteen of these credits will be in the Africana Studies Graduate Core Curriculum. Twelve credits may be part of an elective mix of AFS graduate courses and electives taken outside the Department of Africana Studies. The 12 credits include a master's thesis (six credits); tutorials; or study abroad. The foundation courses are required of all students pursuing an M.A. degree in Africana Studies. The two-semester sequence will introduce students to the theoretical and methodological issues of Africa, Caribbean/Latin America, and the United States. A required research seminar introduces students to the historiography of the African Diaspora.

Students will be afforded an opportunity to participate in a study abroad program conducted in Africa and/or the Caribbean/Latin America. Stony Brook's International Academic Programs Office (IAP) is committed to travel-study programs in the Caribbean and in Africa both in the summer months and during the University's winter session in efforts to widen the range of approaches to international understanding. A small number of the courses offered by the M.A. program in Africana

Studies could also be taken by students in the M.A.T. program in Social Studies Education to fulfill the requirements of that program.

The Department of Africana Studies provides academic excellence in teaching and research on African Diasporic life and culture as part of its mission at Stony Brook University. The M.A. faculty of the Department of Africana Studies is composed of full-time AFS core faculty, AFS joint appointees, and Affiliate faculty from other departments.

Facilities and Resources

Research and laboratory facilities are accessible in the Ward Melville Social and Behavioral Sciences Main Library. It subscribes to more than 35 electronic journals related to Africana Studies. In most cases virtually the entire run of an important journal is available online through JSTOR. The Departmental facilities consist of the Richard B. Moore Library, a generous gift of 1,000 books from Joyce and W. Burghardt Turner, a civil rights activist and faculty emeritus of the Department of History. The AFS Library, with a computer terminal and projection screen, serves as a primary study space and as a seminar room for graduate courses. The AFS Media Center and Archives room may be used to expand a graduate emphasis on film studies and digital imaging.

Faculty

Professors

Ferguson, David, Ph.D., 1980, University of California, Berkeley: Joint appointment with Department of Technology and Society; quantitative methods; computer applications (especially intelligent tutoring systems and decision support systems); mathematics, science, and engineering education.

Fouron, Georges, Ed.D., 1985, Columbia University: Social studies education; bilingual education; identity; Haiti; immigrants' experience in America; transnationalism.

Vaughan, Olufemi, D.Phil., 1989, University of Oxford: African politics and history; international relations. Recipient of the State University Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching, 1997.

Associate Professors

Cash, Floris, Ph.D., 1986, Stony Brook University: African American history; African American women's studies; U.S. social and political history; Latin American history, slavery, and women.

Frank, Barbara, Ph.D., 1988, Indiana University: African Mesoamerican and African Diaspora art history.

Hurley, E. Anthony, Ph.D., 1992, Rutgers University: Francophone literature of the Caribbean and Africa; Caribbean poetics; Afro-Caribbean culture; Caribbean American literature.

Owens, Leslie, Ph.D., 1972, University of California, Riverside: African American history; U.S. southern history.

Joseph, Peniel, Ph.D., 2000, Temple University: African American history; civil rights black power movements; black cultural, social, political, and intellectual history, black feminism; African diaspora; global studies; race and urban history.

Walters, Tracey, Ph.D., 1999, Howard University: African American, Caribbean, and African literature; Pan-African literature; Black British literature and culture; 20th-century American and British literature; journalism.

Assistant Professors

Brown-Glaude, Winnifred, Ph.D., 2003, Temple University: Race and ethnicity in the Caribbean and Latin America; gender and development; intersectionality; women and informal economics; race and race relations in the United States; sociology of the body; Black feminism; social research; feminist research method.

Affiliate Faculty

Arens, William, Ph.D., Dean, International Academic Programs (IAP), 1970, University of Virginia: Social anthropology; conservation; Africa and the Mediterranean.

Kaplan, Elizabeth A., Director of the Humanities Institute, Ph.D., 1970, Rutgers University: Literary and film theory; feminist studies; modern American literature; 19th-century American literature; postcolonial British literature, film.

Kittay, Eva, Ph.D., 1978, City University of New York: Philosophy of language; philosophy and literature; feminism.

Miller, Wilbur, Ph.D., 1973, Columbia University: U.S. social and political history; Civil War and Reconstruction; crime and criminal justice history.

Simpson, Lorenzo, Ph.D., 1978, Yale University: Contemporary continental philosophy (hermeneutics and critical theory); philosophy of the social sciences; philosophy of science and technology; neopragmatism and post-analytic philosophy; philosophy and race.

Tomes, Nancy, Ph.D., 1978, University of Pennsylvania: American social and cultural history; medicine, nursing, and psychiatry; women and the family.

Associate Professors

Cormier, Harvey, Ph.D., 1992, Harvard University: American philosophy; William James and pragmatism; philosophy and culture.

Cooper, Helen, Ph.D., 1982, Rutgers University: 19th-century British literature; 20th-century Black British literature and film; Caribbean African and Indian literatures; feminist theory; colonial discourse theory; cultural studies.

Lim, Shirley, Ph.D., 1998, University of California, Los Angeles: Asian American women's cultural history.

Mar, Gary, Ph.D., 1985, University of California, Los Angeles: Logic; philosophy of mathematics; contemporary analytic philosophy; philosophy of religion.

Masten, April, 1999, Rutgers University: 19th-century U.S. cultural history.

Mendieta, Eduardo, Ph.D. 1978, Northwestern University: 19th-century philosophy; Hegel; aesthetics and literary theory; philosophical psychology; philosophy of medicine.

Oyewumi, Oyeronke, Ph.D., 1993, University of California, Berkeley: Gender; race; family; cultures; knowledge; social inequalities; globalization.

Sellers, Christopher, Ph.D. 1992, Yale University: M.D. University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, 1992; U.S. environmental, industrial, and cultural history; history of medicine and the body.

Scheckel, Susan, Ph.D., 1992, University of California, Berkeley: Early American literature.

Sugarman, Jane, Ph.D. 1993, University of California, Los Angeles: Ethnomusicology; world music cultures, southeastern European music.

Assistant Professors

Chronopoulos, Themis, Ph.D. 2004, Brown University: U.S. urban history; race, and ethnicity; popular culture; public policy; world cities.

Hildebrand, Elisabeth, Ph.D., 2003, Washington University, St. Louis: African peoples and cultures; ancient African civilizations; ethnobotany; ethnoarchaeology.

Moehn, Frederick, Ph.D., 2001, New York University: Ethnomusicology; world music cultures, Latin American music.

Phillips, Rowan, Ph.D., 2003, Brown University: Poetry; American, African American, and Caribbean poetics.

Admission

The admission standards and selection procedures will be identical to those followed by the Graduate School of Stony Brook University. In addition to the minimum Graduate School requirements, the Department of Africana Studies has specific degree requirements.

A. A bachelor's degree is required with a minimum grade point average of 3.00 (B).

B. Two official copies of previous college transcripts must be submitted.

C. Three letters of recommendation that address the applicant's potential to succeed in a program of graduate study.

D. Submission of scores from the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) General Test.

E. A personal interview is encouraged.

Degree Requirements Requirements for the M.A in Africana Studies

The requirements for the master's degree in Africana Studies are intended to bring sharper focus to what the Department of Africana Studies has long identified as teaching and research in the African Diaspora.

In addition to the requirements imposed by the Graduate School, the following are required:

Course Requirements

1. Foundations in Africana Studies, I, II
AFS 500; AFS 501 (6 credits)
2. Research Methods in Africana Studies
AFS 502 (3 credits)
3. Three courses (9 credits) from the following courses:
AFH 520, AFH 524, AFH 528, AFS 530, AFS 433, AFS 536, AFS 540, AFS 550, AFS 555, AFS 570
4. Additional 12 credits chosen in consultation with the student's advisor: including a master's thesis, AFS/AFH 599 (6 credits); electives chosen in consultation with advisor; or study abroad

Elective courses offered by other departments may be accepted for the M.A. degree:

PHI 501 Theories of Race

PHI 504 Racialized Oppression and the Idea of Humanity

MUS 507 Studies in Music History: African Music

HIS 515 Race, Citizenship, and Global Culture

MUS 541 Music and Race: Black Music (Cross Cultural Study and Music)

ARH 547 Topics in Global, Colonial, and Diasporic Art

HIS 562 Introduction to Modern African History

FRN 564 Seminar in Francophone Literature

HIS 616 Twentieth-Century African Political History

Courses

AFH 520 The Caribbean and the Literary Imagination

An examination of the literary representation of the Caribbean through an extensive study of selected fictional and theoretical writings. This seminar will include an examination of the representations of the Caribbean by African American as well as Caribbean writers.

3 credits, ABCF grading

AFH 524 Contemporary African Diasporic Literature and Film

Contemporary African American Diasporic Literature and Film offers a comparative analysis of 20th- and 21st-century African Diasporic writers and filmmakers and their explorations of race, class, and gender. To establish the shifting nature of African Diasporic intellectual thought, we shall consider how each successive generation of writers and filmmakers builds upon discussions of racial identity, black sexuality, and social mobility. To demonstrate how discussions of race have evolved over time texts will be read in conjunction with each other. So for example, Fanon's seminal text *Black Skin White Masks*, a text that seeks to explain the racialization of society, the double consciousness of black people, and the superiority complex of white people, will be read against Paul Gilroy's *Against Race*, a text arguing for the deconstruction and recognition of race as a cultural construct. Other topics for discussion focus on how "newer" writers delve into questions of sexuality from a fresh perspective. Comparing Morrison's *Sula* with Cheryl West's play *Before it Hits Home*, for example, demonstrates that writers are now exploring questions of sexuality in more provocative ways, i.e., West's uncovering of the "downlow" lifestyle lived by Black men, and the health concerns related and the dangers of sexually transmitted diseases such as HIV/AIDS.

Prerequisite: Permission from advisor
3 credits, ABCF grading

AFH 528 Contemporary Black Literature and Cultural Criticism

This course is designed to introduce students to some of the major contemporary literary and cultural theorists from the 20th and 21st centuries (Fanon, Patterson, Baker, Christian, Gilroy, Mercer, Morrison, Gates, Patterson, CLR James, etc.). Earlier scholars from the 19th century such as Anna Julia Cooper or Du Bois will be referenced also, but the main focus will be on the 20th- and 21st-century writers. Through an examination of major literary and cultural movements such as Negritude, the Caribbean Artists Movement, The Black Arts Movement, and the Post-Black Artists Movement, students will gain insight into how black scholars both critique and contribute to the artistic, political, and social discourse of the day. An application of Postcolonial, Feminist/Womanist, and Cultural Criticism will aid the students in their reading of the critical materials.

Fall, alternate years, 3 credits, ABCF grading

AFH 564 Seminars in Francophone Literature

Close examination of the literature written in French of the Francophone world outside of France, with special emphasis on the literature of the Caribbean and Africa. This course will pose and explore questions such as: What is Francophone literature and what are the implications of a literature considered as "Francophone"? What are the functions of writing in French in a "postcolonial" context? *Prerequisite: Permission of advisor 3 credits, ABCF grading*

AFS 500 Foundations in Africana Studies

Core course required of all students pursuing a master's degree in Africana Studies. The two-semester foundation courses will introduce students to the theoretical issues of the Africana Diaspora. The term Diaspora became popular during the mid-1960s among American and African American scholars who were studying the black experience as an aspect of the African experience. The parameters of Africana Diaspora studies will cover the themes of involuntary and voluntary migration, the historical, political, and cultural perspective of the black experience. The course will promote an understanding of the Black Diaspora.

Prerequisite: Permission of advisor 3 credits, ABCF grading

AFS 501 Foundations in Africana Studies

Core course required of all students pursuing a master's degree in Africana Studies. The two-semester foundation courses will introduce students to the theoretical issues of the Africana Diaspora. The term Diaspora became popular during the mid-1960s among American and African American scholars who were studying the black experience as an aspect of the African experience. The parameters of Africana Diaspora studies will cover the themes of involuntary and voluntary migration, the historical, political, and cultural perspective of the black experience. The course will promote an understanding of the Black Diaspora.

Prerequisite: Permission of advisor 3 credits, ABCF grading

AFS 502 Research Methods in Africana Studies

This course is an introductory graduate course in the theory and practice of social science research applied to studies of the African Diaspora. It provides an introduction to the fundamentals of social research by comparing the approaches of several different research methods. Focusing on research design, data collection, data analysis, and the ethics of research, we will explore the strengths and weaknesses of the different research methods. We will ask how ideas around race, class, and gender shape the kinds of research questions we ask, the types of materials we use, and how we define our relationships with our subjects. A central purpose of this course is for students to demonstrate knowledge about the fundamentals of research design, specifically as they pertain to the African Diaspora. Students will be required to develop a research proposal that will be critiqued by the instructor and students in the class.

Fall, 3 credits, ABCF grading

AFS 504 Racialized Oppressions and the Idea of Humanity

When one reads accounts of slavery, genocide, the systematic denial of rights to a group because of a racial identity, the question always arises whether the oppressors view the racialized other as fully human? This question and what it means to view an individual or group as "fully human" will be explored. How have philosophical understandings of the moral importance and the moral meaning of "humanity" served to exacerbate, moderate, or fight against racial oppression? How does racial and gender oppression compare in this respect? Is there a comparison to be made between racial oppression and the treatment accorded to disabled people with respect to the understanding of what it is to be human? Does shifting the ground from a biologically based concept such as "humanity" to a philosophical concept of "personhood" serve to justify or serve as a tool against these identity-based oppressions? Does shifting the ground justify the analogy of racism with the abuse of animals, as in the idea of "speciesism"? We will explore as many of these questions as interest dictates and time permits.

Prerequisite: Permission of advisor Fall, 3 credits, ABCF grading

AFS 507 African Music

This is a selective introduction to African music and the music of the African Diaspora. We will read from major scholars in the field of African music studies such as Simha Arom, Christopher Waterman, Gerhard Kubik, Michele Kisliuk, Ruth Stone, Kofi Agawu, and others. Students will get a broad overview of the music of the major regional subdivisions of Africa (for instance, North Africa, Central Africa, South Africa, etc.), as well as an historical perspective on the musical issues that have been central to Africanist musicology and ethnomusicology. There will be regular reading, listening, and short writing assignments, occasional quizzes, a book review, and a final research project of 16 to 18 pages. For the book review, students will write about a monograph on African

Music such as John Miller Chernoff's *African Rhythm and African Sensibility* or Paul Berliner's *The Soul of Mbiru*. Students will present their research to class towards the end of the term.

Prerequisite: Permission of course instructor 3 credits, ABCF grading

AFS 530 Slavery and the Atlantic World

This course will examine the experiences of people of African descent as participants in a coerced migration that created the African Diaspora. The transatlantic slave trade led to an enduring image of black men and women as transported commodities. Therefore, it has had the greatest impact on the construction of the African Diaspora giving rise to new communities of people across the globe.

Fall, alternate years, 3 credits, ABCF grading

AFS 533 Race Gender and Globalization

This seminar explores current issues and debates relating to the racialized and gendered effects of globalization. Topics include an overview of the sociology of globalization and theories of globalism/the global system, transnational migrations and the new global labor market, globalization and race/ethnicity, women and globalization, local-global linkages, and resistance to globalization.

Prerequisite: Permission of advisor Fall and Spring, alternative years, 3 credits, ABCF grading

AFS 536 Africa and Globalization

This seminar will discuss the interconnection between this enduring crisis of the modern African state and the impact of globalization, especially after the collapse of communism in Eastern Europe. We will critically explore the implications of these complex regional and global political and economic forces for emerging African social formation, the viability of African states and societies, new migration patterns, transnationalism, and diasporic connections especially since the decolonization process in the 1950s.

Spring, alternate years, 3 credits, ABCF grading

AFS 540 The Black Power Movement

This course examines the Black Power Movement. Stokely Carmichael's call for Black Power broke through commotion of everyday politics during 1966's Meredith March Against Fear. Soon after, and for the next decade, Black Power galvanized African American politics, engendering radical movements for social, political, and cultural transformation that impacted blacks in the United States and beyond. An emerging historiography traces the roots of Black Power in the postwar black freedom movement, finding cultural and political touchstones for future Black Power activism among civil rights renegades, trade unionists, and black nationalists. We will examine works produced during the Black Power era and this new scholarship to analyze the Black Power movement's legacy in the politics and culture of African Americans. Permission of advisor is required. This course is offered as both HIS 540 and AFS 540.

3 credits, ABCF grading

AFS 541 Music and Race: Black Music (Cross-Cultural Study and Music)

This seminar will examine how certain widely held conceptualizations about race (and in some instances, ethnicity) are articulated, reinforced, or challenged in music making and consumption, on the one hand, and in scholarship about music on the other. Writings on race and music have tended to be about Black culture(s). In this course we will critique this focus and the construct of Black music in great detail. The course requires extensive readings on these topics; listening to musical examples (in-depth knowledge of music theory is not necessary); vigorous class discussion and written reaction papers; and a final research paper and class presentation. Students may choose to explore other aspects of music and race besides Black music in their final papers (for example, how Orientalism has been constituted in music and musical criticism and scholarship).

*Prerequisite: Permission of advisor
3 credits, ABCF grading*

AFS 550 Women of Color in the Modern World; Shifting Identities and Feminist Visions

This course explores the various ways in which gender, race, and class, along with other aspects of identity, shape the lives and experiences of women of color in the United States and globally. It presents the ongoing debates concerning the interconnections of gender, race, and shifting identities. It will examine the relationships between the construction of personal identities, identity statuses, cultural and ideological meaning systems, and the search for alternative images. Cross-listed with WST 550.

*Prerequisite: Permission of advisor
Fall, 3 credits, ABCF grading*

AFS 555 Sociology of Gender and Development

The 1960s marked a transition in global economic relations from one characterized by colonial extraction and exploitation, to sustainable development emphasizing economic growth and the alleviation of poverty. It was quickly discovered, however, that the effects of development were beneficial for some but devastating for others, especially poor women. The discovery led many scholars and practitioners, especially those who embrace feminist ideologies, to demand that development agencies and policies be sensitive to gender issues. This seminar will focus on gender and development, in theory and practice, in the global South. It will promote students' understanding of the central role that gender plays in the success and assessment of development strategies.

*Prerequisite: Permission of advisor
Fall or Spring, alternate years, 3 credits,
ABCF grading*

AFS 562 Introduction to Modern African History

This seminar is an extensive exploration of African history in the 20th century. It examines the major themes that have shaped the formation and the decline of the modern African state since the imposition of colonial rule in the late 19th century. Drawing from

monographs and journal articles on 20th-century African social and political history, and the recent scholarship on state/society relations, the seminar will explore the interactions between state institutions and structures of society in colonial and post-colonial Africa.

*Prerequisite: Permission of advisor
3 credits, ABCF grading*

AFS 570 The Black Radical Tradition

This course examines the black radical tradition from slavery to the present, paying particular attention to 20th-century social movements and the intersection between trade unionism, black nationalism, internationalism, and Marxism. Black radicalism has a long history in the United States and beyond. At its core, this tradition has housed diverse, at times conflicting, ideological strains, personalities, and organizations ranging from black feminists, Marxists, socialists, liberals, trade unionists, artists, and intellectuals. In the process this tradition has run afoul of more mainstream expressions of Black protest (although in certain eras such as during the Black Power movement it has represented the mainstream), and the black radicals are often marginalized as wild-eyed dreamers, naive to the ways of the world.

3 credits, ABCF grading

AFS 616 Twentieth-Century African Political History

This seminar is an extensive exploration of African political history in the 20th century. It examines the major themes that have shaped the formation and the decline of the modern African state since the imposition of colonial rule in the late 19th century. Drawing from monographs and journal articles on 20th-century African social and political history, and the recent scholarship on state/society relations, the seminar will explore the interactions between state institutions and structures of society in colonial and post-colonial Africa. The seminar is broadly structured around key themes which are presented in chronological order. These themes are divided into three major sections. The first section, which deals with the colonial period, will examine the following themes: partition and conquest, African resistance to early colonialism, the historical processes of state formation in Africa, the colonial economy, and the interaction between the world religion (Christianity and Islam) and colonial rule. The second section on the postcolonial era examines the following themes: the historical processes of state formation in Africa, communal identities and social change since decolonization, the patriarchal society and the crisis of the state, and the new debates on democratization and civil society in the post-Cold War era. The final section examines the international politics of African states from both theoretically and historical perspectives. The relevant themes here include the impact of the major powers on African subregions in the Cold War and post-containment eras; the impact of multilateral agencies on African political, economic, and social developments; and regional organizations and African states. The structure of the course is intended to be coherent but flexible, so some basic trends in the reading assignments can be identified and

the class can construct consistent themes on the interplay of political transformation in the 20th century.

*Prerequisite: Permission of advisor
3 credits, ABCF grading*