African-American Studies

Undergraduate Minor

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The interdisciplinary minor in African American Studies explores the creation and development of Black/African life, history, culture, and thought in the United States. Course work in the department examines the directions, trends, and products of African American cultures from the arrival of the first Africans to the shores of North America to contemporary manifestations of those cultures. In addition, some courses may provide an introduction to classical African civilization and society. Elective course work may examine the African Diaspora in Europe, Latin America, the Caribbean, or the Middle East. Many African American Studies courses are cross-listed in other disciplines, in particular History, English, and Women and Gender Studies. AAS currently features strong offerings in the area of popular culture. Students enrolled in African American Studies courses will receive a broad education in the appreciation of ethnicity, culture, history, and political and social philosophy.

African American Studies Minor

Students fulfilling the minor in African American Studies will complete an introductory interdisciplinary core course, plus curriculum in History, Literature/Creative Expression, and upper-division elective hours. The minor consists of at least 15 hours, including:

AAS 301 ECCE: African American Studies (Required for Minor) 3

Select one of the following history focused courses: 3-4
AAS 241 ECCE: Survey of African American History I (Recommended for Minor)
AAS 266 Apartheid and Resistance
Or one upper-division elective focused on history:
AAS 335 ECCE: Black Women in Film History
AAS 432/ PSC 404 ECCE: African Americans and American Politics
AAS 433 ECCE: Civil Rights Movement of the Twentieth Century
AAS 465 ECCE: Black Women Writers

Select one of the following literature and culture courses: 3-4
AAS 261/ ENG 231 Survey of African American Literature (Recommended for Minor)
AAS 262/ ENG 232 Calabash: Caribbean Literature and Culture
Or one upper-division elective focused on literature and culture:
AAS 362 ECCE: Multicultural American Novels
AAS 368 ECCE: African American Popular Fiction
AAS 375 ECCE: African American Popular Culture
AAS 439 African And Diaspora Music

Plus upper-division elective African American Studies course work 4-6 to total at least 15 hours. Students may petition courses in other disciplines that cover African or African American studies content.

AAS 403/ SOA 451/ SWK 462/ WGS 403

ECCE: Women of Color and Minority Women

Total Hours 15

Content areas of the special topics courses (AAS 320, AAS 440, AAS 450, AAS 460) and the tutorial course (AAS 499) will vary. Consult Dr. Kemayo for more information.

For a complete list of course offerings, please visit the dynamic course descriptions found on the Records and Registration website (www.uis.edu/registration/) and refer to the African American Studies courses.