

African-American Studies

www.uis.edu/africanamericanstudies/

Email: aas@uis.edu

Office Phone: (217) 206-6779

Office Location: UHB 3050

or kkema2@uis.edu

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	
AAS 440	Special Topics in African American History and Culture	

AAS 450	Special Topics in African American Studies
AAS 460	Topics in Africana Literature
AAS 465	ECCE: Black Women Writers

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
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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 and refer to the African-American Studies courses.

Courses

AAS 239. ECCE: Black Music in American Culture. 3 Hours.

This course has been designed to acquaint the student with the major issues and trends related to understanding the historical experiences of African American people in this country, through the study of the styles of music created by African Americans in the twentieth century: the blues, jazz, gospel, rhythm and blues, and rock and roll. Course Information: Same as MUS 239. This course fulfills an Engaged Citizenship Common Experience requirement at UIS in the area of U.S. Communities.

AAS 241. ECCE: Survey of African American History I. 3 Hours.

This course provides students with an introduction to African American history that covers ancient African cultures, the development of the transatlantic slave trade, the role of slavery as an economic system in the founding and development of the nation, and ends with the Civil War and Reconstruction. Course Information: Same as HIS 241 and LIS 241. This course fulfills an Engaged Citizenship Common Experience requirement at UIS in the area of U.S. Communities.

AAS 242. ECCE: Survey of African American History II. 3 Hours.

This course has been designed to acquaint the student with the major issues and trends related to understanding the historical experiences of African American people in this country. A variety of source materials, including historical documents, oral histories, literary texts, and cultural artifacts such as motion pictures, photographs, television programs, documentaries, and the visual arts will be used to help the student to analyze important themes of African American experience from the end of Reconstruction through the beginning of the millennium. Course Information: Same as HIS 242. This course fulfills an Engaged Citizenship Common Experience requirement at UIS in the area of U.S. Communities.

AAS 261. Survey of African American Literature. 3 Hours.

This course surveys the great diversity in African American literature from the colonial era up to the present. Special attention is given to the vernacular tradition and its effects on the creative production of Black people in the U. S. although some Caribbean and African authors may be read. Various interdisciplinary and critical frameworks will be presented to facilitate comprehension and discussion of course material, including audio/visual selections. Course Information: Same as ENG 231 and LIS 261. This course fulfills a general education requirement at UIS in the area of Humanities.

AAS 262. Calabash: Caribbean Literature and Culture. 3 Hours.

Surveys the great diversity in Caribbean cultural expressions with a focus on literature, music and film. Course Information: Same as ENG 232 and LIS 262. This course fulfills a general education requirement at UIS in the area of Humanities.

AAS 266. Apartheid and Resistance. 3 Hours.

This interdisciplinary course proposes to chart the various historical and cultural dynamics that characterized the indigenous people of South Africa's struggle to overcome the system of apartheid - a local form of the global phenomenon White supremacy.

AAS 301. ECCE: African American Studies. 3 Hours.

This course explores the interdisciplinary nature of African American Studies. It exposes students to the main topics, contributing fields of study and central paradigms associated with the discipline, i.e. the historical and contemporary social, religious, creative, cultural, political and economics experiences of people of African descent living in the United States. Although the focus is on the US, it necessarily presents a Pan-Africanist/diasporan orientation that pervades the discipline. Same as: LIS 302. Course Information: This course fulfills an Engaged Citizenship Common Experience requirement at UIS in the area of ECCE U.S. Communities.

AAS 320. Special Topics in AAS. 3 Hours.

Explores various topics related to African American history, cultural expressions, major figures, community or significant events. This Special Topics course may be centered in various disciplines.

AAS 335. ECCE: Black Women in Film History. 3 Hours.

This course examines representations of women of African descent in motion pictures from a historical perspective. By viewing Hollywood films from the 1950s through the beginning of the new millennium, students gain a broader context for understanding and appreciation today's films and stars. In addition to briefly examining independently produced films from the African continent and the Caribbean, students will critically discuss such issues as characterization and stereotypes, genre and the use of the musical; the construction of race, gender and sexuality in film and television; and the construction of Hollywood stardom and celebrity. Course Information: Same as WGS 365.

This course fulfills an Engaged Citizenship Common Experience requirement at UIS in the area of U.S. Communities.

AAS 362. ECCE: Multicultural American Novels. 4 Hours.

This course explores contemporary American novels that explore diverse notions of community in a variety of subcultures. Attention will be given to gender, class and sexuality, as well as race ethnicity, and religion. The critical and creative readings help frame the questions "what is American" and "what is a novel?" Same as: LIS 363. Course Information: This course fulfills an Engaged Citizenship Common Experience requirement at UIS in the area of U.S. Communities.

AAS 364. Dance and American Culture. 4 Hours.

This is a survey course on the appreciation, understanding, and practice of dance in America as influenced and shaped by the presence of African Americans. This course connects the humanities and social sciences, thereby providing an integrated approach to understanding dance as a cultural, social, economic, and political phenomenon. Comparisons are made with other "traditional" dance forms to challenge student perceptions of dance and to develop critical and analytical skills in "reading" dance. Course Information: Same as SOA 364.

AAS 368. ECCE: African American Popular Fiction. 4 Hours.

This course explores various works of popular fiction by African American authors, specifically the genres of detective fiction (mysteries) and speculative or science fiction. Same as LIS 368. Course Information: This course fulfills an Engaged Citizenship Common Experience requirement at UIS in the areas of U.S. Communities.

AAS 375. ECCE: African American Popular Culture. 3 Hours.

By exploring the variety of contribution to American culture made by people of African descent, this course seeks to: bolster the student's understanding of cultural pluralism, increase multicultural awareness and sensitivity; accord due credit to a population often neglected in cultural studies. Students will take an active part in their own education, developing and presenting their own interpretations of central topics. Same as: LIS 375. Course Information: This course fulfills an Engaged Citizenship Common Experience requirement at UIS in the area of U.S. Communities.

AAS 403. ECCE: Women of Color and Minority Women. 4 Hours.

This course examines the experiences of African American, Latina, Asian American, indigenous, and immigrant women in the U. S. By placing women of color at the center, we explore ways of transforming knowledge about culture and society. We also address issues facing other minorities (lesbians and disabled, poor, rural, and aging women). Course Information: Same as HIS 453, SOA 451, SWK 462, and WGS 403. This course fulfills an Engaged Citizenship Common Experience requirement at UIS in the area of U.S. Communities.

AAS 423. ECCE: Culture and Education. 4 Hours.

This course will use an inter-disciplinary theoretical framework that draws upon anthropology, sociology, sociolinguistics, and psychology to understand the relationship between class, race, and gender and school achievement. Explanations of students' school successes and failures that employ linguistic and cultural variables will be considered. Course Information: Same as SOA 432. This course fulfills an Engaged Citizenship Common Experience requirement at UIS in the area of U.S. Communities.

AAS 432. ECCE: African Americans and American Politics. 4 Hours.

Examines political, economic, and social factors affecting African American participation in global, national, state, and local politics. Organized to compare perspectives, ideologies, and strategies as they developed and changed over time, this course explores four areas: Government; Strategies for Change; Sociopolitical Situations; Politics of Expression and Identity. Course Information: Same as PSC 404. This course fulfills an Engaged Citizenship Common Experience requirement at UIS in the areas of U.S. Communities.

AAS 433. ECCE: Civil Rights Movement of the Twentieth Century. 4 Hours.

This discussion course examines the connections between the oral histories of the civil rights movement, the intellectual contributions of African American essayists to traditions of thought in United States history in the twentieth century and the political activism of educated professionals and grass-roots community figures. Course Information: Same as HIS 429 and LIS 433. This course fulfills an Engaged Citizenship Common Experience requirement at UIS in the area of U.S. Communities.

AAS 439. African And Diaspora Music. 4 Hours.

Examines the influence of African music in the United States, Latin America, and the Caribbean. Important African and diaspora rhythms of hi-life, congo, blues, jazz, soca, salsa, samba, and many others are discussed. Course Information: Same as LIS 439.

AAS 440. Special Topics in African American History and Culture. 4 Hours.

Selected topics of special interest in African American History. Specific topic is reflected in class title in each semester schedule. Description of topic will be available in Department office. May be repeated if topics vary.

AAS 450. Special Topics in African American Studies. 4 Hours.

Selected topics of special interest in African American Studies. Interdisciplinary topic is reflected in class title in each semester schedule. Description of topic will be available in Department office. May be repeated if topics vary.

AAS 455. ECCE: African American Popular Culture. 4 Hours.

African Americans have contributed greatly to American culture. This course presents and analyzes a sampling of literature, music, film, sports, and fashion. Particular attention will be given to how African American expression culture merges (or clashes) with European American structure. Same as: LIS 455. Course Information: This course fulfills an Engaged Citizenship Common Experience requirement at UIS in the area of U.S. Communities.

AAS 460. Topics in Africana Literature. 4 Hours.

Selected topics of special interest in African American Literature and Culture. Interdisciplinary topic is reflected in class title in each semester schedule. Description of topic will be available in Department office. May be repeated if topics vary.

AAS 463. ECCE: Counseling in Black Literature. 3 Hours.

This course takes an interdisciplinary, multi- and cross-cultural approach to the analysis of African American culture, using it as a basis for introducing students to the basic philosophy of Professional Counseling, developing sensitivity and awareness to the variety of social and psychological issues affecting the Black community, especially as conceived and expressed creatively in literary forms by Black writers. Close readings of literature, particularly novels that provide useful character and plot development, will be viewed as case studies to be discussed and analyzed. Students will also engage in a field project to explore course issues in the local community. Course Information: This course fulfills an Engaged Citizenship Common Experience requirement at UIS in the area of ECCE U.S. Communities.

AAS 464. Women's Spirituality. 4 Hours.

Exploration of women's spirituality, spiritual autobiographies, devotional literatures, novels, poetry, and essays. Course Information: Same as WGS 464.

AAS 465. ECCE: Black Women Writers. 4 Hours.

Explores diverse writings by Black women: autobiography, fictions, poetry, social and literary criticism, and essays. Black Women Writers illuminate how they transcend under-representation in literature and academia, as well as the double oppression of being Black and female. Course Information: Same as LIS 465 and WGS 465. This course fulfills an Engaged Citizenship Common Experience requirement at UIS in the area of U.S. Communities.

AAS 499. Tutorial. 1-12 Hours.

Intended to supplement, not supplant, regular course offerings. Students interested in a tutorial must secure the consent of the faculty member concerned before registration and submit any required documentation to him or her. Course Information: May be repeated to a maximum of 12 hours.

AAS 537. Treating Children from Diverse Populations. 4 Hours.

This course focuses on the provision of services to children from diverse populations. Using a biopsychosocial perspective, emphasis is placed on the social, cultural, familial, and individual similarities and differences in values and behavior. Therapeutic techniques are explored. Course Information: Same as HMS 537.