African American Studies Program

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Peck Hall 223

The African American Studies Program offers an undergraduate interdisciplinary minor. The primary objective is to provide students an opportunity to examine the multidimensional, multicultural experiences of African Americans and their responses to the blending of an African heritage and American culture.

The person who completes the African American Studies minor will have enlarged perspectives and increased skills and marketability for jobs in the fields of education, criminal justice, social work, governmental departments and agencies, and in the private sector.

Interdisciplinary minors are open to all students in the University. A student may take no more than 6 hours in a single department toward an interdisciplinary minor unless he or she surpasses the required 18-21 hours necessary for that minor. A student may take no more than 3 hours credit toward a minor in the same department or discipline in which he/she is taking a major, and no course may be counted for both major and minor credit. Students must fulfill all departmental pre-requisites for any course within an interdisciplinary minor. The minor in African American Studies requires 21 semester credit hours including 12 hours of foundation courses.

Required courses (12 hours):
AAS 2100 Introduction to African American Studies
AAS/ENGL 2020 Themes in Literature and Culture: Survey of Afro-American Literature
AAS/PSY 3250 Perspectives on Black Psychology
AAS/HIST 2040 Survey African American History I OR AAS/HIST 2050 Survey African American History II

Electives (9 hours):
AAS 4600 Interdisciplinary Seminar in African American Studies
AAS 4990 Independent Study in African American Studies
AAS/ANTH 3514 People and Cultures of Africa
AAS/ENGL 3340 The Black Experience in Modern Afro-American Literature
AAS/GEOG 3470 Geography of Africa
AAS/HIST 2040 Survey African American History I
AAS/HIST 2050 Survey African American History II
AAS/HIST 4430 Sub-Saharan Africa
AAS/HIST 4490 Mexico and the Caribbean
AAS/HIST 4750 African American Social and Intellectual History
AAS/MUHL 4530 History of Jazz
AAS/P S 3180 African Politics
AAS/SOC 4200 African American Film, Theatre, and Television Images
AAS/S W 3200 Cultural Diversity: Competency for Practice
SOC 4240 Race and Ethnic Relations

Courses of Related Interest
Courses considered consistent with the goals and objectives of the African American Studies program are designated as “of related interest.” However, African American Studies minors MAY NOT use these courses towards the minor without prior approval from the program’s director.
ECON 4470 Economic Development of the Third World
HIST 3030 Topics in African American History
HIST 4760 America Divided: Race, Class, and Gender
PSY 4720 Multicultural Perspectives in Psychology and Education

Courses in African American Studies [AAS]

2100 Introduction to African American Studies. Three credits. Introductory interdisciplinary survey course which examines the African American experience from enslavement through the present; social, religious, political, and cultural interactions evolving from that experience.

4600 Interdisciplinary Seminar in African American Studies. Three credits. Selected topics, issues, and problems in the African and African American experience. Course emphasis on primary source materials, critical reading, and critical analysis. Topics will vary. This course may not be repeated for additional credit hours in the minor.

4990 Independent Study in African American Studies. Three credits. Allows the examination of a specific topic within the study of Africa, the Caribbean, or America. Student conducts research and confers regularly with the instructor. Work must draw upon theories and methods applicable to African American Studies. See the program director for guidelines. This course may not be repeated for additional credit hours in the minor.