

# AFRICAN AND AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES

## Interdepartmental Undergraduate Program

African and African American Studies, a cross-disciplinary program in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, offers students the opportunity to explore the African Americans' experience and African American contributions to American culture. Students in the program analyze and learn about African American experiences through the study of history, literature, art, religion, and society. They gain knowledge and develop skills and sensitivities to help them function effectively in today's diverse society.

African and African American Studies at Iowa State University is an expanding program. Most of the courses in the program satisfy general education requirements in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the human relations requirement for teachers, and the university's diversity requirement. Students can minor or even design their own Interdisciplinary Studies major with an emphasis in African American Studies. Relevant courses are offered through other departments.

## Graduate Study

Several courses can be applied to a graduate program as electives.

A minor in African and African American Studies requires six courses in the program with a minimum of 18 credits, including AF AM 201 Introduction to African American Studies and AF AM 460 Seminar in African American Culture. The remaining credits must come from at least two departments, with at least two courses taken at the junior level or above. The minor must include at least 9 credits that are not used to meet any other department, college, or university requirement. Independent study and internship opportunities are available for credit, but do not count in the minimum requirements for the minor.

### Courses primarily for undergraduates:

#### **AF AM 201: Introduction to African American Studies**

(3-0) Cr. 3. F.S.

An interdisciplinary introduction to the study of African American culture. Includes history, the social sciences, literature, religion, and the arts, as well as conceptual frameworks for investigation and analysis of the African American experience.

Meets U.S. Diversity Requirement

#### **AF AM 310: Africa to 1880**

(Cross-listed with HIST). Cr. 3.

*Prereq: Sophomore classification*

Survey of the history of African societies, cultures and civilizations from earliest times to 1880. Evolution of states across the continent; social, economic, political, and cultural developments; nature and consequences of African interactions and relationship with Europeans.

#### **AF AM 311: Africa under Colonial Rule**

(Cross-listed with HIST). (3-0) Cr. 3.

*Prereq: 3 credits of 200-level HIST at Iowa State, and sophomore classification.*

Development of Africa from imposition of colonial rule to independence, including processes of European domination, African reaction and resistance, emergence of nationalism, and dismantling of colonialism.

Meets International Perspectives Requirement.

#### **AF AM 325: Peoples and Cultures of Africa.**

(Cross-listed with ANTHR). (3-0) Cr. 3.

*Prereq: 201 or 306 recommended.*

Survey of diverse African culture areas across the continent and globally; local level description and analysis of individuals as members of African communities; regional, national and global scales of identification.

Meets International Perspectives Requirement.

#### **AF AM 330: Ethnic and Race Relations**

(Cross-listed with SOC). (3-0) Cr. 3. F.S.SS.

*Prereq: SOC 134*

Analysis of ethnic and race relations, particularly in America; emphasis on the sociology and psychology of race and ethnic relations.

Meets U.S. Diversity Requirement

#### **AF AM 334: Africana Religions**

(Cross-listed with RELIG). (3-0) Cr. 3. F.

*Prereq: Prior course work in Religious Studies or African American Studies recommended.*

A focused study of the religious histories and cultures of West Africans and their descendants in the Americas. Topics include West African traditions, Christianity, Islam, and indigenous Afro-Caribbean religions, with attention to their gendered, theological, and cultural dimensions.

Meets U.S. Diversity Requirement

**AF AM 335: Race, Ethnicity, and the US Criminal Justice System**

(Cross-listed with C J). Cr. 3.

*Prereq: C J 240 or AF AM 201*

Empirical and theoretical readings on the intersection of race, ethnicity, crime, and the criminal justice system in contemporary society. Topics include, but are not limited to racial and ethnic relations in society, media, violence, policing, and disparity and discrimination in crime and punishment. Criminological theories of racial and ethnic antagonism.

Meets U.S. Diversity Requirement

**AF AM 347: Studies in African American Literature**

(Cross-listed with ENGL). (3-0) Cr. 3. Repeatable, maximum of 6 credits.

*Prereq: ENGL 250*

Literature by African Americans, which may include study of individual authors, movements, themes, genres.

Meets U.S. Diversity Requirement

**AF AM 350: Women of Color in the U.S**

(Cross-listed with WGS). (3-0) Cr. 3. S.

*Prereq: 3 credits in WGS or AF AM*

Economic, social, political and cultural roles of Women of Color in the U.S. Includes literary, philosophical, and artistic expressions. Myths and realities explored.

Meets U.S. Diversity Requirement

**AF AM 353: History of African Americans I**

(Cross-listed with HIST). (3-0) Cr. 3. S.

*Prereq: Sophomore classification*

Examines African roots of black culture and the African American experience in the United States from the colonial period through the Civil War. Topics include Atlantic Slave Trade, slavery and American identity, abolition, the emergence of Black Nationalism, and black participation in the Civil War.

Meets U.S. Diversity Requirement

**AF AM 354: History of African Americans II**

(Cross-listed with HIST). (3-0) Cr. 3. S.

*Prereq: Sophomore classification*

Explores African American political thought and political action from Reconstruction to the present. Topics include rise of Jim Crow segregation, urban migration, Garvey movement, Harlem Renaissance, Depression and world wars, Pan-Africanism, civil rights, Black Power, and black feminism.

Meets U.S. Diversity Requirement

**AF AM 460: Seminar in African American Culture**

(3-0) Cr. 3. S.

Intensive study of a selected topic in African-American Studies in one or more disciplines. Selected readings of various authors, movements, eras, or genres. Primary and secondary source materials.

Meets U.S. Diversity Requirement

**AF AM 473: Civil Rights and Ethnic Power**

(Cross-listed with HIST, US LS). (3-0) Cr. 3.

*Prereq: Sophomore classification*

Comparative history of the civil rights and ethnic power movements (African American, Chicano, American Indian, Puerto Rican, among others) in the U.S. from World War II to the present. Topics include institutional foundations, leadership, gender and racial dynamics, and the convergences and divergences of these differing ethnic struggles for rights.

Meets U.S. Diversity Requirement

**AF AM 490: Independent Study**

Cr. 1-3. Repeatable, maximum of 3 times.