

AFRICANA AND AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES MINOR

<https://cola.unh.edu/interdisciplinary-studies/program/minor/africana-african-american-studies>

Description

The Africana and African American studies minor (AFAM) encompasses the multidisciplinary, comparative and global study of peoples and cultures of Africa and its Diasporas. Diaspora is defined by dispersals and mobilities of populations, the result of exploration, migration and or coercion. African Diaspora communities exist everywhere, from Europe, the Middle East and Asia, to South and North America. We consider how Africana heritage and culture is shaped by these long-standing, long-range networks and connections between diverse places, making our focus importantly geographic and our content intrinsically cosmopolitan.

We foreground the experiences of African, African Diaspora and African American communities in our research, teaching and engagement. We consider how understanding exceptional experiences and histories of exclusion and communion can inform work for building a more sustainable, equitable and just world.

Blackness is a primary root for study and practice in the AFAM minor at UNH. Notwithstanding complex historic antecedents of race and racism, we consider how Blackness (/blackness) first consolidated as racial phenomena in the fifteenth century through global commodity capitalism. In this process, the modern enslavement and worldwide dispersal of African peoples arguably made up the first historic articulations of Blackness, the first major instance of globalization and one of the worst tragedies of human history with which we still reckon today. Throughout this history, the meanings and operations of race and racism in local contexts have not been altogether uniform but nonetheless reveal common dynamics of Black peoples' marginalization and structural dispossession of sociocultural, political and material resources.

In this root, AFAM students learn about varieties of historic and contemporary Blackness and what it means to be Black (/black): as lived experience, categorical attribution and aspect of intersecting identities; as creatively spiritual, aesthetic, and discursive expression and media; as antiracist reclamation and foundation for agency, activism and sociopolitical mobilization; and as a fount for queerness, love, joy and liberation. Our students and faculty consider how Blackness and or Black experiences are multidimensional and multivalent, subject to ongoing clarification within and among diverse communities worldwide, and differently and lyrically voiced and performed for multiple means and ends. We consider how Blackness entails an existential and practical quest for freedom from oppressive orders and boundary-making.

The AFAM program has a strong focus on coursework and research on African American and or Black peoples in the United States, as their cultures and history have been integral to the development of the nation-state and also highlight the country's problems and promises. The program also offers many courses on the cultures and history of Africa and its other Diaspora communities. Our courses range from the humanities to the social and natural sciences, and our approaches and methods are applicable to virtually all areas of study at UNH. Students are encouraged to take courses from a variety of disciplines. The minor therefore is designed to serve the needs of all students, regardless of

their background, and to complement their work in their major fields of study.

Our program faculty's interests lie in: histories and dynamics of enslavement; socioeconomic inequalities implicating class, race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality and age; Black women's livelihoods and social movements; critical and liberatory approaches to education and pedagogy; intertextual and sociohistorical approaches to Africana poetry and literature; kinship, family and human development studies in cultural and historic context; Africana spirituality and religions; and geographies and politics of African and Diaspora communities and nation-states.

We maintain close intellectual and practical solidarities with UNH's Center for the Humanities, Department of Women's and Gender Studies, and other interdisciplinary minor programs in American studies, Native American and Indigenous studies, queer studies, and race and ethnic studies. Our program faculty also maintain ties with Black educational and community organizations, such as the Seacoast African American Cultural Center, Black Heritage Trail of New Hampshire and others in the region.

AFAM consists of five, 4-credit courses (or any course combination for 20 credits total). These include (1) one 400 or 500 level introductory course taught by a program faculty member, (2) other approved elective courses related to the student's choice of concentration, and (3) one course at the 600 or 700 level, also taught by a program faculty member. Students must earn a C- or better in each course, and maintain a 2.0 grade-point average in courses taken for the minor.

The introductory course is meant to provide students with a general understanding of subjects and areas within the broader and related fields African, African Diaspora, African American and Black studies. Electives enable students to explore their interests and or develop greater understanding and synthesis of these subjects and areas. The program keeps a list of approved and consistently offered elective courses. Each semester the program coordinator and program assistant compiles and posts all courses that can count toward the minor on our webpage. Study abroad credits may also count with permission from the coordinator or other program faculty.

The upper-level course requirement is meant to be a culmination of a student's work in the minor and a key conversation point with program faculty about future research and graduate study, community engagement and career options. Students should arrange to meet with the faculty teaching this course early in the semester to establish goals for this culminating experience.

Students can also pursue independent study and internship options as well for their elective or upper-level course requirement, with on-campus or community organizations such as the UNH Beauregard Center or Black Students Union, Seacoast African American Cultural Center, Black Heritage Trail of New Hampshire or local chapters of national organizations. These options are supervised by program faculty and may be taken under the AFAM or other departmental codes.

Requirements

Code	Title	Credits
Introductory Course		4
Select from the following		
ANTH #450	Introduction to Race, Culture, and Power	
ANTH 500	Peoples and Cultures of the World (Only topic D: Sub-Saharan Africa)	
ENGL #517	Black Creative Expression	

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ENGL 549	In the Groove: African American Music as Literature
GEOG 550	Sub-Saharan Africa: Environmental Politics and Development
HIST 444D	Slavery and Society in Pre-Colonial Africa
HIST 505	African American History
HIST #506	African American History
HIST 588	History of Modern Africa: 1870 to the Present

Pre-Approved Elective Courses **12**

Select from the following

CLAS 550B	Identities and Difference in the Ancient World: Slaves and Masters
CLAS 551	Race, Ethnicity, Class & Classics
CMN 567	Gender, Race, and Class in the Media
EDUC 797	Special Topics in Education (Only topic: Teaching Race)
ENGL 440A	On Race in Culture and Society
or ENGL #441	On Race and Culture in Society
ENGL 550	Introduction to the Literature and Culture of Race
ENGL 581	Reading the Postcolonial Experience
ENGL 681	Contemporary African Literature
ENGL 693	Special Topics in Literature (Only topic: African American Writers)
ENGL 774R	Modern & Contemporary British Literature: New Departures (Only topic: Black British Writing)
ENGL 778	Race and Gender in Film and Popular Culture
ENGL 787	English Major Seminar (Only topic: Slavery and Culture)
FREN 765	Rebellion and Upheaval in 18th-Century Literature and Culture
GEOG 402	World Regions: Asia and Africa
HIST 440A	Martin Luther King, Jr., and the Struggle for Racial Justice
HIST 440D	Honors/Citizens and Persons
HIST 587	History of Africa from the Earliest Times to 1870
HIST #611	Civil War Era
HIST 690	Seminar: Historical Expl (Only topic: Race in 20th Century America)
HDFS 757	Race, Class, Gender, and Families
MUSI 460	Jazz Band ¹
MUSI 463	Jazz Combo ¹
MUSI 562	Jazz Piano ¹
MUSI 563	Jazz Guitar ¹
MUSI 762	Jazz Piano ¹
MUSI 763	Jazz Guitar ¹
PHIL 780	Special Topics (Only topic: Race, Gender and Social Justice)
PSYC 791	Special Topics (Only topic: Race, Power and Culture)
SOC 530	Race and Racism
WS 401	Introduction to Women's Studies
WS 405	Gender, Power and Privilege
WS 444A	Race Matters
WS 505	Survey in Women's Studies
WS 798	Colloquium

One Upper-Level Course with Program Faculty ² **4**

Select from the following

ANTH 680	Africana Religions: Mobility, Power, and Material Culture
ANTH 685	Gender, Sexuality and HIV/AIDS in Sub-Saharan Africa
ANTH 695	Globalization and Global Population Health
ENGL 650	I Hear America Singing: Studying American Literature and Culture
ENGL 787	English Major Seminar (Only topic: Black New England)
GEOG 685	Population and Development
HIST 600	Explorations (Only topic: Black and Indigenous NH)
HIST 797	Colloquium (Only topic: Slavery, War and Emancipation)
SOC 645	Class, Status and Power
SOC 745	Race, Ethnicity, and Inequality

Total Credits **20**

¹ May require audition with the Music Department

² Internship and other courses with program faculty may also apply here