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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Introductory Course</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Select from the following</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANTH #450</td>
<td>Introduction to Race, Culture, and Power</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANTH 500</td>
<td>Peoples and Cultures of the World (Only topic D: Sub-Saharan Africa)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL #517</td>
<td>Black Creative Expression</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Africana and African American Studies Minor

Pre-Approved Elective Courses

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 4506 African American History
HIST 588 History of Modern Africa: 1870 to the Present

Select from the following

CLAS 550B Identities and Difference in the Ancient World: Slaves and Masters
CLAS 551 Race, Ethnicity, Class & Classics
CMN 557 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 Exp (Only topic: Race in 20th Century America)
HDFS 757 Race, Class, Gender, and Families
MUSI 460 Jazz Band
MUSI 463 Jazz Combo
MUSI 562 Jazz Piano
MUSI 563 Jazz Guitar
MUSI 762 Jazz Piano
MUSI 763 Jazz Guitar
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

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