

# AFRICANA STUDIES

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Black Studies began at The College of Wooster in 1968 as an interdisciplinary Program, examining the history and culture of peoples of the African diaspora from an African-centered perspective. It moved to departmental status in 2000.

The fundamental mission of Africana Studies is critical study of peoples of African ancestry from social, historical, and cultural perspectives not covered by traditional disciplines. It seeks to provide students comprehensive exposure to the experiences of Black people, wherever they reside, from multiple theoretical and methodological approaches designed to help them think critically about issues related to the African diaspora and educate global citizens who understand the intellectual history, origin, purpose, and challenges of Africana Studies as a distinct discipline within the liberal arts.

By the end of the senior year, a Wooster Africana Studies graduate should be able to: identify and articulate the intellectual history, origin, purposes, and challenges of Africana Studies within the academy; identify and explain the connections between Africana Studies to historic Africa and the contemporary experiences of people of African descent around the world; identify and explain major historical events crucial to African people and their experiences in Africa, North America, the Caribbean, Europe, and other parts of the world; identify, articulate, and apply relevant African-centered theories and methodologies to the investigation or critical analysis of topics, texts, artistic productions, events, or phenomena related to the African diaspora; and conceptualize, research, organize, and write an independent study project that meets the learning outcomes of the department.

## **Major in Africana Studies**

Consists of twelve courses:

- AFST 10000
- Four 200-level Africana Studies courses taken within the Department of Africana Studies
- One 300-level Africana Studies course taken within the Department of Africana Studies
- Three electives from the Department of Africana Studies or cross-listed courses accepted for AFST credit
- Junior Independent Study: AFST 40100
- Senior Independent Study: AFST 45100
- Senior Independent Study: AFST 45200

## **Minor in Africana Studies**

Consists of six courses:

- AFST 10000
- Three 200-level Africana Studies courses taken within the Department of Africana Studies
- One 300-level Africana Studies course taken within the Department of Africana Studies
- One elective from the Department of Africana Studies or cross-listed courses accepted for AFST credit

## Special Notes

- Course sequence suggestions for majors:

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First Year:	AFST 10000, 20000-20019
Sophomore Year:	AFST 21300 One AFST 200-level course One elective from AFST or cross-listed courses
Junior Year:	One AFST 200-level course One AFST 300-level course One elective from AFST or cross-listed courses AFST 40100
Senior Year:	AFST 45100, 45200 One elective from AFST or cross-listed courses

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- S/NC courses are not permitted in either the major or minor.
- Only grades of C- or better are accepted for the major or minor.

## AFRICANA STUDIES COURSES

### **AFST 10000. INTRODUCTION TO AFRICANA STUDIES (Education)**

Interdisciplinary foundation course presents overview of the historical, social, psychological, political, economic, and cultural experiences of all the major branches of people of African descent. Course focuses on the contributions and achievements of Africana people, with some emphasis on African Americans, and it explores the concerns as well as the challenges they face. Students are introduced to African-centered perspectives of prominent continental and diasporic scholars, artists, and activists, who mostly challenge the tenets and assumptions of the dominant cultural and intellectual paradigms. *Annually, Fall and Spring. [C, AH, or HSS]*

### **AFST 20000-20019. SPECIAL TOPICS IN AFRICANA STUDIES (some sections cross-listed with Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies)**

An in-depth examination of an issue or topic relevant to the Black experience. Possible topics include Black biography and autobiography, post-colonial struggles, Maroon communities, civil rights, anti-colonial resistance movements, and Blacks in science and society. Topics vary and will be designated to meet the Learning Across the Disciplines requirement as appropriate. *Annually, Fall and Spring. [Depending on the topic, Wt, C, AH, or HSS]*

### **AFST 21200. SURVEY OF AFRICAN-AMERICAN FOLKLORE: THE CREATIVE AND PERFORMING ARTS (Music)**

Study of African American folklore in the United States. Focuses on the contextual and historical framework in which folk music, tales, religious practices, and the visual arts evolved. Examines the impact of these traditions on contemporary American society. Open to non-music majors. No technical knowledge required. *Prerequisite: AFST 10000 or permission of the instructor. Not offered 2011-2012. [C, AH]*

### **AFST 21300. RACISM 101**

Americans have historically found it difficult to discuss issues of racism openly. This course examines from historical perspectives the foundations of racism towards Blacks as a vestige of chattel slavery in the United States, and it explores various manifestations of racism in Black-White relationships in contemporary American society. *Prerequisite: AFST 10000 or permission of the instructor. Annually, Fall 2011 and Spring 2012. [Wt, C, HSS]*

### **AFST 23100. SURVEY OF CONTEMPORARY AFRICA**

Course surveys the major areas and issues in contemporary Africa using an interdisciplinary approach. It explores in some detail the major post-colonial cultural, economic, political, and societal structures, dynamics, ideas, and trends that depict contemporary Africa as shaped by its recent colonial history and international environment. The course critically examines these realities, the potential, and the challenges facing African soci-

eties in this new century. Connections are made between these features and the globalizing world community, with special focus on U.S.-African multiform relations. *Prerequisite: AFST 10000 or permission of the instructor. Fall 2011. [C, HSS]*

**AFST 24000. AFRICANA WOMEN IN NORTH AMERICA: EARLIEST TIMES THROUGH THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT (Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies)**

Africana women in North America have historically suffered from racial, class, and gender oppression. Historically their oppression in American society resulted from exploitation of their labor, historical patterns of disenfranchisement from institutions controlled by the dominant society, as well as persistent stereotyping by mainstream U.S. society as justification for this exclusion. Course critically examines historic Africana women from colonial times to the Civil Rights Movement through the lens of black feminist theory, investigates their responses to such oppression, and explores the contributions these women made to social, intellectual, and cultural history of the United States. Emphasizes primary readings. *Prerequisite: AFST 10000 or permission of the instructor. Not offered 2011-2012. [C, HSS]*

**AFST 24100. AFRICANA WOMEN IN CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY (Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies)**

Course examines the ways in which contemporary society since the 1960s has shaped the lives of Africana women and how these women have influenced U.S. society. Examines such issues as family life, education, career opportunities, political activities, Africana male/female relationships, societal constraints on their lives, and Africana women's roles in civil rights and feminist movements. *Prerequisite: AFST 10000 or permission of the instructor. Alternate years. Not offered 2011-2012. [C, HSS]*

**AFST 24200. MARTIN, MALCOLM, AND MANDELA**

Course examines the lives, philosophies, contributions, and legacies of three outstanding leaders to the struggles of people of African descent for civil and human rights in the 20th century. The course will focus on comparing and contrasting their lives, ideas, and actions while situating these in the historical and socio-political contexts that shaped them. *Prerequisite: AFST 10000 or permission of the instructor. Alternate years. Spring 2012. [C, HSS]*

**AFST 24400. CINEMA OF AFRICA AND THE AFRICAN DIASPORA (Film Studies)**

This Course explores issues of race, class, culture, the colonial, and the anti-colonial thought through an examination of cinema created within and focusing on continental and diasporic African life. Accompanying the cinematic texts will be an array of written texts that contribute to the class discussion across the fields of history, post-colonial theory, and film theory. *Prerequisite: AFST 10000 or permission of the instructor. Alternate years. Not offered 2011-2012. [C, AH]*

**AFST 24500. PAN-AFRICANISM**

Course focuses on the political, cultural, and social articulations of the Pan-African idea by major scholars, leaders, and activists who sought to create global unity among peoples of African ancestry, where ever they resided, as well as the various attempts to implement their theories in practice in Africa, the Caribbean, and the United States throughout the twentieth century. The successes and failures of the unfolding experiments on the African continent since independence and the similar efforts in the diaspora are examined with an eye toward identifying their implications for the future of Pan-Africanism. *Prerequisite: AFST 10000 or permission of the instructor. Alternate years. Spring 2012. [C, HSS]*

**AFST 24600. SURVEY OF AFRICANA POPULAR CULTURE**

Course surveys the historical evolution and cultural consequences of Africana popular culture. The antecedents of "Gangsta Rap," "Hip Hop," "Reggae-Rastas," and contemporary modes of "attitude," behavior, dress, speech, and public representation are part of a self-reinforcing African-Black New World dialectic. In this course contemporary Black urban youth culture is analyzed as aesthetic and socio-cultural vehicles for personal and public critique and transformation. Africa and its various diasporas have created a world-view that transcends global boundaries of class, culture, gender, race, and society. This culture, now universally recognized, has been marketed for global public consumption. The course explores this phenomenon. *Prerequisite: AFST 10000 or permission of the instructor. Alternate years. Not offered 2011-2012. [C, AH]*

**AFST 24700. BLACK NATIONALISM**

Course examines from a geographic-specific context the political, cultural, and theoretical aspects of historic and contemporary African diasporic nationalist movements. By examining major figures, texts, and movements, the course investigates the ways in which race, class, and culture inform Black nationalist theory and practice. *Prerequisite: AFST 10000 or permission of the instructor. Alternate years. Spring 2012. [C, HSS]*

#### **AFST 30000. CRITICAL READINGS IN AFRICANA STUDIES**

Advanced special topics seminar focuses on critical issues in a variety of locations and time periods crucial to understanding Africana Studies. Possible readings include the works of John Bracey, W.E.B. Du Bois, Frantz Fanon, C.L.R. James, John Hope Franklin, Fannie Lou Hammer, Vincent Harding, Benjamin Mays, August Meier, Joanne Robinson, Carter G. Woodson, C. Van Woodward, etc. *Prerequisite: AFST 10000, one 200-level Africana Studies course, or permission of the instructor. Alternate years. Not offered 2011-2012.*

#### **AFST 30100. AFRICANA RESISTANCES**

Surveys social, cultural, and political movements, individual and group thoughts, and actions in the historical and ongoing struggle against oppression. Examines multiform resistances by Africana people against enslavement, colonization, and other forms of oppression and discrimination. Explores these rich traditions as unique expressions and illustrations of the human spirit that inexorably strives for freedom, justice, and dignity. Examines and critically analyzes resistances to enslavement in Africa, the Americas, and Europe, as well as the fight for emancipation and civil rights in these regions throughout the 20th century. *Prerequisite: AFST 10000, one 200-level Africana Studies course, or permission of the instructor. Alternate years. Not offered 2011-2012. [C, HSS]*

#### **AFST 30200. MARXISM AND AFRICANA RADICAL THOUGHT**

Course offers students an in-depth opportunity to read and examine major thinkers and works of the "Black Radical Tradition." More specifically, the course will contrast and examine the ways African continental and diasporic thinkers and activists engage, borrow from, contribute to, and expand the theories of Karl Marx, Friedrich Engels, and Vladimir L. Lenin. The goal is to show the various ways in which Africana radical thought has re-calibrated Marxian thought and activism through the particularities of the Africana experience. *Prerequisite: AFST 10000, one 200-level Africana Studies course, or permission of the instructor. Alternate years. Fall 2011. [HSS]*

#### **AFST 40000. TUTORIAL**

Offered to individual students under the supervision of an Africana Studies faculty member on a selected topic. Permission of the chair of Africana Studies is required. Arrangements must be made with the supervising faculty member before registration. *Prerequisite: The approval of both the supervising faculty member and the chairperson are required prior to registration.*

#### **AFST 40100. INDEPENDENT STUDY**

Group tutorial taken during one semester of the junior year includes bibliographic and methodological instruction and a written essay/project designed by the student. Special attention will be given to the disciplinary concerns in the humanities and social science areas of Africana Studies. *Prerequisite: AFST 10000 and three 200-level Africana Studies courses.*

#### **AFST 45100. INDEPENDENT STUDY THESIS – SEMESTER ONE**

The first semester of the Senior Independent Study project, in which each student engages in creative and independent research guided by a faculty mentor and which culminates in a thesis and an oral examination in the second semester. *Prerequisite: AFST 40100.*

#### **AFST 45200. INDEPENDENT STUDY THESIS – SEMESTER TWO**

The second semester of the Senior Independent Study project, which culminates in the thesis and an oral examination. *Prerequisite: AFST 45100.*

### **CROSS-LISTED COURSES ACCEPTED FOR AFRICANA STUDIES CREDIT**

#### **ART AND ART HISTORY**

**ARTD 22000. AFRICAN ART [C]**

**ARTD 23000. AFRICAN-AMERICAN ART [C, AH]**

#### **ENGLISH**

**ENGL 21007. BLACK LITERATURE AND CULTURE (this course only) [AH]**

**ENGL 23002. SURVEY OF AFRICAN AMERICAN LITERATURE (this course only) [AH]**

#### **FRENCH**

**FREN 23500. LITERATURE AND CULTURE OF FRANCOPHONE AFRICA [C]**

**HISTORY**

- HIST 11500. HISTORY OF BLACK AMERICA: FROM WEST AFRICAN ORIGINS TO THE PRESENT [C, HSS]
- HIST 10173. SOCIAL HISTORY OF HIP HOP
- HIST 23100. AFRICA BEFORE 1800 [C, HSS]
- HIST 23200. AFRICA SINCE 1800 [C, HSS]
- HIST 24600. UNITED STATES URBAN HISTORY [HSS]

**MUSIC**

- MUSC 16500. GOSPEL CHOIR (.125 CREDIT)
- MUSC 21400. HISTORY OF AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSIC [C, AH]
- MUSC 21700. SURVEY OF JAZZ [C, AH]

**PHILOSOPHY**

- PHIL 23400. AFRICAN PHILOSOPHY [C, AH]

**POLITICAL SCIENCE**

- PSCI 20800. RACE AND POLITICS [C, HSS]
- PSCI 21300. THE CONSTITUTIONAL LAW OF CIVIL RIGHTS [C, HSS]
- PSCI 24900. THE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS OF AFRICA [C, HSS]

**RELIGIOUS STUDIES**

- RELS 26100. BLACK RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCE IN AMERICA [C, R]

**SOCIOLOGY**

- SOCI 20900. INEQUALITY IN AMERICA [HSS]
- SOCI 21400. RACIAL AND ETHNIC GROUPS IN AMERICAN SOCIETY [C, HSS]
- SOCI 21700. BLACKS IN CONTEMPORARY AMERICAN SOCIETY [C, HSS]

**SPANISH**

- SPAN 21200. LITERATURE AND CULTURE OF THE HISPANIC CARIBBEAN [C, AH]

**THEATRE AND DANCE**

- THTD 24200. AFRICAN AMERICAN THEATRE HISTORY [W, C, AH]