

AFRICANA STUDIES

Overview and Contact Information

As a field of inquiry, Africana studies describes and analyzes the origins and experiences of people of African descent wherever they live or have lived. This field is informed by the intellectual traditions of African American, African, and African Diasporic studies. While it has a renewed focus on the connections and movements of African-descended people from different sites of Africa and the diaspora, it also values in depth study of Black people in discrete local, regional and national contexts. This field is inherently comparative, international, and interdisciplinary in approach, embracing the range of fields in the humanities and social sciences and including the performing arts.

Africana Studies prepares students for a number of careers: government, politics, international affairs, law, education, journalism, public health, religious studies, literature and the arts, and business management, to name only a few.

The Africana Studies major is available only to students who entered the College before fall 2023. Students entering fall 2023 or later should instead refer to Critical Race and Political Economy (<http://catalog.mtholyoke.edu/areas-study/critical-race-political-economy/>) (CRPE) for its Africana Studies pathway. Students who entered before fall 2023 and who will graduate in May 2024 or later may be eligible to choose either the Africana Studies major or the Africana Studies pathway within the CRPE major, after consulting with the chair of the CRPE department.

The Africana Studies minor is administered by the department of Critical Race and Political Economy (<http://catalog.mtholyoke.edu/areas-study/critical-race-political-economy/>) (CRPE).

See Also

- Critical Race and Political Economy (<http://catalog.mtholyoke.edu/areas-study/critical-race-political-economy/>)
- African Studies (<http://catalog.mtholyoke.edu/areas-study/african-studies/>)

Contact Information

David Hernández, Co-chair

Vanessa Rosa, Co-chair

Bridget Barrett, Academic Department Coordinator

Learning Goals

Africana Studies majors and minors should:

- Be aware of important events and themes in African American, African Diaspora and African histories.
- Have exposure to the broad array of theoretical perspectives on black life and experience, including an understanding of the constructedness of race, gender, sexuality, and ethnicity in the study of black conditions, progress and social change.
- Have considered the roles of cultural forms (literature, art, religion, music, etc.) in the lives of peoples of African descent in Africa and the diaspora, and how cultural forms create links among those peoples.
- Develop an awareness of the political economy of race and power in national and transnational contexts.
- Have the ability to read, write, and argue with rigor and discipline.

- Have the ability to critically appreciate and analyze texts.
- Have the ability to conduct independent primary research.
- Have an understanding and capacity to employ various research methodologies.

Faculty

This area of study is administered by the Department of Critical Race and Political Economy:

Kristie Ford, Professor of Sociology and Critical Race and Political Economy

Lucas Wilson, Professor of Economics and Critical Race and Political Economy on the Ford Foundation

David Hernández, Associate Professor of Latinx Studies and Critical Race and Political Economy

Ren-yo Hwang, Associate Professor of Gender Studies and Critical Race and Political Economy

Vanessa Rosa, Associate Professor of Latinx Studies and Critical Race and Political Economy, On Leave 2024-2025

Maria Abello Hurtado, Assistant Professor of Africana Studies and Critical Race and Political Economy

Pilar Eguez Guevara, Visiting Assistant Professor in Critical Race and Political Economy

Alexis Holloway, Mount Holyoke Fellow and Visiting Instructor in Critical Race and Political Economy

Requirements for the Major

A minimum of 40 credits:

Code	Title	Credits
CRPE-200	Foundations of Africana Studies	4
CBL requirement: Select at least one of the following courses:		4
EDUC-205	Social Justice in Education	
At least 16 credits at the 300 level from the approved course list for Africana Studies, in at least two different disciplines, of which only 4 credits may be CRPE-395 (AFCNA-395 if before fall 2023) ¹		16
16 credits of additional courses from the approved course list for Africana Studies ¹		16
Total Credits		40

¹ Courses to be counted for the major (p. 2) are drawn from departmental and College offerings, as approved for Africana Studies. Students may also count courses taken at the other Five College institutions, subject to approval by the chair.

Other Requirements

- Concentration statement. Students who major in Africana Studies will construct their own concentrations with the guidance and advice of a faculty advisor who is affiliated with the program. The concentration statement must be approved by the program. The concentration statement will include a description of the concentration, which disciplines it draws on, a discussion of its intellectual merits and an explanation by the student of why the concentration has been constructed in the particular ways proposed. The student needs to list courses pertinent to the concentration, as well as any relevant

experiential learning opportunities including Community-Based Learning (CBL) classes, community service, and internships.

Additional Specifications

- The Africana Studies major is available only to students who entered the College before fall 2023. Students entering fall 2023 or later should instead refer to Critical Race and Political Economy (<http://catalog.mtholyoke.edu/areas-study/critical-race-political-economy/>) (CRPE).
- When declaring a major, each student chooses an advisor from the committee. In addition, the student must have the approval of the program chair.
- Students who declare an Africana Studies major automatically fulfill the College's "outside the major" requirement.

Requirements for the Minor

A minimum of 20 credits:

Code	Title	Credits
CRPE-200	Foundations of Africana Studies	4
Twelve credits credits at the 200 level or higher from the approved course list for Africana Studies		12
Four credits at the 300 level from the approved course list for Africana Studies ¹		4
Total Credits		20

¹ CRPE-395 (AFCNA-395 if before fall 2023) may not be counted towards the minimum 4 credits at the 300 level.

Courses Meeting Requirements for the Africana Studies Minor

Code	Title	Credits
Anthropology		
ANTHR-216BE	Special Topics in Anthropology: 'Black Ethnographers'	4
ANTHR-216RC	Special Topics in Anthropology: 'Representing Race'	4
Art History		
ARTH-106	Arts of Africa and Its Diasporas	4
Critical Race & Political Econ		
CRPE-200	Foundations of Africana Studies	4
CRPE-208	Introduction to Twentieth-Century Critical Race Theory	4
CRPE-240BE	Intermediate Topics: 'Black Ethnographers'	4
CRPE-240RE	Intermediate Topics: 'Representing Race'	4
CRPE-244	The Historical-Grammar of Black Feminist Thought Across the Caribbean and the Americas	4
CRPE-308	Luminous Darkness: African American Social Thought After DuBois	4
CRPE-363	A Social Movements' History of the States from Grassroots Organizing to Social Movements	4
CRPE-367	Slavery, Prison, and Captivity: Narratives of Life in and out of Bondage	4
Dance		
DANCE-132	Introduction to Hip Hop	2

DANCE-133	Introduction to Breakin'	2
DANCE-142	Introduction to West African Dance	2
DANCE-232	Intermediate Hip Hop	2
DANCE-234	House Dance	2
DANCE-272AF	Dance and Culture: 'Improvisation from an Africanist Perspective'	4
DANCE-272FD	Dance and Culture: 'Funk Styles'	4
Economics		
ECON-306	Political Economy of Inequality	4
ECON-349EC	Advanced Topics in Economics: 'Analysis of Empire of Cotton'	4
English		
ENGL-217SA	Topics in English: 'South African Literature: Postapartheid and Beyond'	4
ENGL-257	Survey of African American Literature	4
ENGL-350AB	Topics in African American Literature: 'Abolition and Climate Change'	4
ENGL-350AT	Topics in African American Literature: 'Race and the Aesthetics of Taste'	4
ENGL-382EQ	Advanced Topics in English: 'Equiano's Worlds: Global Abolition, Alt Humanisms, and Experimental Prose'	4
Environmental Studies		
ENVST-210	Political Ecology	4
Film, Media, Theater		
FMT-240PE	Intermediate Courses in Production and Practice: 'African Performance Aesthetics'	4
FMT-330AT	Advanced Courses in History and Theory: 'African Theater'	4
French		
FREN-219	Intermediate Level Courses in Culture and Literature: Introduction to the French-Speaking World	4
FREN-341NE	Courses in Francophone Studies: 'Revisiting the Negritude Movement: Origins, Evolution, and Relevance'	4
Geography		
GEOG-314	China in the Global South	4
Gender Studies		
GNDST-206BF	Women and Gender in History: 'The Historical-Grammar of Black Feminist Thought Across the Caribbean and the Americas'	4
GNDST-210WR	Women and Gender in Philosophy and Religion: 'Womanist Religious Thought'	4
GNDST-333SE	Advanced Seminar: 'Black Sexual Economies'	4
History		
HIST-142	Introduction to Pre Colonial African History	4
HIST-213	History of Turtle Island: Introduction to Native North America	4
HIST-245EU	Topics in African History: 'European Expansion in Africa'	4
HIST-245MW	Topics in African History: 'Modern West Africa, 1800 to the Present'	4
HIST-245SV	Topics in African History: 'Slavery and Emancipation in Africa'	4

HIST-282	African American History from Emancipation to the Present	4
HIST-381BE	Recent American History: 'Black Labor Since Emancipation'	4
Music		
MUSIC-161	Beginning West African Drumming Ensemble	1
MUSIC-226	World Music	4
MUSIC-228	African Opera in Theory and Practice	4
MUSIC-238	The Power of Black Music	4
Politics		
POLIT-234	Black Metropolis: From MLK to Obama	4
POLIT-252	Urban Politics	4
POLIT-355	Race and Housing	4
POLIT-387PD	Advanced Topics in Politics: 'Other Political Dreams'	4
Religion		
RELIG-181	Introduction to African Diaspora Religions	4
RELIG-246	Womanist Religious Thought	4
RELIG-331AF	Advanced Topics in Religion: 'African American Spiritualities of Dissent'	4
RELIG-361	The Aquatic Life of Black Devotion	4