

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

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, Faculty Director of Community Engagement; Associate Professor of Latinx Studies and Critical Race and Political Economy, Teaching Fall Only

Vanessa Rosa, Associate Professor of Latinx Studies and Critical Race and Political Economy

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

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

Maria Diaz, Mount Holyoke Fellow and Visiting Lecturer in Latina/o Studies

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 |
|---|--|---------|
| Art History | | |
| ARTH-106 | Arts of Africa and Its Diasporas | 4 |
| ARTH-290AW | Issues in Art History: 'African and African American Women Artists' | 4 |
| ARTH-290SW | Issues in Art History: 'Here +54: From the Smithsonian to Soweto, Arts of the African Americas and Africa' | 4 |
| ARTH-300AF | Seminar: 'Curating African and African American Art: Up from the Basement and into the Collection' | 4 |
| Critical Race & Political Econ | | |
| CRPE-200 | Foundations of Africana Studies | 4 |
| CRPE-208 | Introduction to Twentieth-Century Critical Race Theory | 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 |
| Dance | | |
| DANCE-132 | Introduction to Hip Hop | 2 |
| DANCE-133 | Introduction to Breakin' | 2 |
| DANCE-142 | West African Dance | 2 |
| DANCE-146 | Afro-Fusion Dance | 2 |
| DANCE-232 | Intermediate Hip Hop | 2 |
| DANCE-234 | House Dance | 2 |

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|------------------------------|--|---|
| 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 |
| 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-206FA | Women and Gender in History: 'Labor and Family in African History' | 4 |
| GNDST-210WR | Women and Gender in Philosophy and Religion: 'Womanist Religious Thought' | 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-245FA | Topics in African History: 'Labor and Family in African History' | 4 |
| HIST-245MW | Topics in African History: 'Modern West Africa, 1800 to the Present' | 4 |
| HIST-245ND | Topics in African History: 'Nationalism and Decolonization' | 4 |
| HIST-245SV | Topics in African History: 'Slavery and Emancipation in Africa' | 4 |
| HIST-282 | African American History from Emancipation to the Present | 4 |
| Music | | |
| MUSIC-161 | Beginning West African Drumming Ensemble | 1 |
| MUSIC-226 | World Music | 4 |

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| MUSIC-228 | African Opera in Theory and Practice | 4 |
| MUSIC-229 | African Popular 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 |