

African American Studies

Overview

The Department of African American Studies is an intellectual community committed to producing, refining and advancing knowledge of Black people in the United States, the Caribbean, Latin America, Europe and Africa. A key component of the mission is to interrogate the meanings and dimensions of slavery and colonialism, and their continuing political, social and cultural implications.

The Department fully embraces the notion that a public institution can lead in shaping and defining disciplines, not just teaching them. It contributes to this mission by investing in a strong faculty and talented and ambitious graduate students from a variety of backgrounds. Faculty is drawn from disciplines as diverse as anthropology, cultural studies, linguistics, literature, history, sociology, performance, and education. But, the department is not simply a collection of experts from traditional disciplines; it is united by a relentless commitment to pushing the boundaries of knowledge through excellence in scholarship and pedagogy that are at once interdisciplinary and innovative.

Undergraduate Programs

African American Studies (<http://guide.berkeley.edu/archive/2021-22/undergraduate/degree-programs/african-american-studies/>): BA, Minor

Graduate Program

African American Studies (<http://guide.berkeley.edu/archive/2021-22/graduate/degree-programs/african-american-studies/>): PhD

African American Studies

Expand all course descriptions [+] Collapse all course descriptions [-]

AFRICAM 201A Interdisciplinary Research Methods 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2021, Fall 2020, Fall 2019

This seminar will provide a detailed introduction and working knowledge of the various methodological techniques appropriate for interdisciplinary research on the African Diaspora.

Interdisciplinary Research Methods: Read More [+]

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: African American Studies/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Interdisciplinary Research Methods: Read Less [-]

AFRICAM 201B Qualitative Research Methods for African American Studies 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2018, Spring 2017, Spring 2016

A review of competing epistemologies in qualitative research of African Americans.

Qualitative Research Methods for African American Studies: Read More [+]

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 4 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: African American Studies/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructor: Small

Qualitative Research Methods for African American Studies: Read Less [-]

AFRICAM 201D Theories of the African Diaspora 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2017, Fall 2016, Fall 2013

This course is intended to provide students with an initial background for the composition of the position paper discussing the concept and study of African Diaspora necessary for passing department qualifying exams. It will introduce some of the theoretical frameworks for, and approaches to, scholarship concerning the African Diaspora.

Theories of the African Diaspora: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: African American Studies/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructor: Scott

Theories of the African Diaspora: Read Less [-]

AFRICAM 240 Special Topics in Cultural Studies of the Diaspora 1 - 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2022, Spring 2022, Spring 2021

One hour of lecture per week per unit. Topics will vary from term to term depending on student demand and faculty availability.

Special Topics in Cultural Studies of the Diaspora: Read More [\[+\]](#)

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1-4 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: African American Studies/Graduate

Grading: The grading option will be decided by the instructor when the class is offered.

Special Topics in Cultural Studies of the Diaspora: Read Less [\[-\]](#)

AFRICAM 241 Special Topics in Development Studies of the Diaspora 1 - 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2022, Fall 2020, Spring 2019

One hour of lecture per week per unit. Topics will vary from term to term depending on student demand and faculty availability.

Special Topics in Development Studies of the Diaspora: Read More [\[+\]](#)

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1-4 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: African American Studies/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Special Topics in Development Studies of the Diaspora: Read Less [\[-\]](#)

AFRICAM 242 Special Topics in African Linguistics 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2015, Fall 2014, Spring 2012

Topics will vary to suit student demand or interest. The seminar will require solid grounding in linguistic theory.

Special Topics in African Linguistics: Read More [\[+\]](#)

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: African American Studies/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructor: Mchombo

Special Topics in African Linguistics: Read Less [\[-\]](#)

AFRICAM 250 Black Intellectuals: Social and Cultural Roles 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2021, Fall 2011, Spring 2001

The course will examine the development of an intellectual group in African American life from the 18th century to the present. Implicit in the examination is consideration of the social and cultural roles, writers, scholars, artists, and other thinkers have played in American and African American culture.

Black Intellectuals: Social and Cultural Roles: Read More [\[+\]](#)

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: African American Studies/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Black Intellectuals: Social and Cultural Roles: Read Less [\[-\]](#)

AFRICAM 252 Researching Race, Gender and Justice 4 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

This course is designed to encourage the development of an intersectional sensibility among scholars working in the area of race, gender and justice, broadly defined. In addition to providing a theoretical and methodological introduction to sociological literature on the practice of intersectionality in research and writing, we will also use a cross-disciplinary and interdisciplinary set of readings, along with discussions and assignments, to examine historical and contemporary trends in how Black women and girls experience institutional and interpersonal threats of violence, policing and punishment; from the convict lease system to the crisis of mass incarceration and ending with a consideration of the experiences of Black women and girls.

Researching Race, Gender and Justice: Read More [\[+\]](#)

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: African American Studies/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Researching Race, Gender and Justice: Read Less [\[-\]](#)

AFRICAM 256B Diaspora, Citizenship, and Transnationality 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2010, Spring 2010, Fall 2008

This seminar analyzes the social construction and reproduction of diasporic communities in the U.S., Canada, and Europe. It examines the relations of the diaspora to the homeland in the context of the globalization process. The role of transnational migration and deterritorialization in the production of bipolar, fragmented, and multiple identities will be analyzed. Postnational models of citizenship--differentiated, transnational, and multicultural--will be assessed in light of poststructuralist theories.

Diaspora, Citizenship, and Transnationality: Read More [+]

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: African American Studies/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructor: Laguerre

Diaspora, Citizenship, and Transnationality: Read Less [-]

AFRICAM 257A Identity Politics in the Caribbean and Africa 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2010, Spring 2008, Spring 2006

An exhaustive examination of the conditions under which identity constructs (race, ethnicity, nation, religion, language, region, etc.) come to occupy the symbolic center in the organization of mass political movements in non-industrialized Third World societies. The course will be comparative in scope using case histories from Africa and the Caribbean. It will focus on the relationship between the "politics of identity," national economic decision making, and the distribution of economic, social, cultural, and symbolic capital.

Identity Politics in the Caribbean and Africa: Read More [+]

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: African American Studies/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructor: Hintzen

Identity Politics in the Caribbean and Africa: Read Less [-]

AFRICAM 257B Power, Domination, and Ideology 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2012, Spring 2011, Spring 2009

This course will focus on theories and realities of power, domination, and ideology as they pertain to issues of identity in the post-World War II political economies of Africa and the African diaspora.

Power, Domination, and Ideology: Read More [+]

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: African American Studies/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructor: Hintzen

Power, Domination, and Ideology: Read Less [-]

AFRICAM 262 Black Feminist Criticism 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2009, Fall 2007, Fall 2006

This course will focus on the development of a black feminist criticism(s). We will be specifically concerned with the writings of significant black women critics of the 19th and 20th centuries who have used intersections of class, race, and gender to analyze major issues of their time.

Black Feminist Criticism: Read More [+]

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: African American Studies/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Black Feminist Criticism: Read Less [-]

AFRICAM C265 Research Advances in Race, Diversity, and Educational Policy 3 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2020, Fall 2019, Fall 2018

This introductory graduate seminar will engage the research literature on race, diversity, and educational policy to provide a foundation for examining contemporary issues in American public schooling. We will examine research on race, culture, and learning alongside more policy driven research on school structures, governance, finance, politics, and policy. In doing so, we will blend micro level examinations of teaching and learning with macro level considerations of politics and policy. Research Advances in Race, Diversity, and Educational Policy: Read More [+]

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: African American Studies/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructors: Nasir, Perry, Scott, J.

Also listed as: EDUC C265C

Research Advances in Race, Diversity, and Educational Policy: Read Less [-]

AFRICAM C286 The Education of African-American Students 3 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2012, Fall 2010, Spring 2010

This seminar will examine a wide range of perspectives on the education of African American children and adolescents in the United States. Readings will support students in understanding some of the key issues and tensions in African American education and school achievement, including the roles that culture, identity, parents, families, and communities play in the education and schooling of African American students; systemic issues in educational improvement and the perpetuation of "achievement gaps"; and language and power. The Education of African-American Students: Read More [+]

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: African American Studies/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructor: Suad-Bakari

Also listed as: EDUC C286

The Education of African-American Students: Read Less [-]

AFRICAM 296 Directed Dissertation Research 1 - 13 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2022, Spring 2022, Fall 2021

Open to qualified students who have been advanced to candidacy for the Ph.D. degree and are directly engaged in doctoral dissertation research. Directed Dissertation Research: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Advancement to Ph.D. candidacy

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1-8 hours of independent study per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 2.5-20 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: African American Studies/Graduate

Grading: Offered for satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade only.

Directed Dissertation Research: Read Less [-]

AFRICAM 298 Master's Examination Preparation Course 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2020, Spring 2019, Spring 2017

This class is designed to prepare second year graduate students for the spring Master's Examination in African Diaspora Studies. Basing our syllabus upon the established reading list, we will meet weekly to discuss individual texts, methods of interpreting and critiquing works across disciplines, strategies for reading, studying, and ultimately taking the exam itself.

Master's Examination Preparation Course: Read More [+]

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 4 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: African American Studies/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Master's Examination Preparation Course: Read Less [-]

AFRICAM 299 Individual Study or Research 1 - 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2022, Summer 2022 First 6 Week Session, Fall 2021
Individual study or research program to be worked out with sponsoring faculty before approval by department chair. Regular meetings arranged with faculty sponsor.

Individual Study or Research: [Read More](#) [+]

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Consent of instructor

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1-4 hours of independent study per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 2.5-10 hours of independent study per week

10 weeks - 1.5-6 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: African American Studies/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Individual Study or Research: [Read Less](#) [-]

AFRICAM C375 Critical Pedagogy: Instructor Training 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2022, Fall 2020, Fall 2019

The seminar provides a systemic approach to theories and practices of critical pedagogy at the university level. Examines the arts of teaching and learning and current disciplinary and cross-disciplinary issues in African/diaspora and Ethnic Studies. Participation two hours per week as practicum in 39, "Introduction to the University: African American Perspectives" is mandatory. The course is required for students expecting to serve as graduate student instructors in the department.

Critical Pedagogy: Instructor Training: [Read More](#) [+]

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: African American Studies/Professional course for teachers or prospective teachers

Grading: Letter grade.

Formerly known as: Ethnic Studies Graduate Group C375/African American Studies C375

Also listed as: ETH STD C375

Critical Pedagogy: Instructor Training: [Read Less](#) [-]

AFRICAM 601 Individual Study for Master's Students 1 - 8 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2022, Spring 2021, Spring 2020

Individual study for the master's requirements in consultation with the adviser. Units may not be used to meet either unit or residency requirements for the master's degree.

Individual Study for Master's Students: [Read More](#) [+]

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Consent of instructor

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 0-0 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: African American Studies/Graduate examination preparation

Grading: Offered for satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade only.

Individual Study for Master's Students: [Read Less](#) [-]

AFRICAM 602 Individual Study for Doctoral Students 2 - 12 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2022, Spring 2022, Fall 2021

Individual study, in consultation with group faculty, to prepare students for the doctoral oral examinations. A student will be permitted to accumulate a maximum of 8 units toward examination preparation. Units earned in this course may not be used to meet academic residence or unit requirements for the master's or doctoral degree.

Individual Study for Doctoral Students: [Read More](#) [+]

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: 201A-201B

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2-8 hours of independent study per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 5-20 hours of independent study per week

8 weeks - 3.5-15 hours of independent study per week

10 weeks - 3-12 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: African American Studies/Graduate examination preparation

Grading: Offered for satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade only.

Individual Study for Doctoral Students: [Read Less](#) [-]