# The University of Miami Africana Studies Program



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Interdisciplinary Studies

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# **Africana Studies**

The interdisciplinary program in Africana Studies is a flexible one that provides opportunities for students to learn about continental Africa and the experiences of people of African descent in the Black Atlantic societies of North America, the Caribbean and Latin America. Africana Studies courses explore the multifaceted political, economic, social, and cultural traditions of Africans and peoples of African descent. The program prepares students for admission to Graduate school or for careers in Journalism, Education, Law, International Relations, and Politics among several others.

## **Curriculum**

#### MAJOR in Africana Studies (ten courses-30 credits)

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Africana Studies majors must complete the following core courses:

- AAS 150: Introduction to Africana Studies
- AAS 490: Senior Seminar in Africana Studies
- HIS 201: History of Africa I (to 1800)
- HIS 209: African-American History to 1877 OR
- HIS 210: African-American History since 1877 One course in Caribbean Studies:
- ENG 361: Caribbean Literature
- ENG 374: Caribbean Women Writers
- APY 385: Caribbean Cultures
- GEG 212 Middle America and the Caribbean
- HIS 318: Modern Caribbean History

The remaining courses must be selected from the list of acceptable course Program. Twelve of the 30 credits must be completed at the 300 level or a better with an overall GPA is required in each course taken for the major.

#### **MINOR in Africana Studies** (five courses-15 credits)

Africana Studies minors must complete AAS 150.

Africana Studies minors must complete either HIS 201 or HIS 209.

The remaining courses must be selected from the list of acceptable courses approved by the program.

A minimum of six credits must be numbered 300 or higher.

A grade of C or better with an overall GPA of 2.0 is required in each course taken for the minor.





#### AAS 150: Introduction to Africana Studies Section: H MW 3:35pm-4:50pm Section: O TR 9:30am-10:45am Instructor: Dan Castillo

The course is designed to provide introductory instruction and engage students in an analysis of the Black experience in the Atlantic basin. It examines Africana Studies as a discipline that emerged as part of the 1960s Civil Rights struggle that paved the way for the recognition of the contribution of African Americans to the development of the United States in particular and world civilization in general. The course takes a look at Africa, the birthplace of humanity and the ancestral home of people of African descent, and highlights some of the major political units that emerged in Africa before the forced migration of Africans to the Americas, the Caribbean, Europe and other parts of the world. The next segment of the course focuses attention to the role of African Americans in the independence struggle in America, the American Civil War, other important milestones in this country's history and their contribution to Americans and people of African descent elsewhere for civil and political rights. Some of the leaders who led the struggle in the United States constitute the focal point of the discussion of this segment. All in the all, we are interested in the "world Africans made" here in America and elsewhere in the Black Atlantic – political, economic, social and cultural.

### AAS 290: Special Topics: African American Literature Section C: MWF 10:10am-11:00am Instructor: Anthony Barthelemy Combined with ENG 260 and AMS 322

This semester we will look at some classics from the African American literary canon that are still provocative and relevant today. Issues to be discussed include artistic and political responses to racism and racial oppression, gender and sexual identity, family and family life, economics and racial uplift. Works will include Richard Wright's 12 Million Black Voices, Frederick Douglass' Narrative of the Life of an American Slave, Nella Larson's Passing, Ernest Gaines' A Lesson Before Dying, Lorraine Hansberry's A Raisin in the Sun, August Wilson's Fences, and selected poems of Langston Hughes and Gwendolyn Brooks.

#### AAS 290: Special Topics: Black Lives Matter Section P: TR 11:00am-12:15pm Instructor: Jafari Allen

This course will engage the emerging Black Lives Matter Movement as an extension of the Civil Rights Movement. Students will be introduced to a host of theorists, activists, and artists who critique not only white supremacist ideology and systems of power but also the ways in which blacks and oppressed groups unconsciously reinforce status quo power relations. Upon completion of the course students will have a grasp of the politics-social, cultural, and economic-that inform the Black Lives Matter and its historical antecedents.

#### AAS 290: Special Topics: Caribbean History Section 317-P: TR 11:00am-12:15pm Instructor: Katherine Ramsey

#### Combined with HIS 317

This course will introduce students to major topics, debates, and themes in Caribbean history from the fifteenth to the early nineteenth centuries. Areas of focus will include the dynamics of fifteenth-century Amerindian societies; the Columbian "encounter" and Spanish conquest of the Caribbean; piracy in the Spanish Caribbean by the British, French, and Dutch; the establishment by those powers of permanent colonial settlements in the region and the institution of the plantation complex based on the production of sugarcane through the labor of enslaved Africans. We will closely examine histories of slave resistance and rebellion, focusing in particular on the revolt in the French colony of Saint-Domingue that in 1804 culminated in the founding of Haiti, the second independent nation in the Western hemisphere after the United States. We will explore the shifting ways in which the Caribbean to larger world histories of colonialism, capitalism, slavery and emancipation, migration, religious transformation, republicanism, and nation-state formation — in short to the making of the modern world. The class will visit the UM Libraries Cuban Heritage Collection and Special Collections to examine and discuss archival resources connected to our studies.

AAS 390: Special Topics: The Black Ghetto Section O: TR 9:30am-10:45am Instructor: Marvin Dawkins Combined with SOC 388 and AMS 330

This course examines the origin and evolution of the "ghetto" as a concept and the social and historical significance of the ghetto in understanding the development of black community life in urban America.

#### AAS 390: Gender, Race and Class Section S: TR 3:30pm-4:45pm Instructor: Sumita Dutt Combined with WGS 315

This course interrogates common sense thinking about gender, race and class drawing on readings, documentaries, blogs, memoirs and fiction from the social sciences and humanities. We will explore the ways in which intersections of gender, race, and class shape society and the lived experiences of individuals and groups within it. The focus of such critical readings will be the United States and its institutions such as family, education, economy, public policy, and the media. We will analyze how these categories intersect, as well as create inequities and build solidarities and resistance movements for change over historical time and in specific cultural contexts. Class readings, lectures and discussions will be from an intersectional and multidisciplinary perspective.

### AAS 390: Soul-Sista Food Section S1: TR 3:30pm-4:45pm Instructor: Rachel Panton

# Combined with ENG 306, WGS 350, and AMS 334

Upon entry into the U.S., black slave women introduced their African foodways into American culture as evidenced by the Gullah Geechee culture in the Carolinas. At the same time, slave women who were sold further inland lost much of their indigenous foodways and were forced to make do with the scraps (hog maws, fatback, pig ears, pig feet, chitterlings, etc.) from their owners. In both cases, black slave women were central to the survival of black communities whether they were cooking in the kitchen in the big house, growing their own crops, controlling the poultry market, or prescribing herbs and tonics for healing through rootwork. Today, many Black women face high numbers of diabetes, hypertension, cancer and a host of other diseases, which many blame on a post-slave diet or a loss of indigenous cuisine. Through slave narratives, academic articles, and contemporary commercial memoirs we will trace the culinary agency of black women and examine our current state of affairs.

#### AAS 490: Special Topics: Re-Imagining Haiti Studies Section P: TR 11:00am-12:15pm Instructor: Patricia Saunders *Combined with ENG 490*

This course will ask students to consider the myriad ways Haiti has been represented in the literary and cultural imaginations of writers, visual artists, politicians, doctors, tourists and visitors alike. Beginning with literary representations of the Haitian Revolution by Latin and African American writers, we will consider the extent to which this historical event transformed debates about democracy and freedom in the 19th and 20th centuries. We will also considerpolitical unrest in Haiti has been reproduced in popular American horror films and French films as well. Finally, we will also examine the works of contemporary Haitian writers who are constructing their versions/visions of Haiti from Miami, Montreal and other parts of the diaspora, particularly in the face of the devastating earthquake that struck Haiti in 2010.

#### AAS 490: Special Topics: Race, Ethnicity and Criminal Justice Section P1: TR 11:00am-12:15pm Instructor: Amie Nielsen Combined with SOC 487

Discussion of race and ethnicity, crime and justice. Examination and evaluation of theory, research and the justice system.