

# AFRICANA STUDIES

## College of Arts and Humanities

Department of Africana Studies (<https://www.csudh.edu/africana/>)

## Program Description

The Department of Africana Studies in the College of Arts and Humanities offers a major and a minor in Africana Studies. Africana Studies is primarily a peoples-and culture-based discipline that investigates Africana peoples' experiences. These experiences range from earliest human civilizations through the tragic era of enslavement, colonization, to the forced migration and displacement of African peoples. The intellectual framework that sets Africana Studies apart from other disciplines is that it explores the subject area from the perspective of Africana peoples' interests, aspirations, possibilities, and envisioned destinies. The foundation of the discipline rests on an understanding and appreciation of African peoples' worldview and philosophy of life as the starting point for all Africana intellectual inquiry. The BA degree and minor program offered by the department emphasize an examination of the theoretical and empirical characteristics of the African world experience from both a contemporary and historical perspective.

## Features

A Bachelor of Arts degree and minor in Africana Studies provide a solid factual and conceptual foundation of the history and the development of the African people and their societies. Students are encouraged to participate in practical learning by serving in internships or practicums in Africana communities locally, nationally, and internationally. In addition, students are encouraged to work concurrently with other disciplines in the College of Arts and Humanities, College of Natural and Behavioral Sciences, College of Business Administration and Public Policy, College of Education, and the College of Health, Human Services, and Nursing.

## Academic Advisement

All majors and minor students in Africana Studies are to have a faculty advisor. Students may either select an advisor or have one assigned to them. It is important that students work closely with an advisor in planning their academic programs because some required courses are offered on a one- or two-year rotational basis. Transfer students should see an advisor before registering for any classes to determine if a prior course may fulfill a requirement in the major.

## Preparation

High School students planning to major in Africana Studies at California State University, Dominguez Hills should have acquired written and oral communication as well as computational skills.

## Opportunities to Study Abroad

The Department of Africana Studies provides students with the opportunity to study abroad, especially in Africa, the Caribbean, and South America. Please see the Department Chair for information. Languages There are no language requirements for Africana Studies degree programs. However, students are encouraged to study one or more of the African languages, and/or French, Spanish, and Portuguese.

## Graduation With Honors

An undergraduate student may be a candidate for graduation with Honors in Africana Studies provided he or she meets the following criteria:

1. A minimum of 36 units in residence at CSU Dominguez Hills;
2. A minimum grade point average of 3.5 in all courses used to satisfy the requirements in the major;
3. Four upper division courses, including AFS 490 Seminar in Africana Studies, taken in the Department of Africana Studies;

## Student Organization

The Department is the primary supporter of the Pan African Union and the Organization of Africana Studies. It is an organizational member of the National Council for Black Studies. The Department also supports other Africana Student Organizations on campus.

## Scholarships and Career Possibilities

The Africana Studies Department offers **scholarships** a number of scholarships through the generous support of our donors including:

**The Dr. William A. Little Memorial Scholarship** - Open to all students with at least 6 units in Africana Studies and minimum 3.0 grade point average. Named in honor of the late Dr. William A. Little, Founding Faculty Member and Chair of the CSUDH Africana Studies Department (\$1000)

**The Charles and Beverly Cook Scholarship for Best Research Paper in Africana Studies** - Given to the best research paper on the Africana diaspora experience (creative writing and poetry submissions are not eligible). Named in honor of the late Charles and Beverly Cook, former publishers of the LA Watts Times Newspaper (\$1000)

**Fannie Lou Hamer Queen Mother Society Scholarships** - Varies by amount. Given based on academic performance and financial need by the CSUDH Africana Studies Fannie Lou Hamer Queen Mother Society.

### Career Possibilities

Those with an Africana Studies background are employed in a wide range of careers, such as counseling, social work, international consulting, Foreign Service, public relations, educational administration, media, management, urban planning, librarianship, law, and law enforcement. The Department of Africana Studies provides undergraduate training for students interested in developing careers in teaching, academic research, international relations, and community development. Often graduate work is required in certain job categories.

## Undergraduate Programs

### Bachelor

- Africana Studies, Bachelor of Arts (<https://catalog.csudh.edu/academics/africana-studies/africana-studies-ba/>)

### Minor

- Africana Studies, Minor (<https://catalog.csudh.edu/academics/africana-studies/africana-studies-minor/>)

## Faculty

Salim Faraji, Department Chair  
Justin Gammage, Bwesigye Mwesigire  
Department Office: LCH A338, (310) 243-3420

## Emeritus Faculty

Munashe Furusa, William A. Little

## Courses

### **AFS 100. The African American Experience. (3 Units)**

Examines the historical and contemporary manifestations of the sacred and secular continuum in African Diaspora Arts and Religion. Will study examples of music, dance, drama, literature and visual arts expressions of religion and theological values.

Offered Fall, Spring

### **AFS 200. Intro to Africana Studies. (3 Units)**

An introduction to the discipline of Africana Studies. An overview of the philosophical underpinnings, evolution, theories and concepts, and practical applications of the disciplines; and the African-centered, holistic method of studying the African world.

Offered Fall, Spring

### **AFS 201. African World Civilizations. (3 Units)**

Students study African civilization from antiquity to the present. The course explores African civilizations interaction with and contribution to world civilizations like Greek, Asian, European and American civilizations.

Offered Fall, Spring

### **AFS 205. Introduction to Hip Hop. (3 Units)**

Hip Hop, the music and lifestyle, is rooted in African American urban life in the middle 1970's on the streets of New York City. This course will critically explore the evolution of Hip Hop as a socio-cultural political movement. This course is restricted to 1st time Freshman going through the First Year Experience. Offered Spring term only.

Offered All terms, Fall, Spring

### **AFS 212. Intro To Comp Eth & Global Soc. (3 Units)**

Explores the lived experiences of the Ethnic/Global communities in the U.S. and their places of origin. The course will examine the socio-cultural dynamics in, Africana Asian-Pacific and Chicano/Latino communities.

Offered Fall, Summer

### **AFS 220. African World Peoples & Soc.. (3 Units)**

This course provides students with an overview of the geographical, historical, and cultural foundations of African world peoples and societies.

Offered Fall, Spring

### **AFS 231. Africana Literary Traditions. (3 Units)**

The course examines literary traditions developed by people of African descent who reside in Africa as well as throughout the world.

Offered Fall

### **AFS 241. His Afr World People:1450-1888. (3 Units)**

Examination of the history of African people throughout the world from 1450-1888. Identifies African migration, national culture, and political divisions. Examines the dynamics of the Transatlantic Slave Trade, and surveys the territorial dispersal of African people around the globe, their links and metamorphoses.

Offered Infrequent

### **AFS 242. His of Afrn People:1888-present. (3 Units)**

An examination of the history of African world peoples from 1888 with the end of slavery in Brazil to the present. The dynamics of apartheid and colonialism, nationalism, civil rights and liberation movements are central themes.

Offered Infrequent

### **AFS 295. Special Topics. (3 Units)**

An examination of a specific topic and/or subject area of Africana Studies. Repeatable for credit. Topic will be announced in Schedule of Classes.

Offered As needed

### **AFS 301. Africana Msc thgh 19th C.. (3 Units)**

Prerequisite: AFS 200 and AFS 220. Africana music course designed to introduce the music and musicians of Africa and the African Diaspora culture, establishing the African foundation of the musical practices and exploring early developments in the Diaspora with special focus upon developments in all parts of the Americas from 1619 to 1888.

Offered As needed

### **AFS 305. Theories and Approaches in AFS. (3 Units)**

Prerequisite: AFS 200. An introduction to the theories and approaches utilized by Africana Studies scholars. Focus is on the intellectual approaches to the study of African peoples from the perspective of Africana cultural imperative.

Offered Fall

### **AFS 306. Research Methods in AFS. (3 Units)**

Prerequisite: AFS 200. Introduces students to intellectual debates in research methods in Africana Studies. It focuses on the applicability and relevance of different methods of acquiring, interpreting and presenting Africana knowledge systems.

Offered Spring

### **AFS 307. Research Methods, Theories, and Approaches in African Studies. (3 Units)**

Prerequisites: AFS 200 or permission from instructor. Introduces students to intellectual debates in research methods, theories, and approaches in Africana Studies. Focuses on applicability and relevance of different methods of acquiring, interpreting and presenting Africana knowledge systems.

Offered Fall

### **AFS 310. The African American Experience in the US. (3 Units)**

Analyzes the social, political and cultural environment of African Americans in the U.S. Course examines the influence of race on African Americans' social and historical development. Course focuses on modes in which African Americans establish and maintain its cultural space.

Offered Fall, Spring, Summer

### **AFS 311. Afro Latinidad & the Caribbean. (3 Units)**

Explores the politics of globalization on Africana Communities over time. Focuses on how Africana communities have constructed new space in the Western Hemisphere. Emphasizes the impact of race, class and ethnicity on Africana community's development in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Offered Fall, Spring

### **AFS 312. Cultural Pluralism: Ethnic & Global Society. (3 Units)**

Prerequisites: ENG 111, AFS 201 and AFS 220 or consent of Department Chair. In consultation with an Africana Studies faculty, student undertakes a major project such as the following: original research and thesis on a given African world historical or theoretical topic; a creative project such as an original musical composition, art work or performance with supporting scholarly program notes.

Offered Fall, Spring

**AFS 330. Africana Lit. & Culture. (3 Units)**

Prerequisite: AFS 231. Survey course that introduces students to both Africana literature and culture. Provides students with an opportunity to study and appreciate major Africana political, cultural and historical issues and experiences through the lenses of Africana literature. Offered Spring

**AFS 331. Key Movements: African Literature and Culture. (3 Units)**

Survey course that introduces students to both African literature and culture. Provides students with an opportunity to study and appreciate major African political, cultural, and historical issues and experiences through the lenses of African literature. Offered Fall, Spring

**AFS 332. Key Movements: Harlem Renaissance. (3 Units)**

Explores the artistic productions of key figures, scholarly works analyzing significant events and films of the time. Focuses on works examining race, culture, and social issues pertinent to people of African descent. Explores how the Harlem Renaissance influenced later movements. Offered Fall, Spring, Summer

**AFS 333. Black Movements of the Sixties. (3 Units)**

Explores the dismantling of the overt practice of segregation by exploring the roles of the Civil Rights Movement and the Black Power Movement, as well as the literature, art and music which contributed to their vitality. Offered Fall, Spring

**AFS 334. African Culture and Art. (3 Units)**

Examines the historical and contemporary manifestations of the sacred and secular continuum in African Diaspora Arts and Religion. Will study examples of music, dance, drama, literature and visual arts expressions of religion and theological values. Offered Fall, Summer

**AFS 340. Africana Womanhood. (3 Units)**

Examines the economic, political and social position of Africana women in the global diaspora by analyzing the legal apparatuses, historical context and present-day realities of racism, sexism, class oppression and homophobia that impacts Africana women's daily lives. Offered Fall, Spring

**AFS 395. Spec Topics in Africana Stud. (3 Units)**

Prerequisites: Consent of instructor. Intensive study of a single period, figure, movement, or idea in African world history/culture. Course repeatable for credit. Topics will be announced in Schedule of Classes. Offered Infrequent

**AFS 396. Practicum in Africana Studies. (3 Units)**

Prerequisites: Consent of instructor. Supervised work experience in an African or African diaspora community with emphasis upon social and economic development in a local, national and/or international setting. Supervision emphasizes training and application of practical and technical skills. Students will be placed in settings suitable to their academic specialization. CR/NC grading. Repeatable courses. One hour of tutorial per week is required with instructor. Offered Infrequent

**AFS 423. Africana Leaders Seminar. (3 Units)**

Prerequisite: AFS 200 is recommended. An examination of the life and times of important Africana leaders and their legacies to the African world. Emphasis will be on the major competing trends in the interpretations of the leaders's legacies and the interests that shape these trends. Three hours of seminar per week. Offered Fall

**AFS 424. Africana Political Thought. (3 Units)**

Prerequisite: AFS 220 is recommended. Examines political opinions and ideas of Africana thinkers and leaders. Interrogates Africana political leaders and thinkers understanding and interpretation of the political dynamics in the African world. Offered Spring

**AFS 490. Seminar in Africana Studies. (3 Units)**

Prerequisites: Completion of GWAR and consent of instructor. An integrative seminar serving as a capstone to the major in Africana Studies. A research report will be required. Additionally, other creative projects may be assigned in areas such as art, music composition and performance. Three hours of seminar per week. Offered Spring

**AFS 494. Independent Study. (1-3 Units)**

Prerequisites: Consent of the instructor. Independent study of particular topics in Africana Studies under the direction of a member of the Africana Studies faculty. Repeatable course. Offered As needed

**AFS 495. Special Topics in Africana St. (3 Units)**

Prerequisite: Consent of instructor. Intensive study of an issue, concept or theme in Africana Studies. May be taken for credit only once for the major. Repeatable course. Offered As needed

**AFS 496. Internship. (3 Units)**

Prerequisite: Consent of instructor. Under the direction of the internship faculty associate, students work in an African diaspora community applying skills and knowledge learned in the classroom, as well as the workplace. Repeatable course. Offered Fall, Spring

**AFS 497. Directed Reading. (1-3 Units)**

Prerequisite: Consent of instructor. Directed readings on a particular Africana Studies topic or subject area under the direction of a member of the Africana Studies faculty. Repeatable course. Offered Fall, Spring

**AFS 498. Directed Research. (1-3 Units)**

Prerequisite: Consent of instructor. Introduces students to intellectual debates on research methods in Africana Studies. Focuses on selected articles that discuss different methods of acquiring, interpreting and presenting Africana knowledge. Repeatable course. Offered Fall, Spring

**AFS 499. Senior Project. (3 Units)**

Critical analysis of Asian and Pacific Islander American artists and their creative expression in music, television, film, and on the internet. Examines issues of stereotyping and exclusion in Hollywood as well as empowerment through artistic expression and community engagement. GE F1 Offered As needed

**AFS 590. Afr Amer Lit & Pol Thought. (3 Units)**

Offered As needed

**AFS 594. Independent Study. (1-4 Units)**

Prerequisites: Consent of Department Chair. Independent investigation of a research problem or directed readings in a selected area of Africana Studies. Offered As needed

**AFS 595. Special Topics:. (3 Units)**

Prerequisite: AFS 201 is recommended. An intensive study of a concept, movement, school of thought, or individual within the discipline of Africana Studies. Intended for students with senior or graduate standing. Specific topic listed in Class Schedule. Repeatable course. Three hours of seminar per week.

Offered As needed

**AFS 596. Pract in Teach Africana Stdy. (1-4 Units)**

Offered As needed

**AFS 597. Graduate Directed Reading. (1-4 Units)**

Prerequisite: Consent of instructor and classified graduate standing.

Extensive reading in selected areas under the guidance of a faculty mentor. Repeatable course.

Offered As needed

**AFS 598. Graduate Directed Research. (1-4 Units)**

Independent research under direction of supervising faculty member in Africana Studies. Repeatable for credit for a maximum of six units.

Offered As needed

**AFS 599. Final Project. (1-4 Units)**

In consultation with a faculty member, writing of a master's thesis or completion of a project. Choice of area requires prior consent of advisor. Repeatable course.

Offered As needed

**AFS 600. Graduate Continuation Course. (1 Units)**

Graduate students who have completed their course work but not their thesis, project, or comprehensive examinations, or who have other requirements remaining for the completion of their degree, may maintain continuous attendance by enrolling in this course. Signature of graduate program coordinator required.

Offered As needed