

Africana Studies

Office: Delany 125

718-997-2845

Major Offered: Africana Studies (State Education Code 26461)

The program offers a structured body of courses leading to a major or a minor in Africana Studies. It is designed to provide knowledge of the civilization, history, literature, culture, and institutions of the peoples of Africa, as well as the peoples of African descent in the Caribbean and North America. Offerings consist of courses generic to Africana Studies as a whole as well as the following concentrations: Africa, the Caribbean, and the African-American experience.

Africana Studies should be of special interest to students who have either a cultural or professional interest in the African, African-Caribbean, or African-American experience. It should also be of interest to students who seek to understand a culture or civilization other than their own. It provides the background for graduate work in African, Caribbean, or African-American Studies, and may lead to careers in education, community organization and development, social work, business, media, and international service. Because the program draws from several disciplines, it is an excellent choice for a second major or a minor.

THE MAJOR

Students who intend to major in Africana Studies must consult the director and file a concentration form before enrolling in AFST 102 or 201. See the box on this page for the requirements for the major and minor.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR IN AFRICANA STUDIES (MAJOR CODE AFST-BA)

Students who major in Africana Studies must take a total of 36 credits as follows:

Required Core Courses (21 credits)

AFST 101, 102 or 201/201W, 232/232W or 234/234W, 300/300W; HIST 277 or 278; PSCI 277 or 278; SOC 271, 272, or 273.

Electives (9 credits)

Three courses in one of the following concentrations, provided they have not been taken to fulfill the required core:

1. Africa (Concentration code 00A): AFST 102, 201/201W, and 234/234W; HIST 111; ANTH 211; SOC 273.
2. The Caribbean (Concentration code 00B): AFST 232/232W; HIST 243/243W; LALS 203, 204, 208; SOC 261 and 274; SPST 94.
3. African-American (Concentration code 00C): AFST 102, 201, 202, 234/234W; DRAM 206, 248; ECON 219; ENGL 354 and 355; HIST 277 and 278; SOC 211, 271, and 272.

COURSES

AFST 101. Survey of African Civilization I. 3 hr.; 3 cr. An interdisciplinary survey of African civilization from the earliest times to the sixteenth century. The course will focus on the origins and development of civilization in Africa (Egyptian, Sudanic, Ethiopic, Malian, Ghanaian, Songhai, Zimbabwean, etc.).

AFST 102. Survey of African Civilization II. 3 hr.; 3 cr. An interdisciplinary survey of African civilization from the sixteenth century to the present. The course will focus on the impact upon African civilization, culture, politics, and society of European expansion and colonialism in Africa.

Two courses (6 credits) must be selected from those above that have not already been chosen, or from ANTH 233, ETHST 310, or MUSIC 5, 239, 240. Consult the director for other courses that may satisfy elective credit for the major.

In addition, students must take three semesters of Arabic, French, Italian, Portuguese, or Spanish or pass a proficiency examination in an African language equivalent to the intermediate level. Students who have satisfied the college's foreign language requirement in any of these languages do not have to take another language.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MINOR IN AFRICANA STUDIES (MINOR CODE AFST-MIN)

Students who minor in Africana Studies must take a minimum of 21 credits from the offerings listed in the program. At least 12 of these credits must be in the required core curriculum noted above.

Note: Core courses may not be used as electives.

AFST 201, 201W. Introduction to Black Cultures. 3 hr.; 3 cr. Prereq.: ENGL 110. The course will focus on the concept of culture as it relates to specific cultures in West Africa, the Caribbean, and the United States.

AFST 202. The Black Urban Experience. 3 hr.; 3 cr. Prereq.: AFST 101 and 102, or permission of the instructor. An interdisciplinary study of the experience of black Americans in urban areas from World War I to the present. Special attention will be given to the effect of economic, political, and social factors on the black community and its institutions.

AFST 232, 232W. Caribbean Literature. 3 hr.; 3 cr. Prereq.: ENGL 110; sophomore standing or permission of the instructor. This course will examine how major writers of the Caribbean address questions of cultural and national identity in their poetry, fiction, essays, and drama.

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AFST 234, 234W. Black Women Writers.

3 hr.; 3 cr. Prereq.: ENGL 110; sophomore standing or permission of the instructor. This comparative study of women writers from Africa, the Caribbean, and the United States will examine the ways in which these writers re-envision history and challenge traditional conceptions of gender, race, and class.

AFST 300, 300W. Seminar in Africana Studies.

3 hr.; 3 cr. Prereq.: ENGL 110; junior standing and permission of the instructor. Topics to be announced.

Joint Offerings

Students may also plan a joint program in Africana Studies and either anthropology, economics, education, history, linguistics, political science, sociology, or urban studies. Students must take 24 credits of required courses in Africana Studies and 24 credits in the other department. Six of the 24 credits in the other department must be related to Africana Studies. See the appropriate department listing for credit information, description, and course scheduling.

Community Service Program

Africana Studies involves its students in a program of meaningful service to the black community of Queens in the context of a fieldwork course.