

# AFRICANA STUDIES

College of Liberal Arts

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Students desiring information should contact the department office for referral or the faculty advisor.

## Career Possibilities

Social Scientist • Social Worker • Counselor • Teacher  
• Archivist • Journalist • Public Relations Consultant  
• Community Organizer • Recreation • Law • School  
Administrator • Linguist • Parole Officer • Probation Officer  
• Editor • Writer • Urban/Regional Planner • Public Policy  
Administrator • Foreign Policy Officer • Researcher (Some  
of these, and other careers, require additional education or  
experience. For more information, see [www.careers.csulb.edu](http://www.careers.csulb.edu).)

## Introduction

The discipline of Africana Studies focuses on the critical study of African Americans, Continental Africans, Afro-Caribbeans and Afro-Latinos, but also allows for study of African peoples in Asia and Europe. It emphasizes an interdisciplinary and multicultural approach to teaching.

The Africana Studies Department encourages students to take advantage of opportunities to do service learning and internships, and study abroad. The Department encourages and supports faculty/student collaboration in conferences, forums, field trips and joint research and writing projects.

The subspecialties of the disciplines of Africana Studies include: Africana theory and philosophy; Africana women's studies; African American historical studies; and Continental African studies.

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## Undergraduate Programs

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### Bachelor of Arts in Africana Studies (120 units)

#### Requirements

A minimum of 39 units is required for the major in Africana Studies; 12 lower division and 27 upper-division units. The distribution of courses within Africana Studies affords the students the opportunity for in-depth exploration of African American Studies, in Continental African Studies or a combination of the two, as well as other Diasporan studies, e.g., Caribbean basin.  
Lower Division (12 units)

Take the following course:

AFRS 110 Introduction to Africana Studies (3)  
Prerequisite/Corequisite: One GE Foundation course.

Take one of the following:

AFRS 120 African American History to 1865 (3)  
Prerequisite/Corequisite: One GE Foundation course.

AFRS 121 African American Hist 1865-Present (3)  
Prerequisite/Corequisite: One GE Foundation course.

Take 6 units electives, select one course from the following groups:

Group A (Social Science):

AFRS 115, 120, 150, 154, 200, 201, 210

Group B (Humanities):

AFRS 140, 155, 160, 170A, 170B, 180, 205, 240, 255

Upper-division Core (27 units):

Take all of the following courses:

AFRS 330 Politics of the African American Community (3)  
Prerequisites: AFRS 110 and 121.

AFRS 335 Economic Development in the African American Community (3)  
Prerequisites: AFRS 110 and 121.

AFRS 495 Research Methods in Africana Studies (3)  
Prerequisites: AFRS 110 and 6 units upper-division work in Africana Studies. For Department majors.

Take one of the following:

AFRS 332 Civil Rights and the Law (3)  
Prerequisite: GE Foundation requirements.

AFRS 354 African American Women and the Civil Rights Movement (3)  
Prerequisite: GE Foundation requirements.

Take electives (15 units), one or more selected from the following groups:

Group A (Social Sciences):

AFRS 304; 310, 319, 325, 331, 332, 337, 345, 404, 410, 430

Group B (Humanities):

AFRS 343A, 343B, 346, 353, 363, 370, 415

Group C (Theory):

AFRS 380, 400, 454, 460, 475, 498

## Certificate in Africana Studies

Students majoring in other departments of the University but interested in Africana Studies may concurrently pursue this certificate. Courses used to meet the certificate requirement may, where applicable, also be used simultaneously to meet General Education requirements or the major and minor requirements of cooperating departments.

#### Requirements

1. A major in another academic discipline. Certificate can be completed prior to or simultaneously with completion of the B.A. requirement.
2. A minimum of 24 units of which at least 12 must be in upper-division courses, with two or more courses selected from each of the following:

Group A: AFRS 110, 154, 210, 325, 330, 332, 335, 370, 420

Group B: AFRS 160, 343A, 346, 363, 450

Group C: AFRS 120, 121, 200, 201, 304, 330, 337, 354, 400, 410, 454

## Minor in Africana Studies

### Requirements

The Minor in Africana Studies is open to any non-Africana Studies majors.

The Minor in Africana Studies requires a minimum of 24 units of which at least 12 units must be in upper-division courses.

Take two or more courses from each of the following:

Group A: AFRS 120, 121, 154, 200, 201, 210, 304, 310, 325, 330, 332, 335, 354, 370, 400, 404, 410, 420, 430

Group B: AFRS 140, 155, 160, 180, 205, 255, 337, 343A, 343B, 346, 353, 363, 370, 415, 450, 454, 475, 498I

Take the following core course:

AFRS 110 Introduction to Africana Studies (3)

Prerequisite/Corequisite: One GE Foundation course.

AFRS 495 Research Methods in Africana Studies (3)

Prerequisites: AFRS 110 and 6 units upper-division work in Africana Studies. For Department majors.

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## Africana Studies Courses (AFRS)

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### LOWER DIVISION

#### 100. Composition II (3)

Prerequisite: Students who score 147 or above on the English Placement Test, are exempt from the EPT, have credit in AFRS 100S (or its equivalent), or consent of the instructor.

Composition II does not count toward meeting the major requirements. It does count toward graduation and will be included in the overall GPA.

Expository writing course designed for first-year students. Satisfies one of the writing requirements for general education at CSULB. Emphasizes academic writing, focusing primarily on analytical reading and thesis-driven writing.

Same course as ENGL 100, ASAM 100, CHLS 104. Not open for credit to students with credit in: ENGL 100, ASAM 100, CHLS 104.

#### 100S. Composition I (3)

Prerequisite: Students who score 146 or below on the English Placement Test and who have not taken equivalent courses in another department are eligible for enrollment in this course.

Composition I does not count toward meeting the major requirements. It does count toward graduation and will be included in the overall GPA. Must have a "C" or better to earn credit in GE.

Basic course in writing, offering intensive practice in every stage of writing process from generating ideas to final proofreading, as well as to the developing stronger reading comprehension for specific writing tasks.

Same course as ASAM 100S, CHLS 104S, ENGL 100S. Not open for credit to students with credit in: ENGL 1, ASAM 1, AFRS 1, CHLS 1, ASAM 100S, CHLS 104S, ENGL 100S

#### 110. Introduction to Africana Studies (3)

Prerequisite/Corequisite: One GE Foundation course.

A critical survey of the major themes, issues, concepts, current research, schools of thought, theorists and scholars in the discipline of Africana Studies, as well as its historical evolution and academic rationale.

#### 115. Introduction to African Politics (3)

A review of recent developments or changes in the government, parties, political ideologies, politics, leadership and political processes in selected African countries.

#### 120. African American History to 1865 (3)

Prerequisite/Corequisite: One GE Foundation course.

Survey course on African American history with origins in African culture and civilization. Focus on the role, impact and significance of African Americans in the U.S. from the colonial period through the American Revolution, enslavement and the Civil War.

#### 121. African American History Since 1865-Present (3)

Prerequisite/Corequisite: One GE Foundation course.

Impact of social, economic and political change on African Americans after the Reconstruction period. Issues of migration, education, cultural development and business enterprises will be examined.

#### 140. Introduction to African American Literature (3)

Prerequisite/Corequisite: One GE Foundation course.

A study of selected or representative literature of the African American writer. Special attention will be given to style, content, methodology and thematic approach.

#### 150. Critical Thinking in Africana Studies (3)

Prerequisite/Corequisite: AFRS 100 or GE Composition (Area A1) or equivalent.

Introduction to the nature and process of critical thinking. Extensive practice in critical reasoning directed toward developing cognitive skills and dispositions central to its application in academic work and in the analysis and advocacy of personal perspectives and social issues.

#### 154. Introduction to Africana Women's Studies (3)

Prerequisite/Corequisite: One GE Foundation course.

Critical introduction to basic concepts, perspectives and methodology in Africana women studies, focusing on historical and contemporary continental and diasporan African women's experience, initiatives, issues, and intersections of race/class/gender within the context of their oppression, resistance and internal creative capacity.

#### 155. African American Music (3)

Prerequisite/Corequisite: One GE Foundation course.

Nontechnical survey of African American music. Some attention given to the impact of social movements on the musician and the music produced. Gospel, jazz and well-known derivatives will be highlighted.

#### 160. Introduction to Africana Arts (3)

Prerequisite/Corequisite: One GE Foundation course.

A presentation of prevailing themes, methodology, concepts and meaning in African American art. Equal time will be given to early and contemporary art. The work of some Continental African artists will be introduced as appropriate.

#### 167. Exploitation of the African American Athlete (3)

Study of the socio-dynamics of amateur, professional and collegiate sports activity in the United States as it relates to the African American community. Case studies of well-known African American athletes will also be presented.

#### 170A. Elementary Swahili (4)

Prerequisites/Corequisite: Any Foundation course.

Introduction to grammar, syntax, comprehension, reading, writing and conversation in the language. Attention will be given to cultural context throughout the course.

Letter grade only (A-F).

#### 170B. Elementary Swahili (4)

Prerequisites: AFRS 170A or equivalent competency.

A continuation of AFRS 170A. Advanced grammar, syntax, comprehension, reading, writing and conversation in the language. Letter grade only(A-F).

### **177. African American Rhetoric (3)**

Prerequisite/Corequisite: AFRS 100 or GE Composition (Area A1) or equivalent.

Principles and practice of excellent public speaking (mediu nefer) from an Afrocentric perspective including: extensive practice in preparation and presentation; developing persuasive arguments; cultivating critical and ethical thinking, listening and cultural sensitivity; audience evaluation, adaptation and engagement; and building confidence.

### **180. African American Language in America (3)**

Historical, phonological, and sociological aspects of the language of African Americans; traces early uses in Africa; linguistic development from lingua franca to pidgin and creole; linguistic symbols, terms, and analysis applied to African American English; difference versus deficit theory.

### **200. Ancient African Civilizations (3)**

Prerequisite: GE Foundation requirements.

A study of ancient African empires, kingdoms and states, including discussions of political institutions, social structures, education, cultural values, trade and international relations.

### **201. History of Slavery (3)**

Prerequisite: GE Foundation requirements.

Historical examination of trans-Atlantic slave trade and its impact on Africa and the Western Hemisphere. Nature of slavery in Africa, Greece, Italy, the Caribbean, the Middle East, South America, and the United States. Legacy of slavery.

### **205. Modern Black South African Literature (3)**

Prerequisite: GE Foundation requirements.

Study of South African literature written in English by Africans since 1800's to present. "Black" used broadly to include South Africans of mixed parentage whom the racial laws and policies of the white minority government separated, classifying them as "Coloreds."

Letter grade only (A-F).

### **210. African American Community (3)**

Prerequisites: GE Foundation requirements.

Examines the social structure and challenges in the community life of African-Americans as compared to other ethnic groups. Explore and analyze how institutional and stratified pattern, demographic changes, social movements, community organizational programs affect African-Americans. Case studies presented.

### **214. Introduction to Africana Aesthetics (3)**

Prerequisite: GE A.1 (Communication). Corequisite GE A.3 (Critical Thinking)

African Aesthetic is the philosophy of goodness, beauty and creativity informed by an African worldview. Surveys key 20th century writing on Africana aesthetics by African philosophers, such as Alain Locke, W.E.B. Dubois, Zora Neale Hurston, and Margaret Walker.

Letter grade only (A-F).

### **215. U.S. Diversity and the Ethnic Experience (3)**

Prerequisites: Open only to Integrated Teacher Education Program students.

Survey of four major ethnic groups (American Indians, African American, Latino American, and Asian American) in American society from the colonial era to the present. Special attention to the formation and transformation of each ethnic group and their individual and collective roles in the development of the United States.

Same course as AIS 215, ASAM 215, CHLS 215. Not open for credit to students with credit in AIS 215, ASAM 215, B/ST 215, CHLS 215. Departments take turns offering the course in the Fall semester. Letter grade only (A-F).

### **216. Caribbean Intellectual Thought (3)**

Prerequisite: AFRS 110.

An introduction to 20th century Caribbean intellectuals and their contributions to African American social and political thought and issues facing the African diaspora.

Letter grade only (A-F).

### **240. African and African American Folklore and Culture (3)**

An examination and presentation of material on folklore, folk tales, and folk heroes in the African American community. Some attention also given to African mythology.

### **254. Africana Womanist Religious Thought (3)**

Prerequisite: AFRS 154 or 110.

Critical survey of the major spiritual and ethical themes and concepts of Africana womanist religious thought in Christianity, Islam and African traditions of Kawaida, Ifa and Maat, including voice, Afrocentricity, claiming, naming, self-defining gender jihad, complementarity, mutual respect, and reciprocity.

Letter grade only (A-F).

### **255. Introduction to Hip Hop (3)**

Prerequisites: GE Foundation requirements.

A critical exploration of Hip Hop's history and culture, which includes analysis of its impact and influence on contemporary aesthetic culture, race relations, gender politics and struggles for social justice.

## **UPPER DIVISION**

General Education Category A must be completed prior to taking any upper-division course except upper-division language courses where students meet formal prerequisites and/or competency equivalent for advanced study.

### **304. The African Colonial Experience (3)**

Prerequisite: GE Foundation requirements.

Critical examination of colonialism as a world phenomenon focusing on colonialism in Africa as the paradigm and point of departure for a specific and comparative understanding.

### **310. African American Male and Female Relationships (3)**

A comprehensive study of male/female patterns of interaction in the African American community. Some attention given to institutional impact, role changes and projected images of relationships.

### **319. The Ethnic Experience in the U.S. (3)**

Prerequisite: GE Foundation requirements.

Comparative study of race, cultures, and ethnic relations in U.S. society with special focus on experiences of four core groups: Native Americans, African Americans, Asian Americans, and Latino Americans.

Same course as AIS 319, ASAM 319, CHLS 319, WGSS 319. Not open for credit to student with credit in AIS 319, ASAM 319, CHLS 319, WGSS 319. (Lecture/Discussion.)

### **325. Africana Psychology (3)**

Prerequisite: AFRS 110 or PSY 100

Develops the concept of Africana Psychology. Using comparative techniques, the course introduces students to common consequences in the experience of being a person of African descent, or a person of color.

### **330. Politics of the African American Community (3)**

Prerequisites: AFRS 110 and 121.

Study of the perspectives, styles, problems and dynamics of political activity in the African American Community.

### **331. African American Juvenile (3)**

Prerequisite: AFRS 210 or consent of instructor.

Critical approach to the problem of juvenile justice in the African American community.

### **332. Civil Rights and the Law (3)**

Prerequisite: GE Foundation requirements.

Designed to provide the student with a basic understanding of the interaction between the American legal system and civil rights of African Americans, other minorities, women and the general citizenry.

### **335. Economic Development in the African American Community (3)**

Prerequisites: AFRS 110 and 121.

Development of business and banking institutions in the African American community. Some attention given to the impact of external factors on development.

Letter grade only (A-F).

### **337. Cultures of African Peoples (3)**

Prerequisites: GE Foundation requirement, AFRS 200 or consent of instructor.

Critical presentation of a cultural map of African people, emphasizing geography, migration and cultural similarities.

### **343A. African Literature (3)**

Prerequisites: GE Foundation requirements and one or more Exploration courses.

A general survey of traditional and contemporary African Literature within the context of the historical, political, social, economic, and cultural movements. Also a comparison of Pan-African literature and Western literature.

### **343B. Caribbean Literature (3)**

Prerequisite: GE Foundation requirements.

A general survey of traditional and contemporary Caribbean literature within the context of the historical, political, social, economic and cultural movements. Also a comparison of Pan-African literature and Western literature.

### **345. Politics of Black Power (3)**

Systematic analysis of the Black Power movement of the 1960's, including contributions and contradictions of major organizations, leadership, and ideologies.

### **346. Africana Theatre (3)**

Prerequisites: GE Foundation requirements.

Introductory survey course of Africana theatre as a historic medium, profoundly revealing in its humanistic, literary, social and cultural heritage as it relates to Africa, America and the Caribbean. (Lecture 2 hours, activity 2 hours)

### **353. Religions of African Peoples (3)**

Prerequisites: GE Foundation requirements, one or more Exploration courses and upper-division standing.

Critical examination of selected spiritual and ethical traditions of the world African community with emphasis on Maat, Ifa, Christianity and Islam, their sacred texts and commentaries, major themes, representative figures, and comparative analyses of their continental and diaspora expressions.

### **354. African American Women and the Civil Rights Movement (3)**

Prerequisite: GE Foundation requirements.

A critical examination of vital and multiple roles African American women played in the modern civil rights movement. Emphasis on African American women's agency, activism and shared vision, and role as an essential political force in reconceiving and reshaping U.S. history.

### **363. History of African Art (3)**

Prerequisite: GE Foundation requirements.

Survey of African art from antiquity to the present as an integral part of African culture, including historical, cultural and religious contexts.

### **370. African and African American Images in the Mass Media (3)**

Prerequisite: AFRS 121

Examination of portrayal of African and African American people in mass media, past and present. Primary emphasis on newspapers, radio, films and television.

### **380. African Political Theory (3)**

Prerequisite: AFRS 115.

Examination of theorists and theories which shape African political philosophy. Special attention given to the concepts of Pan-Africanism, African socialism, Negritude and revolution.

### **381. African Americans and Party Politics (3)**

Analysis of African American participation in U.S. political party process. Special features include information on African American participation in Republican, Democratic and third-party organizations. Material and discussion on independent African American political party efforts included.

### **400. African American Social Thought (3)**

Prerequisite: GE Foundation requirements, one or more Exploration courses, and upper-division standing.

Survey of African American intellectual history, with emphasis on social theories and opposing schools of intellectual thought.

### **404. Contemporary Issues of the Africana World (3)**

Study of the shifting power and international status of the Africana world. Domestic issues, geo-politics and the diplomatic policies of selected countries will be highlighted.

### **410. The African American Family (3)**

Prerequisites: GE Foundation requirements. AFRS 325 or consent of instructor.

Systematic study and social-historical analysis of the structure and function of the African American Family in the United States. Sociological/ theoretical analysis of the models of family units, roles and interpersonal relations in society. Comparison with other family units in America.

### **415. International Africana Children's Literature (3)**

A survey of literature for and/or about African and African American children by authors from Africa, the U.S. the Caribbean and the rest of the Diaspora.

### **420. African American Children in Public Schools (3)**

Theories, concepts and principles relating to the intellectual growth, development and learning of African American children.

### **423. Issues in Psychological Assessment of African Americans (3)**

Prerequisites: candidates must have working knowledge of statistical concepts, upper-division standing in Africana Studies or consent of instructor.

Examination of issues, problems, and practices in the assessment of African American children.

### **430. African Political Leadership in the Twentieth Century (3)**

Prerequisite: GE Foundation requirements.

Critical examination of African's search for national liberation and cohesion, collectively built institutions, movements/parties and ideological self-definition. Comparative study of traditional African leadership concepts and modern forms. Focus on selected countries and major African leaders.

### **450. Africana Writers Workshop (3)**

Prerequisite: ENGL 100 or GE Composition (Area A1); AFRS 100 or GE Composition (Area A1) or equivalent.

Requires extensive writing in four major areas: poetry, drama, fiction and documentaries. It assumes that technical or grammatical problems of writing have been taken care of and focuses on themes which are Afrocentric.



**452. Crime and Justice in the African American Context (3)**

Prerequisite: AFRS 210 or 332

Study of the interrelationship between criminal behavior, race, ethnicity, class, social context and the criminal justice system.

**454. Africana Womanism: An Intellectual History (3)**

Prerequisites: GE Foundation requirements, one or more exploration courses and upper-division standing.

Historical and critical study of the major schools of thought in Africana womanism, including continental and diasporan sources, historical evolution, cultural grounding, methodology, discourse on and with feminism, enduring and current issues and its relevance and relation to social change.

**460. Continental African Thought (3)**

Prerequisite: Background knowledge of African history, culture or society highly recommended.

Analysis of philosophical, social and religious systems of thought of Africa from antiquity to the present.

**475. Racism and Sexism: An Analytical Approach (3)**

Prerequisite: AFRS 332

Examination of institutions and a study of legislation which has been written and implemented in consequence of racism and sexism in American society. Social theories used to support and reject concepts of racism and sexism will also be presented.

**490. Selected Topics in Africana Studies (3)**

Prerequisite: Consent of instructor.

Topics of current interest in Africana Studies selected for intensive development.

May be repeated to a maximum of 6 units with different topics in the same semester. Topics announced in the *Schedule of Classes*.

**495. Research Methods in Africana Studies (3)**

Prerequisites: AFRS 110 and 6 units upper-division work in Africana Studies. For Department majors.

Presents information on use of scientific methods in Africana Studies, research theory, research design, sampling, measurement and science techniques. Focuses on instrument construction as well as test reliability and validity.

Letter grade only (A-F).

**498. Ancient Egyptian Ethical Thought (3)**

Prerequisites: GE Foundation requirements, one or more Exploration courses, and upper-division standing.

Critical study of ethical thought of ancient Egypt with due attention to theological, literary and socio-historical context in which it was developed and evolved, including examination of its major ethical texts and comparative analysis with surrounding traditions.

**499. Directed Studies (1-3)**

Prerequisite: Consent of instructor.

Permits individual students to pursue topics of special research interest.

May be repeated to a maximum of 6 units.