African American Studies, Minor

Requirements for a minor may be completed at any campus location offering the specified courses for the minor. Students may not change from a campus that offers their major to a campus that does not offer their major for the purpose of completing a minor.

Program Description

The Department of African American Studies awards a minor to students who, in addition to meeting the requirements for a major, complete 18 credits in the African American Studies minor. This minor is designed for students interested in African American culture and the educational, social, political, and economic development of people of African descent in the United States. In particular, it provides students with the opportunity to explore the experiences of African Americans using theories and methods originating in the field. Students are made aware of the potential to apply such knowledge to the solution of social, political, and economic problems. The minor also promotes greater understanding of the relationship between African Americans and other ethnic groups.

What is African American Studies?

African American Studies is an intellectual field of inquiry that examines the history of people of African descent from the colonial period through the present; how systems of racial inequality are produced through state policy, traditional western scholarly disciplines, and popular discourse; and the social, political and cultural movements that black people have developed to identify and resist the unequal material and political conditions that shape black social life in the African Diaspora. The undergraduate major and minor provides a strong foundation in the key theoretical concepts in the discipline, the historical formation of African American Studies as an interdisciplinary field of study, and prepares students to apply what they have learned in the classroom, in independent research and in internships with social justice/service organizations.

You Might Like This Program If...

- You are passionate about learning more about the history, cultures, and political struggles of people of African descent in the West.
- You are interested in understanding how racism operates structurally and shapes the social experiences and life chances of black communities.
- You want to study social, cultural, and political movements throughout the African Diaspora.
- You are interested in pursuing independent research or internships with non-profit, research, and community-based organizations committed to racial equity and social justice.

Program Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Requirements for the Minor</td>
<td>18</td>
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Requirements for the Minor

A grade of C or better is required for all courses in the minor, as specified by Senate Policy 59-10 (https://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/59-00-minors-and-certificates/#59-10).

In addition, at least six credits of the minor must be unique from the prescribed courses required by a student’s major(s).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prescribed Courses</td>
<td>Require a grade of C or better</td>
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<tr>
<td>AFAM 100N</td>
<td>Black Freedom Struggles</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>AFAM/WMNST 101N</td>
<td>African American Women</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFAM 110N</td>
<td>Introduction to African American Studies</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Additional Courses</td>
<td>Require a grade of C or better</td>
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<td>Select 9 credits from the following (at least 6 credits must be at the 400 level):</td>
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- AFAM/WMNST 102       | Women of the African Diaspora                   |         |
- AFAM/SOC/WMNST 103   | Racism and Sexism                               |         |
- AFAM/INART 126N      | The Popular Arts in America: The History of Hip-Hop |         |
- AFAM/RLST 145        | African Diaspora Religions and Spiritualities   |         |
- AFAM/RLST 146        | The Life and Thought of Martin Luther King, Jr.  |         |
- AFAM/RLST 147        | The Life and Thought of Malcolm X               |         |
- AFAM/MUSIC 207N      | Jazz and the African American Experience         |         |
- AFAM/THEA 208        | Workshop: Theatre in Diverse Cultures           |         |
- AFAM/HIST 210        | Freedom’s First Generation: African American Life and Work, from the Civil War to World War II |         |
- AFAM/226N            | Critical Approaches to Hip-Hop                  |         |
- AFAM/ENGL 235        | From Folk Shouts and Songs to Hip Hop Poetry    |         |
- AFAM 401             | Afro-American Studies Seminar                   |         |
- AFAM/SOC 409         | Racial and Ethnic Inequality in America          |         |
- AFAM 410             | Spirit, Space, Survival: Contemporary Black Women |         |
- AFAM/THEA 412        | African American Theatre                        |         |
- AFAM/CAS 422         | Contemporary African American Communication     |         |
- AFAM/HIST 431        | Black Liberation and American Foreign Policy     |         |
- AFAM/ENGL 463        | African American Autobiography                  |         |
- AFAM/HIST 465        | The Post-World War II Civil Rights Movement      |         |
- AFAM/ENGL 469        | Slavery and the Literary Imagination             |         |
- COMM/WMNST 205       | Gender, Diversity and the Media                 |         |
Academic Advising

The objectives of the university's academic advising program are to help advisees identify and achieve their academic goals, to promote their intellectual discovery, and to encourage students to take advantage of both in- and out-of-class educational opportunities in order that they become self-directed learners and decision makers.

Both advisers and advisees share responsibility for making the advising relationship succeed. By encouraging their advisees to become engaged in their education, to meet their educational goals, and to develop the habit of learning, advisers assume a significant educational role. The advisee's unit of enrollment will provide each advisee with a primary academic adviser, the information needed to plan the chosen program of study, and referrals to other specialized resources.

READ SENATE POLICY 32-00: ADVISING POLICY (https://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/32-00-advising-policy/)

University Park

Liberal Arts Academic Advising
814-865-2545
Use the Liberal Arts Meet the Academic Advisers web page (https://la.psu.edu/student-services/academic-advising/meet-the-academic-advisers/) to see the contact information for the specific adviser(s) of this program

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Career Paths

Graduates in African American Studies go on to pursue a wide-range of career paths including public policy, the law, medicine, public health, social work, criminal justice, social justice advocacy, transnational human rights, community-based organizing, higher education, environmental justice, arts/entertainment, or scholarly research in the social sciences and the humanities.

Opportunities for Graduate Studies

Many students opt to pursue graduate degrees in African American Studies because they want to teach in African American Studies programs at the college or university-level, or they want to teach from a critical race theory perspective in traditional disciplines in the social sciences, humanities, law, medicine or other professional programs.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OPPORTUNITIES FOR GRADUATE STUDIES (https://afam.la.psu.edu/graduate/)

Contact

University Park

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https://www.abington.psu.edu/academics/minors-abington (https://www.abington.psu.edu/academics/minors-abington/)

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