

# THE MINOR IN AFRICAN AND AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES

## Description and objectives

This interdisciplinary, comparative, and cross-cultural unit of courses allows students to examine critically important information derived from a variety of academic disciplines included in the broad fields of African Studies and African Diaspora Studies. The minor encompasses courses that cover the histories, socio-political constructs, religions, literature, music, and philosophies of African and African-descendant peoples. Beyond the acquisition of knowledge, the minor in African and African American Studies will introduce students to methodologies for the application of their acquired knowledge through internships, research projects, and perspectives about social change.

## Requirements for the Minor in African and African American Studies

1. The minor comprises 18 semester hours (6 courses). Two of the six courses must be history courses.
2. A grade of “C” or higher is required in all minor courses.
3. Students must choose one of the following courses for the minor:  
AFAS 2319 Introduction to African and African American Studies or  
HIST 1381 Introduction to the African American Experience
4. Students select five (5) additional courses to complete the minor.

CRIJ 3316 Blacks in Criminal Justice  
HIST 2381 African American History I  
HIST 2382 African American History II  
HIST 3357 African History  
HIST 4334 Race Relations  
HIST 4336 Special Topics with African and African American content  
ENGL 2304 Introduction to African American Literature  
ENGL 4373 African American Literature  
ENGL 4353 Special Topics in Literary and Communication Arts with African and African American content  
MUSI 2301 Music of Black America and Other World Cultures  
EDUC 3303 Teacher and Student in a Multicultural Society  
PSCI 4317 African Government and Politics  
RELI 3308 Special Topics in Religion with African and African American content  
PSYC 3308 Psychology of the African American Experience  
SOCI 3319 Minority Group Relations

## COURSES IN AFRICAN AND AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES (AFAS)

### **AFAS 2319 Introduction to African & African American Studies 3 Credit Hours**

An exploration of some of the key texts, authors, ideologies, and issues in African and African American Studies from a range of disciplinary perspectives. If possible, the course will be team

taught with two or more members of the faculty leading class discussions in their areas of specialization. As the alternative, one faculty member will serve as the primary instructor and coordinate the schedules of colleagues from other disciplines to give lectures and lead discussion sessions.

**Prerequisite:** None

**Offered:** Fall/Spring

**AFAS2333 Afro-Latino Culture**

**3 Credit Hours**

This course offers a survey of the history, literature, music, art or socio-political imperatives of the populations of African descent in the Americas.

**Prerequisite:** ENGL 1301

**Offered:** Fall/Spring

**AFAS 3325 Supervised Reading and Research**

**3 Credit Hours**

Prior to enrollment, students must consult with the program coordinator to identify a topic or topics for approval and to identify the proposed instructor who will supervise and grade the student's reading and research activities.

**Prerequisite:** None

**Offered:** Yearly

**AFAS 3353 Women and Families in Africa and the Diaspora**

**3 Credit Hours**

Employing a social science or humanities-based methodology, this course examines issues relating to women and the dynamics of race and gender roles in various nations of Africa and the African Diaspora. Course themes may emphasize any of the following disciplinary perspectives, including history, political science, psychology, literature, or sociology.

**Prerequisite:** ENGL 1301

**Offered:** Fall/Every Two Years

**AFAS 3363 Topics in African and African American Studies**

**3 Credit Hours**

This series of courses provides opportunities for semester-long, in-depth study and analysis of issues, theories, personalities, and events of significance concerning Africa and the African Diaspora, its people, their challenges, and their opportunities.

**Prerequisite:** ENGL 1301

**Offered:** As Needed

**AFAS 4323 Internship**

**3 Credit Hours**

Students wishing to enroll must consult with the program coordinator for review and selection of internship positions and approval of a specific internship project.

**Prerequisite:** One of the following courses:

**Offered:** As Needed

**AFAS 2319, HIST 1381, or HIST 2382**

## **THE MINOR IN RELIGIOUS STUDIES (RELI)**

### **Description and objectives**

In this program students become familiar with a diverse range of religious phenomena. They are able to compare foundational beliefs among many religious traditions (including the Zulu religion, Hinduism, Buddhism, Taoism, Confucianism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam) about such topics as human nature, the origin of the universe, life after death, gender roles, the relation between science and religion, the relation between religion and philosophy, and the grounding of ethics. The instruction focuses on helping students develop 1) their own approach to religious diversity, 2) their own perspective on religion and spirituality, 3) an ability to interpret scripture, 4) credentials for ministry and/or further scholarship, 5) an awareness and understanding of key 21<sup>st</sup> century issues surrounding religion, such as the manner of promoting religious tolerance, the role of religion in global ethics, the ability of religion to promote environmental awareness, the