

Africana Studies Concentration Proposal

INTERDEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Dr. Abdul Imam (Psychology), Dr. Robert J. Kolesar (Mathematics and Computer Science), Dr. Gwen Kinebrew (Biology), Dr. Valentino Lassiter (Pastor-in-Residence), Dr. Climon Lee (Director, Academic Advising), Dr. Marc Lynn (Director, Center for Teaching and Learning/Management, Marketing, and Logistics), Dr. Pamela Mason (Director, Center for Global Education), Dr. Tamba Nlandu (Philosophy), Dr. Lily Phillips (English), Dr. Debby Rosenthal (English), Dr. Shirley S. Seaton (Community Liaison), Dr. Elizabeth Stiles (Political Science), Dr. Dianna Taylor (Philosophy), Dr. Sheri Young (Psychology,ASC coordinator)

RATIONALE: The complexity of categorization by race and ethnicity, as it relates to Africa and African Diaspora, has been the topic of extensive academic study as well as informal discussion. The proposed Africana Studies Concentration seeks to provide students with a focused, systematic, interdisciplinary plan to study race, ethnicity, and other multifaceted issues of the Diaspora.

As a concentration, the mission of this plan would be consistent with the mission of the University:

- The transmission and extension of the treasury of human knowledge
- To provide students with opportunity to develop, synthesize, and live a value system based on respect for and critical evaluation of fact; on intellectual, moral and spiritual principles
- To enable students to cope with new problems and prepare them to engage in responsible social action.
- Additionally, the Africana Studies Concentration would focus on the recognition of shared humanity and shared community between all people.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

- To encourage the use of interdisciplinary study when applying methodologies and insights to understanding the experiences of the people of the African Diaspora.
- To help students become proficient scholars in the history of continental Africa including nations and cultural groups of the Diaspora
- To promote the study of the histories, cultures, philosophies, economic systems, and political experiences of the Diaspora.
- To address contemporary issues and concerns, highlighting the importance of using the literature and other scholarship of the Diaspora as critical primary sources of cultural knowledge
- To extend the notion of community by placing students in communities reflective of their specialization. Placements include senior year internships in the Cleveland and Greater Cleveland Area for the African-American Cultural Studies; field placement or study abroad for the African Cultural Studies – whenever possible. For students who are unable to travel abroad, placement will be found with local agencies working toward improving the lives of people of the Diaspora (non-U.S. based populations).

CONCENTRATION REQUIREMENTS:

The concentration offers two tracks of study and requires 22 credit hours of coursework. Each of the following courses is offered every year, or every two years:

<p>Africana Studies Core Courses (All students are required to complete the following three requirements):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BL 1xx – Race and Human Genetics (with lab component) – 4cr. • PS 342 – The Psychology of Prejudice OR SC255 Prejudice and Discrimination 3cr. • AR 499A Senior Seminar: Program Evaluation and Policy Studies in Black America OR AR 499B Senior Seminar: Program Evaluation and Policy Studies in Africa 3cr. <p style="text-align: right;">10 cr. hrs.</p>	
<p>Depending on your area of specialization, you must complete an additional 12 credit hours taking no more than one course in each group below for ASC credit. For example, if you take PL285 and PL 398, only one of the courses will count toward the required 12 hours. Students interested in African-American cultural studies will select one course from each group in Column A. African Diaspora studies are listed in Column B.</p> <p>Taking additional courses in each discipline may count toward core, your major, or toward elective credits. Students are encouraged to take additional courses, when possible. Please consult the university undergraduate bulletin and your academic advisor.</p>	
<p>Column A: <i>Specialization in African-American Cultural Studies:</i></p>	<p>Column B: Specialization in African Diaspora Cultural Studies:</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>HS 131 African-American History</i> • <i>HS 341 Race and Sex in American Popular Culture</i> • <i>HS 343 Slavery and Abolition</i> • <i>HS 495 The Civil Rights Movement</i> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>3 cr. Hr.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HS 3XX History of the African Diaspora <p style="text-align: right;">3 cr. hr.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>PL 398 African-American Social Philosophy</i> • <i>PL 398 The Philosophy of Race and Racism</i> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>3 cr. h.r</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PL 285 African Philosophy • PL 398 The Philosophy of Race and Racism • PL 398 Philosophical Reflections on Third World Cultures <p style="text-align: right;">3 cr. hr.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>RL 299 African-American Christian Social Ethics</i> • <i>RL 327 Religion in Black America</i> • <i>RL 399 Islam in America</i> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>3 cr. hr.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RL 299 Traditional African Religions • RL 328 Early Christianity in Africa <p style="text-align: right;">3 cr. hr.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>PO 310 Race in American Politics</i> • <i>PO 315 Civil Rights and Liberties</i> • <i>PO 316 American Social Movements</i> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>3 cr. hr.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PO 310 Race in American Politics • PO 3XX Politics in Africa – to be developed by Fall semester 2004 <p style="text-align: right;">3 cr. hr.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>EN 278 Introduction to African-American Literature</i> • <i>EN 299 African-American Autobiography</i> • <i>EN 379 Studies in African-American Literature</i> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>3 cr. hr.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EN 286 African Literature • EN 480 Postcolonial Literature • ML 206 Literature of French Speaking Sub-Saharan Africa • ML 399 Understanding Africa through Film • SP 429 Race, Identity, and Politics in Afro-Hispanic Literary Texts <p style="text-align: right;">3 cr. hr.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>CO 321 Multiculturalism and Mass Media</i> • <i>CO 344 Multiculturalism and Theatre</i> • <i>CO 394 Multicultural Communication</i> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>3 cr. hr</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drs. Akande and Gygli have agreed to develop courses in communications and theatre that focus on African cultures. (in place by fall of 2004) • Dr. Gygli will develop a class on African theatre/drama. • Dr. Akande will develop a class on African communication systems. <p style="text-align: right;">3 cr. hr.</p>
<p><i>Total Credit Hours:</i> <i>22cr hr.</i></p>	<p>Total Credit Hours: 22cr hr.</p>

Supplemental Coursework

<i>African – American Cultural Studies</i>	African Diaspora Cultural Studies
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>SC 360 Urban Society</i>• <i>HS 344 From Freedom to Equality (if it's not removed from the bulletin)</i>• <i>ED 350 Multicultural Education in a Pluralistic Society.</i>• <i>EC 101 – Introduction to Economic Problems and Policy</i>• <i>Language requirement recommendations: French or Spanish</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Language requirement recommendations: French or Spanish.

G.P.A REQUIREMENTS: The Africana Studies Concentration (ASC) is an interdisciplinary plan of study open to undergraduate students, with a G.P.A. of 2.0 or better.

As required by the Committee of Academic Policies, Department Chairs and the Dean of Arts and Sciences were consulted regarding the content of the courses and their inclusion in the concentration. All have approved the proposed concentration.