AFRICANA EDUCATION PROGRAM

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UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM

The primary mission of Africana Studies is to help broaden student perspectives through a multidisciplinary curriculum that explores the experiences, contributions and accomplishments of African Americans and other peoples of African descent; and, to assist in the development of culturally competent students for a broad range of academic and professional careers.

Africana Studies courses are designed to provide understanding and appreciation of the African Diaspora both as it has unfolded over time and as it is currently manifested. As part of its founding mission, Africana Studies also provides culturally-centered programming, academic support, and community outreach initiatives. These include community non-paid internships, textbook support, academic advising, peer mentoring, tutoring services, scholarships and scholarship information.

The Africana Studies Program cross-lists with some courses offered through other EWU colleges.

Required courses in the following program of study may have prerequisites. Reference the course description section for clarification.

Africana Education Courses

Terms offered: fall, winter, spring, summer (FWSU)
If no terms are indicated, check with the department or EagleNET.

AAST 101 Introduction to Africana Studies (5) FWSU
This course is a critical survey of the major themes, issues, concepts, methods, philosophies, theories and scholars in the discipline of Africana studies and its historic origin and evolution.

AAST 214 African American Culture and Expressions (5)
Cross-listed: HONS 214, HUMN 214.
Satisfies: cultural and gender diversity university graduation requirement.

An interdisciplinary survey of African American culture beginning with ancient African history and traditions through contemporary issues in the African American experience. Attention given to basic principles of history, sociology, political science, economics and the arts in the study of the dynamics of the African American culture.

AAST 215 Early African American History: Ancient Africa to the End of the Reconstruction 1877 (5)
Satisfies: cultural and gender diversity university graduation requirement.

Examines the African American experience from African civilizations in the 4th century AD through slavery to the end of the Reconstruction era in the United States.

AAST 220 African American History: Post Civil War to Present (5)
Cross-listed: HIST 220, HONS 220.
Satisfies: the GECR for social sciences, list 3, history.

The study of American history from the perspective of the African American experience since the end of the Reconstruction period.

AAST 222 African American Economics (5)
Focuses on the economic conditions of African Americans, presenting an analysis of economic problems confronting them and institutional aspects of those problems.

AAST 299 Special Studies (1–5)
Studies vary according to faculty and student interest.

AAST 301 Harlem Renaissance: Reconstruction to 1930 (5)
A selective and objective study of the cultural, ideological, and political contributions of African Americans during the period 1918–1929.

AAST 310 African American Social and Intellectual Thought: From Booker T. Washington to Cornel West (5)
Prerequisite: AAST 214

This course articulates, defines and analyses the significant social thoughts, strategies and philosophies of black intellectuals through the 20th century to the present as they sought to address and propose viable solutions to the color-line.

AAST 315 African History: Ancient Africa to Mandela (5) W
Cross-listed: HIST 315, HONS 315.
Satisfies: international studies university graduation requirement.

A survey of African history from prehistory to the present. Emphasizes earlier African civilizations, extensive contact with the outside world and the formation of African nations.

AAST 320 African American Family (5) W
Cross-listed: SOCI 371, SOWK 320.

The African American Family as a social system influenced by institutions of the larger American society.

AAST 321 African American Political Awareness (5)
Issues of African American political power and awareness as they relate to several studies of macro and micro institutional racism with alternatives for racial change.

AAST 331 History and Dynamics of U.S. Slavery (2)
This class involves a brief examination of North American slavery, its background, dynamics and legacy. Special attention will be given to issues regarding U.S. race relations today.

AAST 347 Peoples of Africa (5)
Cross-listed: ANTH 347.
A comparative view of tradition and change in sub-Saharan Africa.

AAST 375 African American Cinema: 1915–1990 (5)
African American cinema explores the history of African Americans in films, focusing particularly on Hollywood’s representations of Blacks in feature-length films. The course examines such issues as the representations of race, gender and sexuality through observing and discussing feature films in class. Emphasis is placed on critical viewing, thinking, analyzing and writing about films. The course not only investigates Hollywood’s representations of African Americans but also examines the struggle and emergence of independent, African American-produced films, which offer a separate and unique voice that not only challenges Hollywood’s representations but also expresses themes involving cultural identity.
AAST 381  Contemporary African American Literature (5)  FS

AAST 395  African American Education Internship (1–5)  FWS
Prerequisite: permission of the instructor, department chair and college dean. Internships vary according to program and student interest.

AAST 399  Special Studies (1–5)  FWS
Prerequisite: sophomore standing; permission of the instructor, department chair and college dean. Studies vary according to faculty and student interest.

AAST 424  Economics of Poverty and Discrimination (5)
Cross-listed: ECON 424, WMST 426. Prerequisite: junior standing. Satisfies: cultural and gender diversity university graduation requirement.
Causes of poverty and evaluation of anti-poverty programs. Examines economic theories of discrimination from different perspectives with a particular focus on issues of gender and race.

AAST 430  African American Women's History (5)
Cross-listed: WMST 430. Prerequisite: ENGL 201. This course examines historical writings by and about Black women, discussing slavery, lynching, combating prejudices and encouraging racial pride to provide a framework that will deepen understanding of the topic.

AAST 435  Negro Spirituals (1)
This course offers an immersion in the music and culture of enslaved Africans to understand how and why the music developed. The purpose of the music then and now is examined as well as its impact on modern music.

AAST 465  The Rise and Fall of Slavery in the New World, 1500–1888 (5)
Cross-listed: HIST 465. This course traces new world slavery from its origins in the islands off the west coast of Africa to the end of slavery in United States, Cuba and Brazil in the late nineteenth century. Topics covered include the Atlantic slave trade, the effects of the slave trade on Africa, the Haitian Revolution, slavery and the Enlightenment philosophies, the profitability of slavery and the abolition movement.

AAST 466  Slavery in the U.S. (5)
Cross-listed: HIST 466. This course covers the rise and fall of slavery in the United States and its colonial antecedents. Topics include the transition from indentured servitude to slavery in the Chesapeake in the 1680s, the role slaves played on both sides of the Revolutionary War, the rise of the Cotton Kingdom, the political controversy over slavery, the rise of the abolition movement and the disintegration of slavery during the Civil War.

AAST 481  Dr. King and Malcolm X: A Comparison (2)
This class involves a brief examination into the backgrounds, lives and careers of Dr. King and Malcolm X. Comparison and contrast is employed to gain a deeper insight into the ideology and effectiveness of each leader with regard to the civil rights movement.

AAST 495  Africana Studies Internship (1–5)
Note: graded Pass/Fail. Prerequisite: junior standing; permission of the instructor, department chair and college dean. This course requires a supervised student practicum in the internal or external African or African American endeavor. May be but not limited to designing or working on a particular project or event for the betterment of an aspect of the African or African American lived experience on campus or in the surrounding area.

AAST 496  Experimental Courses (1–15)
AAST 497  Africana Studies Workshop (1–5) Workshops are held to examine issues in this area.
AAST 498  Seminar (1–5)
AAST 499  Directed Study (1–5) Directed study and research projects vary according to faculty and student interest.

The true alchemists do not change lead into gold; they change the world into words.—William H. Gass, professor (b. 1924)