
Africana Studies Department

(undergraduate)

FACULTY

Boyce-Davies, Carole, *Professor*, PhD, University of Ibadan

Laremont, Ricardo Rene, *Assistant Professor*, PhD, Yale University

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Associated Faculty

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Martin J. Murray, *Professor*

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PROGRAM COMPONENTS

The Africana Studies Department is multidisciplinary, with some of its faculty holding joint appointments in other departments. The department's offerings thus range across the traditional fields of anthropology, history, literature, political science, sociology, theatre, etc. These disciplines are integrated by certain themes that underscore the uniqueness of the department. First, subject matter focuses on African peoples and cultures and those peoples of the New World who are descendants of Africans. Second, the department's courses offer a non-Eurocentric and nonracial approach to the investigations, interpretations and understanding of the experiences of African peoples and of the wider world social, political and economic

systems. Third, departmental courses broaden the scope and range of traditional disciplines and offer a corrective to those disciplines in which the knowledge of the presence, roles, cultural contributions and experiences of African peoples and their descendants have been omitted or neglected.

The department attracts students of all ethnic backgrounds. Both minority and nonminority students benefit from exposure to academic materials and perspectives not otherwise available to them.

All the department's courses satisfy Harpur College requirements. A cross-disciplinary major (BA program) and minor in Africana studies and a concentration are available.

Requirements for Africana Studies Major

For the major, eight courses (32 credits) taken within the department are required. These should include:

1. One introductory-level course in African-American studies (100-200 level).
2. One introductory course in African studies (100-200 level).
3. One upper-level writing course in the humanities (300-400 level).
4. One upper-level writing course in the social sciences (300-400 level).
5. Four remaining courses chosen from departmental offerings or courses cross-listed with other departments.

Many students choose to pursue double majors with one of the related departments represented in Africana studies.

Nonmajors are encouraged to enroll in any of the courses indicated above, but should also consider AFST 112, 232 and 240 as complementary study areas in the social sciences. For the humanities, recommended courses include AFST 272, 282 and 394.

Honors Program

Exceptional students majoring in Africana studies will be considered for admission to the honors program upon the successful completion of five semesters or 80 credit hours (including at least 16 in Africana studies). The honors program consists of two courses taken in the senior year: AFST 497, Special Topic (possibly as independent study) Honors Independent Research, and AFST 499, Honors Thesis. Honors in Africana studies are awarded to students who receive at least a B+ grade in the Special Topic and at least an A- in the Honors Thesis.

Students who wish to enroll in the honors program must have a 3.5 grade-point average. The undergraduate studies director will solicit a sample of the student's written work in Africana

studies courses and two letters of recommendation from appropriate faculty.

Africana Studies Minor

The minor in Africana studies is designed to give students with majors in other fields a chance to have a supplementary discipline and focus that can combine their political, social and academic interests as well as future professional concerns. Students develop their programs with the advice of departmental faculty. Students may, for example, take a history, sociology, literature or economic concentration with the supervision of the Africana studies faculty.

A minimum of six courses (24 credits) is required:

1. Any Africana studies course at the introductory level (100 or 200).
2. Two senior-level courses, one of which may be the senior seminar designed for majors.
3. All courses in fulfillment of the minor must be taken in the department.
4. Only one independent study course may be counted in fulfillment of requirements for the minor.

COURSE OFFERINGS

NOTE: Unless otherwise noted, all undergraduate courses carry 4 credits and are offered every year.

AFST 101. INTRODUCTION TO AFRICANA STUDIES

Designed as multidisciplinary survey of peoples of African descent in Africa and African Diaspora (North and South America, Europe, the Caribbean and Asia). Introduction to academic arena that combines general intellectual history, academic scholarship in social sciences and humanities, and quintessential movement for fundamental change. Examines impact of migration with reference to struggles for emancipation and abolition, rural-urban migration and dispersal of people of African descent throughout globe, creating Global African phenomenon. Compares and contrasts civil rights movements, black power movements and liberation movements in U.S., Caribbean, South Africa and African continent. Analyzes European migration to Americas and impact on development of African identity and culture as well as reverse, i.e., African presence and impact on American identity and culture. Concerned with inter-connections and linkages between Africa, Americas and Asia.

AFST 112 (also PLSC 112). CULTURAL FORCES IN WORLD POLITICS

The impact of values and world views upon the behavior of groups and states; religion, language, class, ethnicity, race, gender and ideology in their international implications. Both East-West relations and North-South tensions will be analyzed from the perspective of political culture—including an exploration into the cultural causes of war.

AFST 153 (also ANTH 153). INTRODUCTION TO AFRICA

Human populations in Africa from origins to modern times. Geography, ecology, types of economies in relation to environment; traditional cultures, similarities and differ-

ences in social-political organization, kinship systems, village, town, community life; traditional state formation; trade, warfare, slavery, religious beliefs, values, aesthetics, cosmologies.

AFST 176 (also HIST 176). INTRODUCTION TO AFRICAN HISTORY

African social, political and economic history from the Pharaonic period to the mid-20th century. Social, political and economic organization; religion and philosophy; education; women's roles and achievements; inter-African and international relations; slavery; internal and external migrations; resistance to European rule; nationalism; liberation movements; effects of European rule; problems of independence and postindependence; African peoples' contributions to civilization.

AFST 221 (also ARTH 221). ICONS AND IMAGES OF THE AFRICAN WORLD

Explores concepts of the rites, performance and life force in understanding the production of art in different African and African diasporic communities in the 19th and 20th centuries.

AFST 226 (also SOC 226). SOCIAL MOVEMENTS

Structural conditions that stimulate rise of social movements; social psychological factors that motivate individuals to support, ignore or resist social movements; conditions that affect "career" and probability of success or failure of any particular movement. Social movements of present (women's movement, black revolt), recent past (civil rights movement, students' movement), or distant past (Utopian movements).

AFST 232 (also HIST 232). AFRICA, EUROPE AND THE AMERICAS: 1400-1888

The African experience in the Atlantic world. Course begins with study of African society in the 15th century, the encounter with Europe, the emergence of the transatlantic slave trade and its impact on Africa, Europe and the Americas, and the formation of "new world" African cultures. Course ends with examination of transition(s) to freedom and rise of an imperial world order predicated on race.

AFST 233 (also HIST 233). AFRICA, EUROPE AND THE AMERICAS: 1830-1968

The African experience from the end of slavery to the mid-20th century. Focus on development of colonialism in Africa, struggle for freedom and democracy in Europe and the Americas, and creation of "black" cultures and identities in the Atlantic world. Course ends with examination of independence movements and struggle for civil society from end of World War II to late 1960s.

AFST 240 (also SOC 240). WOMEN OF COLOR IN THE U.S.

Examination of the diverse struggles (political, economic, social, legal, etc.) of Asian, Native American, African American and Latin/Chicana women in the U.S. and the ways in which public institutions and agencies (federal, state, local) deal with women of color.

AFST 257. THE BLACK FAMILY

Examination of evolution of black family in the U.S. from its African roots to its contemporary composition in urban America. Emphasis placed on close relationship the black family has with different economic patterns and conditions. The African roots of the black family, male-female roles, socialization and the black child, single-parent house-

holds, public policy and the black family. Recent developments in the literature on the black family.

AFST 272 (also ENG 272). AFRICAN AMERICAN LITERATURE TO THE 1920s

Development of African American literature from 1700s to 1920s. Deals with such literary forms as slave narratives, essays, poetry, song, short story, drama and the novel.

AFST 273. INTRODUCTION TO AFRICAN LITERATURE
Introduction to the major forms of literary activity on the African continent. Begins with an examination of the oral literature, then moves to a study of modern African creative writing through readings of some published fiction, drama and poetry, paying close attention to the ways in which the writers relate to the oral traditions.

AFST 282 (also ENG 282). AFRICAN AMERICAN LITERATURE 1920 TO PRESENT

Introduces African American literature of the period through poetry, the novel, short story and drama in the context of social, political and literary developments. Topics include the Harlem Renaissance, Richard Wright and the Naturalists, the Black Arts Movement, black women writers.

AFST 280-289. SPECIAL TOPICS

AFST 311 (also SOC 311). AFRICA WORLD SYSTEMS PERSPECTIVE

Understanding the process of change in African sub-Saharan societies, mentalities, economies and culture. Examined are: natural environment and major historical turning points; sociological heritage of so-called "traditional" societies; impact of Islam as a long-distance relationship with worlds of Mediterranean and Indian Ocean; organization of a Western world economy based on Atlantic trade in slaves, then in raw materials; colonial imperialism; 20th century unrest, reactions, problems.

AFST 313 (also SOC 313). SLAVERY, RACE, AND CULTURE

Cross-cultural and sociohistorical analysis of slavery and slave systems, including redefinition of social groups within the world economy. Draws on materials from United States and elsewhere where slavery took root and developed. Different experiences of slavery, impact of slavery on populations of African origin and on the formation of African and African-diaspora cultures; response of these populations to slavery.

AFST 331 (also SOC 331). RACIAL STRATIFICATION IN THE U.S.

Primary emphasis on black Americans. Theories of racial stratification (viz: assimilation, white racism or prejudice, internal colony, social class); comparison of these theories with historical experiences of black Americans. Attempts at black political organization and movements.

AFST 340 (also SOC 340). WOMEN AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Focuses on the interrelationships among gender, race/ethnicity, class and sexual orientation/preference, and on how these influence the causes for which juvenile and adult females are arrested and incarcerated in local jails, state and federal institutions, immigration facilities, concentration camps and juvenile detention centers. Also examines the types of offenses for which juvenile and adult females are arrested, the punishment they receive and the treatment they face once institutionalized. Attention given to how women respond to the conditions of incarceration.

AFST 342 (also PLSC 342). URBAN POLITICS

Politics in urban and metropolitan communities in United States; interaction of social and political forces; problems of public policy, political influence, participation at local level. Prerequisite: PLSC 111.

AFST 350 (also ANTH 351). THE CONCEPT OF RACE IN WESTERN THOUGHT

Western attitudes toward human variation expressed in concept of "race." Probable origins, history, changing conceptualization of race and racial ideologies in context of rise and expansion of European industrial nations. How race has been reflected in science, literature and popular thought; how notion of race has ordered and continues to order Western culture and consciousness from arena of everyday life to contemporary science, the arts, religion and law.

AFST 352 (also ARTH 352). INTERMEDIATE WORLD OF AFRICAN ART

Exploration of cultural and artistic issues in the works of 20th-century African and African diasporic artists as shaped by major historical events in Africa, Canada, Caribbean, South America and the United States. Prerequisites: ARTH 111 or 221.

AFST 368 (also SOC 386). POLITICAL SOCIOLOGY

Impact of social structure and social psychological factors on political attitudes and behavior of significant groups and strata. Structure of such groups; social characteristics of leaders and members, analyzed in light of sociological theory. Elites, intellectuals, students, women, ethnic and religious groups.

AFST 371 (also SOC 371). THEORIES OF SOCIAL CHANGE

How social theorists analyze large-scale social change; conceptions of origins, structure, development of modern social systems, classes and social groups; the state and bureaucracy; problems of rationalization and technology; problems of theory and method. Special topics may include the "Rise of the West" and origin and transformations of colonialism, neocolonialism, racism and women's oppression.

AFST 373. THE AFRICAN NOVEL

Exploration of the development of the novel in Africa. Formal growth of the genre from the oral narrative traditions of the continent, through its attachment to European forms, to its present achievement in blending various traditions in the articulation of key issues—such as colonialism and postcolonialism, social and political crisis, and the role of women—in contemporary African society.

AFST 375 (also HIST 375). MUSLIM SOCIAL HISTORY TO THE 19th CENTURY

Survey of evolution and development of selected Asian (Middle Eastern) and African Muslim societies from seventh to 19th century. Social structure institutions and concepts of Muslim societies. Prerequisite: at least sophomore standing. Recommended prerequisite: completion of basic course in history, sociology or anthropology.

AFST 380-389. SPECIAL TOPICS

AFST 390 (also ENG 390). TOPICS IN BLACK LITERATURE

Specialized and advanced topics in the literature of black peoples: Harlem Renaissance, African women writers, black novelists, etc. May be repeated for credit if topic varies.

AFST 391 (also ENG 391). MODERN AFRICAN LITERATURE

A study of the prose and poetry of contemporary Africa. An introduction to African oral literature; writers who combine both oral and written forms in their works; contemporary authors; and current experiments in film. Emphasis on representative authors of the major regions: West Africa, East Africa and Southern Africa.

AFST 394 (also ENG 394). BLACK WOMEN WRITERS

Thematic and structural examination of prose and poetry written by black American women. Comparative assessment of selected works by African and Caribbean women writers.

AFST 397. INDEPENDENT STUDY *variable credit*

Meets special needs and interests of advanced students on tutorial or seminar basis. Prerequisite: consent of instructor.

AFST 403 (also PLSC 403). ISLAM IN WORLD POLITICS

Factors behind the politicization of Islam, from theocratic tradition in Islam to partition of India, from Jihad tradition to Islam's confrontation with Zionism over Palestine. The tensions among Islam, capitalism and nationalism. Prerequisite: at least one course from among PLSC 319, 327, 375, and 440.

AFST 410A (also ANTH 410). WOMEN OF AFRICA

Ethnographic explorations of the lives of women in Africa. How women perceive and react to forces of modernization and change: strategies they use to deal with increasingly complex and unpredictable social, economic and political circumstances. Course orientation is comparative, analytical. Prerequisite: one sociocultural anthropology course.

AFST 422 (also PLSC 422). BLACK POLITICS IN AMERICA

Critical evaluation of fundamental concepts and propositions related to black politics with U.S. political system. African American experience compared to that of Latino, Irish and other ethnic and minority groups. Prerequisite: one intermediate course in American politics.

AFST 435 (also PLSC 435). POLITICS OF DEVELOPMENT

Political and social change and modernization in Third World; use of Western and communist models of modernization; analysis of selected transitional systems. Prerequisite: one intermediate course in comparative or international politics.

AFST 445 (also PLSC 445). COMPARATIVE BLACK POLITICAL THOUGHT

Historical and contemporary theories of liberation expounded by theoreticians from an Afrocentric perspective; panpigmentationism theories and political movements concerned with questions of slavery, colonialism, and racial oppression; panproletarianism theories and political movements concerned with questions of economic justice within countries and worldwide. Prerequisite: one course in comparative or international politics.

AFST 480-489. SPECIAL TOPICS

AFST 490. SENIOR SEMINAR

Advanced general survey and analysis of critical problems in Africana studies. Prerequisite: senior standing.

AFST 491. TEACHING PRACTICUM

Independent study through teaching in particular Africana course. Course instructor directs students in preparation of syllabi, other course materials, devising and reading examinations; lecturing and/or leading discussion; academic counseling. May be repeated for a total of no more than eight credits. Credit may not be earned in conjunction with course in which student is currently enrolled. Does not satisfy major or all-college requirements. Prerequisite: consent of instructor. P/F only.

AFST 495. INTERNSHIP PROJECT

Internship project under guidance of faculty member, in an institution, agency or program. Written analytical term report of project work required. Prerequisite: prior arrangement with and consent of chosen instructor. Four credits of internship may be counted toward major.

AFST 497. ADVANCED INDEPENDENT STUDY

AFST 499. HONORS THESIS

Honors essay for seniors, under supervision of faculty member. Prerequisite: approval must be given by director of undergraduate studies and the faculty member concerned.