AFH

African Studies/Humanities

AFH 206: Great Books of the Black Experience
An exploration of some of the key writings from autobiographies to novels, etc., important to becoming familiar with central lines of thought and interpretation in the larger Black Experience. Focus and readings vary depending on each semester’s emphasis.
Advisory Prerequisite: U2 standing
DEC: B
SBC: HUM
3 credits

AFH 249: African-American Literature and Music in the 19th and 20th Centuries
A detailed look at African-American literature and music and their importance for American literature and music of the 19th and 20th centuries. An examination of the literature with attention to the special stylistic devices, tones of literary voice, and characterization that writers use in their efforts to match the music experience with the written word. Selections from the recordings of African-American and African-American inspired musicians -- from Bessie Smith and Louis Armstrong to Jimi Hendrix and the Rolling Stones. This course is offered as both AFH 249 and EGL 249.
Advisory Prerequisite: one D.E.C. category B or D course or one HUM or ARTS course
DEC: K
SBC: HFA+
3 credits

AFH 329: Pan-African Literature I
An examination of the cultural themes of Pan-Africanism and negritude, drawing on a selection of writers from the United States, Africa, and the Caribbean. The course treats the development, diffusion, and significance of these themes. It involves intensive consideration of selected literary works of African and African-American expression.
Prerequisite: U3 or U4 standing
Advisory Prerequisites: Two courses in literature
DEC: J
SBC: GLO, HFA+
3 credits

AFH 330: Pan-African Literature II
An examination of the cultural themes of Pan-Africanism and negritude, drawing on a selection of writers from the United States, Africa, and the Caribbean. The course treats the development, diffusion, and significance of these themes. It involves intensive consideration of selected literary works of African and African-American expression.
Prerequisite: U3 or U4 standing
Advisory Prerequisites: Two courses in literature
DEC: J
SBC: GLO, HFA+
3 credits

AFH 339: Arts of the African Diaspora
A study of the arts of the African Diaspora from the African continent to Brazil, Surinam, the Caribbean, and the United States. Emphasis is on the full range of art forms, including not only sculptural and performance traditions, but also textiles, basketry, and other crafts. Cultural continuities, spiritual belief, and significant changes in context, meaning, style, and technology are examined. This course is offered as both AFH 339 and ARH 329.
Prerequisite: U3 or U4 standing
Advisory Prerequisite: ARH 201
DEC: G
SBC: HFA+
3 credits

AFH 368: Caribbean and American Connections in Literature
An exploration of the connections between writers from the French-speaking and English-speaking Caribbean and from the African-American community, who share a similar cultural heritage, historical heritage, and historical experience, but differ in geopolitical situations. Special attention is paid to spirituality, gender, and identity motifs in the literature. This course is offered as both AFH 368 and EGL 368.
Prerequisite: U3 or U4 standing
Advisory Prerequisite: One literature course at the 200 level or higher
DEC: G
SBC: HFA+
3 credits

AFH 379: Philosophy of Race (III)
Examination of our assumptions about race and the impact of those assumptions on issues concerning gender, class, and sexuality throughout American history. Readings include critical race theory, feminist theory, and critical legal theory. Students examine racial issues from a philosophical perspective and consider the ways in which representations of race may reinforce patterns of power and privilege. This course is offered as both AFH 379 and PHI 379.
Prerequisite: one PHI course and U3 or U4 standing
DEC: K
SBC: CER, HFA+, USA
3 credits

AFH 380: African American and Caribbean Theatre
African American and Caribbean Theatre examines the connection between Black theatre and political and social movements of the 1940s to the 2000s. The course studies how playwrights use theatre to educate audiences about specific injustices of the day. An historical reading of the plays by playwrights such as Wole Soyinka, August Wilson, Lorraine Hansberry, and Susan Lori Parks introduces students to major topics for discussion in black theatre, including racial politics, socio-political disenfranchisement, the struggle to define self, and alienation from the community/society.
Prerequisite: U3 or U4 standing
DEC: G
SBC: GLO, HFA+
3 credits

AFH 382: Black Women’s Literature of the African Diaspora
Black women’s literature presents students with the opportunity to examine through literature the political, social, and historical experiences of Black women from the African Diaspora. The course is structured around five major themes commonly addressed in Black women’s writing: Black female oppression, sexual politics of Black womanhood, Black female sexuality, Black male/female relationships, and Black women and defining self. This course is offered as both AFH 382, EGL 382, and WST 382.
Prerequisite: Junior or Senior Standing
DEC: G
SBC: HFA+
3 credits

AFH 385: French Caribbean Literature
A study of representative texts from the French Caribbean translated into English, focusing on literary manifestations of a search for a specific identity by writers from Martinique, Guadeloupe, French Guiana, and Haiti. This course is offered as both AFH 385 and HUF 385.
Prerequisite: Junior or Senior Standing
AFH 390: Topics in Africana Studies
May be repeated for credit as the topic changes. Designed for upper-division students, this course provides an in-depth study of a specific topic within humanities disciplines such as music, art, literature, religion, and philosophy. Students will be expected to demonstrate knowledge of the conventions and methods used in the humanities discipline(s) studied. Past topics have included titles such as Black Women Writers; Autobiography and Biography as Black History; and The African Novel: Origins and Development. May be repeated as the topic changes.
Prerequisite: U3 or U4 standing
Advisory Prerequisite: AFS 101 or 102 or two courses in the humanities

AFH 391: Topics in Africana Studies
May be repeated for credit as the topic changes. Designed for upper-division students, this course provides an in-depth study of a specific topic within humanities disciplines such as music, art, literature, religion, and philosophy. Students will be expected to demonstrate knowledge of the conventions and methods used in the humanities discipline(s) studied. Past topics have included titles such as Black Women Writers; Autobiography and Biography as Black History; and The African Novel: Origins and Development. May be repeated as the topic changes.
Prerequisite: U3 or U4 standing
Advisory Prerequisite: AFS 101 or 102 or two courses in the humanities

AFH 417: Advanced Topics in Africana Studies
May be repeated as the topic changes.
3 credits

AFH 423: Africana Literature in French
An examination of a range of literature in French produced by writers throughout the African diaspora who claim affiliation with Africa. While the course is conducted in French, students will have the option to write papers in either French or English. Competence in reading and speaking French is a requirement for the course. This course is offered as both AFH 423 and FRN 423.
Prerequisite: A 200-level course in literature. For French majors, FRN 395, 396 or Permission of the Instructor.

AFH 447: Readings in Africana Studies
Individually supervised reading in selected topics in the Black Experience. May be repeated once.
Prerequisite: Permission of instructor and program director

AFH 447: Readings in Africana Studies
Individually supervised reading in selected topics in the Black Experience. May be repeated once.
Prerequisite: Permission of instructor and program director

AFH 475: Undergraduate Teaching Practicum I
Work with a faculty member as an assistant in one of the faculty member's regularly scheduled classes. The student is required to attend all the classes, do all the regularly assigned work, and meet with the faculty member at regularly scheduled times to discuss the intellectual and pedagogical matters relating to the course. Students may not serve as teaching assistants in the same course twice. Not for major or minor credit.
Prerequisites: Africana studies major or minor; U4 standing; permission of instructor

AFH 476: Undergraduate Teaching Practicum II
Work with a faculty member as an assistant in one of the faculty member's regularly scheduled classes. The student is required to attend all the classes, do all the regularly assigned work, and meet with the faculty member at regularly scheduled times to discuss the intellectual and pedagogical matters relating to the course. Students assume greater responsibility in such areas as leading discussions and analyzing results of tests that have already been graded. Students may not serve as teaching assistants in the same course twice. Not for major or minor credit.
Prerequisites: AFS 475; permission of instructor

AFH 478: Research in Africana Studies
Individual research projects in the Black Experience carried out under the direct supervision of a faculty member. May be repeated to a limit of 6 credits.
Prerequisite: Permission of instructor and program director

AFS
Africana Studies/Social and Behavioral Sciences

AFS 101: Themes in the Black Experience I
An historical survey of the experience of black people against the background of a thorough review of American history and the events which impacted upon the black experience in America. This course also examines the responses of African Americans to the changing historical circumstances that they encountered in the United States. Consideration is also given to the similarities and differences among the lifestyles of people of African descent in America. This course treats themes to 1865.

AFS 102: Themes in the Black Experience II
An historical survey of the experience of black people against the background of a thorough review of American history and the events which impacted upon the black experience in America. This course also examines the responses of African Americans to the changing historical circumstances that they encountered in the United States. Consideration is also given to the similarities and differences among the lifestyles of people of African descent in America. This course treats themes from 1865 to the present.

AFS 221: Introduction to Modern African History
Historical themes in 19th- and 20th-century Africa. Topics include social and political relations in African states; slavery and the slave trade in West Africa; the impact of Christianity and Islam on African colonialism; colonialism and its consequences; nationalist movements and de-colonization; pan-Africanism and the politics of African unity; the postcolonial state project; economic
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AFS 239: Introduction to the Caribbean Experience
An introduction to the political economy of contemporary Caribbean societies with emphasis on the historical roots of their present underdevelopment.

Prerequisite: one D.E.C. category F course or SBS course
DEC: J
SBC: GLO
3 credits

AFS 240: Issues in Caribbean Society
An analysis of the process of social change in the English, Spanish, and French Caribbean with special emphasis on those societies undergoing rapid transformation.

Prerequisite: AFS 101, 102, and 239
DEC: J
SBC: GLO
3 credits

AFS 277: The Modern Color Line
An exploration of the significance of race in 19th- and early 20th-century America. Topics include forms of political organization and collective struggle; the social and psychic consequences of racist subjection; the relationship among race, racism, and culture; and the cultural politics of race and gender. This course is offered as both AFS 277 and HIS 277.

Prerequisite: AFS 101 and AFS 102
DEC: K & 4
SBC: USA
3 credits

AFS 283: Community Service
Through field experience, readings, research, and discussion, students focus on social and educational problems relating primarily to the African-American experience. Specific programs may include working with children from low-income families, educational and cultural enrichment projects, tutoring in various institutional settings, and other projects to be announced. May be repeated once.

Prerequisite: Permission of instructor 3 credits, S/U grading

AFS 300: Blacks in the City
The urban experiences of blacks as a force in determining the character, culture, and social climate of the American city. A central theme is that blacks have greatly impacted U.S. urban life and made important contributions to its sense of vitality and cultural diversity.

Prerequisite: Junior or Senior Standing
DEC: K
SBC: SBS+
3 credits

AFS 310: American Attitudes Toward Race
An historical examination of the growth and development of racism in America from the arrival of the first Africans to the continent to the present day. The focus is on African Americans and their relationships with the American system, its institutions, and culture. References are made to other ethnic groups in order to give balance to the examination of social conditions and attitudes shaping American society throughout.

Prerequisite: Junior or Senior Standing
DEC: K
SBC: SBS+
3 credits

AFS 319: The Politics of Race
An analysis of political concepts often associated with racism and the tracing of the origins of the concept of race. Forms in which racism manifests itself today are identified and discussed showing the similarities and differences where they exist.

Prerequisite: Junior or Senior Standing
DEC: F
SBC: SBS+
3 credits

AFS 320: Black Popular Culture and the Terrain
A study of black popular culture in 20th century America through close readings of text, music, and film. We will examine black cultural production and its relationship to black political activism, particularly in the urban terrain. Enables students to interrogate the relationship between African Americans, culture and American society during the 20th century.

Prerequisite: one D.E.C. F or SBS course
DEC: K
SBC: HFA+
3 credits

AFS 325: The Civil Rights Movement
A detailed study of the movement for civil rights from its origins, examining the establishment of the NAACP; race relations between whites and blacks since 1900, the role of the Supreme Court and the federal government, and the turn to militancy in the 1950s and after. This course is offered as both AFS 325 and HIS 325.

Prerequisite: U3 or U4 standing
Advisory Prerequisite: HIS 104 or AFS 101 or 102
DEC: K & 4
SBC: SBS+
3 credits

AFS 337: The Politics of Africa
A study of nationalism, political thought, and political institutions in Africa. Consideration is given to the quest for unity, the problems of liberation, and the political implications of social change. This course is offered as both AFS 337 and POL 337.

Prerequisites: Two AFS or POL courses
DEC: J
SBC: SBS+
3 credits

AFS 339: Recent African American History
A study of recent African American history. Topics will include the dramatic increase in the number of black elected officials, rise of the black middle-class, the urban crisis, contemporary civil rights struggles, affirmative action, the decline of black radicalism, and the incorporation of black leadership. Enables students to examine the relationship between African Americans and American society during the past 100 years, particularly since 1970. This course is offered as both AFS 339 and HIS 339.

Prerequisite: AFS 337 and POL 337
AFS 339: Recent African American History

AFS 345: Culture and Gender: Women in Colonial and Contemporary Africa and the Caribbean
Comparative analysis of the status and role of women in colonial and contemporary societies of Africa and the Caribbean. Exploration of the forces that shape women's lives and the ways in which women have contributed to the development of these societies.

Prerequisite: AFS 239 or 240
DEC: J
SBC: SBS+
3 credits

AFS 345: Culture and Gender: Women in Africa and the Caribbean
Comparative analysis of the status and role of women in colonial and contemporary societies of Africa and the Caribbean. Exploration of the forces that shape women's lives and the ways in which women have contributed to the development of these societies.

Prerequisite: AFS 239 or 240
DEC: J
SBC: SBS+
3 credits

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AFS 346: Political and Social History of Africa

An exploration of theoretical perspectives in the historical sociology and comparative politics of Africa. Topics include the crisis of state legitimacy; the patriarchal society; ethnicity, religion, and politics; the politics of modernization; development and the environment; population growth and underdevelopment; globalization, neo-liberal economic policy and the postcolonial state; and the history of state and society relations. This course is offered as both AFS 346 and HIS 346.

Prerequisite: U3 or U4 standing
Advisory Prerequisites: Two AFS or HIS courses

DEC: J
SBC: SBS+
3 credits


A cross-cultural survey of the history of black women in the context of the struggles for social justice in the Caribbean (English- and Spanish-speaking), Africa, and the United States. Several major topics are covered: the slave resistance and the anti-slavery movement; the anti-colonial struggle in Africa and the Caribbean; the trade union movement in the United States and Africa; the struggle against underdevelopment in Cuba, Puerto Rico, and Jamaica; and the anti-apartheid movement in South Africa. This course is offered as both AFS 350 and WST 350.

Prerequisite: U3 or U4 standing

DEC: J
SBC: SBS+
3 credits

AFS 355: Ancient African Civilizations

The archaeology of Africa's later prehistoric and historic periods offers exciting contributions to global debates on the origins of agriculture and civilization. Covering the last 20,000 years, this course begins by examining the economic underpinnings of Africa's complex societies: intensive hunting and gathering, animal domestication, and early farming. Detailed case studies of six ancient civilizations (Egypt, Kerma, Aksum, Jenne, Swahili, and Great Zimbabwe) then demonstrate distinct processes of prehistoric social change in different parts of Africa. The course concludes by discussing African archaeological heritage conservation, research, and public education. This course is offered as both AFS 355 and ANT 355.

Prerequisites: One 100-level course in AFS or ANT; U3 or U4 standing

DEC: J
SBC: GLO, SBS+
3 credits

AFS 360: African-American Social Commentary

A study of African-American responses to the social order in America. The course concentrates on the various ways African Americans have conceptualized and described their condition since their arrival in America. Discussion of the solutions proposed by African-American spokespersons from the Civil War period to the present day.

Prerequisite: Junior or Senior Standing

DEC: K
SBC: SBS+, USA
3 credits

AFS 363: Blacks and Mass Media

An historical examination of the major media characterizations of black Americans and the Black Experience, and the impact of these portrayals on American society at large. The roles of newspapers, books, magazines, plays, radio, movies, television, and advertisements are studied.

Prerequisite: Junior or Senior Standing

DEC: F
SBC: SBS+
3 credits

AFS 365: Introduction to African Society

Examination of the ways that the slave trade and colonization affected African societies' incorporation into the world economy as well as the development of their social and political institutions. The nature of African institutions, organizations, belief and value systems before the colonial impact and how these histories were understood and experienced by African men and women are considered. The historical continuities and discontinuities in contemporary African societies as well as the effects of globalization and modernization in Africa are examined. This course is offered as both AFS 365 and SOC 365.

Prerequisite: SOC 105 or AFS 101 or 102 or POL 101 or 103
Advisory Prerequisite: AFS 221

DEC: J
SBC: SBS+
3 credits

AFS 370: The African-American Family

The African-American family from the early 1800's to the present day. The nature and structure of that family, the obstacles it has faced, and its interrelationships with the African-American community and the diversity of American society.

Prerequisite: U3 or U4 standing

DEC: K
SBC: HFA+, USA
3 credits

AFS 372: African-American Political Thought

A critical analysis of the major architects of black political thought and their movements in the context of their distinctive historical development. Emphasis is on the intellectual and ideological ferment of the 19th and 20th centuries.

Prerequisite: U3 or U4 standing

DEC: K
SBC: SBS+, USA
3 credits

AFS 373: Sexualities: African and Caribbean Perspectives

Designed to introduce students to the complexities of human sexuality from a perspective that places subaltern individuals at the center of the analysis. It locates these individuals, and their sexual practices, in the tropics--or "warm, warm climates"--first in those man-made communities where sexuality was one of the (unspoken) exigencies of the slave economy and later in the modern era where the slave economy gave way to "neo-colonies."

Prerequisite: U3 or U4 standing

DEC: J
SBC: SBS+
3 credits

AFS 375: Slavery

The historical experience of blacks in slavery from a social and historical perspective with emphasis on the American South and with comparative references to slave systems as they developed in the western hemisphere.

Prerequisite: Junior or Senior Standing

DEC: F
SBC: SBS+
3 credits

AFS 380: Race and Ethnicity in Latin America and the Caribbean

Concepts and theories of race and ethnicity in Latin American and Caribbean settings. The historical evolution and the contemporary social and cultural significance of racial
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and ethnic identities within the region are explored. Specific examples of social relations characterized by ethnic or racial conflict are presented. This course is offered as both AFS 380 and ANT 380.
Prerequisite: U3 or U4 standing
Advisory Prerequisite: AFS 240 or LAC 200

AFS 381: AIDS, Race, and Gender in the Black Community
Review of current biological and epidemiological knowledge about the HIV virus, and examination of the virus' social impact on the Black community. This course is offered as both AFS 381 and WST 381.
Prerequisite: U3 or U4 standing; one D.E.C. E or SNW course

AFS 382: Race, Ethnicity and the Environment
A historical survey of how African Americans, Mexican Americans, and Asian Americans have been the victims of injustice in the way their environments were violated beginning in the nineteenth century. To better understand the birth of the environmental justice movement, we will engage sources about the history of various people's relationship to nature and how they used their knowledge of the environment forged greater community awareness following the civil rights movement. We will also attempt to understand the values that certain cultural groups place on the environment.
Prerequisite: U3 or U4 standing

AFS 383: Slavery in Latin America and the Caribbean
The institution of slavery and its impact on plantation societies in the Americas, with particular attention to Brazil and the Caribbean. Topics include conquest and enslavement, the formation of slave communities, African culture in Latin America, resistance and oppression, the process of emancipation, and race relations. This course is offered as both AFS 388 and HIS 388.
Prerequisite: One of the following: AFS 239, AFS 240, AFS 277, HIS 213, HIS 214, or LAC 200

AFS 384: A Study of the Black Power Movement
Prerequisite: U3 or U4 standing

AFS 385: Religions of the Caribbean
An exploration of the rise and development of religions in the Caribbean, including Islam, Hinduism, and their related cultural and religious manifestations in the Caribbean. This course analyzes the forces that shape Caribbean migration to the United States and the pressures that are exerted upon the immigrants to fit into the United States' social structure. It also explores the immigrants' responses to these pressures as they choose among the following possibilities: total assimilation into the ranks of the existing ethnic and racial minority groups, multicultural identity, and transnational identity.
Prerequisite: Junior or Senior Standing

AFS 386: Topics in African-American History
Topics may include titles such as Urban African-American history since 1865; and Slavery, Abolition, and Emancipation 1600-Present. Designed for upper-division students, this course provides an in-depth study of a specific topic relating to American history. Students are expected to demonstrate knowledge of 1) a basic narrative of American history, political, economic, social, and cultural, including knowledge of unity and diversity within American society; 2) knowledge of common institutions in American society and how they have affected different groups; and 3) an understanding of America's evolving relationship with the rest of the world. May be repeated as the topic changes.
Prerequisite: AFS 101 or 102 or HIS 103 or HIS 104

AFS 400: Ancient Egypt (KMT): Historical and Contemporary Views
An exploration of the rise and development of ancient Egypt (KMT) through study of Egyptian peoples, religions, cultural transformations, and monument building. Examines the periods of the Old Kingdom, Middle Kingdom, and New Kingdom and introduces students to the museum culture that has fueled ongoing interest over time. Particular attention to scholarly debates about the nature and composition of Egyptian society, including interpretations of ethnicity and identity.
Prerequisite: Junior or Senior Standing

AFS 410: Computers and Third World Social Issues
A consideration of significant Third World issues using basic computing skills. The use of computer concepts and word processing skills to evaluate current social issues and their impact. The course encourages use of the computer in problem solving, research, and decision making.
Prerequisites: U3 or U4 standing; permission of instructor
Advisory Prerequisites: Two AFS courses

AFS 421: Topics in Africana Studies
May be repeated as the topic changes.
Prerequisite: U3 or U4 standing
Advisory Prerequisites: AFS 101 or 102 or two other courses in the social sciences
3 credits

AFS 422: Topics in Africana Studies
May be repeated as the topic changes.
Prerequisite: U3 or U4 standing
Advisory Prerequisites: AFS 101 or 102 or two other courses in the social sciences
3 credits

AFS 447: Readings in Africana Studies
Individually supervised readings in selected topics in the Black Experience. May be repeated once.
Prerequisite: Permission of instructor
SBC: ESI
1-3 credits

AFS 459: Write Effectively in Africana Studies
A zero credit course that may be taken in conjunction with any 300- or 400-level Africana Studies course, with permission of the instructor. The course provides opportunity to practice the skills and techniques of effective academic writing and satisfies the learning outcomes of the Stony Brook Curriculum's WRTD learning objective.
Prerequisite: WRT 102; permission of the instructor
SBC: WRTD
S/U grading

AFS 475: Undergraduate Teaching Practicum I
Work with a faculty member as an assistant in one of the faculty member's regularly scheduled classes. The student is required to attend all the classes, do all the regularly assigned work and meet with the faculty member at regularly scheduled times to discuss the intellectual and pedagogical matters relating to the course. Not for major or minor credit.
Prerequisites: Africana studies major or minor; U4 standing; permission of instructor
SBC: EXP+
3 credits, S/U grading

AFS 476: Undergraduate Teaching Practicum II
Work with a faculty member as an assistant in one of the faculty member's regularly scheduled classes. Students assume greater responsibility in such areas as leading discussions and analyzing results of tests that have already been graded. The course in which the student is permitted to work as a teaching assistant must be different from the course in which he or she previously served. Not for major or minor credit.
Prerequisites: AFS 475; permission of instructor
SBC: EXP+
3 credits, S/U grading

AFS 487: Research in Africana Studies
Individual research projects in the Black Experience carried out under the direct supervision of a faculty member. May be repeated to a limit of 6 credits.
Prerequisite: Permission of instructor
SBC: ESI
0-3 credits

AFS 488: Internship
Participation in public and private agencies and organizations under the supervision of a faculty sponsor. Students are required to submit progress reports and a final written report on their experiences to the faculty sponsor. May be repeated up to a limit of 12 credits.
Prerequisites: Africana studies major or minor; 15 credits in AFS courses; permission of instructor and program director
SBC: EXP+
0-6 credits, S/U grading

AFS 491: Interdisciplinary Seminar in Africana Studies
Exposes students to methods of research and writing within history, anthropology, literature, sociology, etc., important to understanding and producing scholarship related to the African heritage. Exploration of the ways in which past and present research and writing have portrayed Africans. The importance of interdisciplinary approaches and methodologies to understanding Africana Studies is emphasized. Students are required to select topics, conduct in-depth library research and present their findings in written and oral formats.
Prerequisites: U4 standing; six courses in Africana Studies; permission of instructor and department
3 credits