Center for Africana Studies

The mission of the Africana Studies program is to serve as a centralized instructional, service, and research program for students, faculty, and the community to explore the history, culture, and ideas of peoples of African descent. The program broadens students’ understanding of the global community through transcultural opportunities and foster students’ talents for leadership, scholarship, and personal development. The program allows students to explore the vast and complex cultures of the African Diaspora by visiting civilizations of the past and examining the contributions of African people in world affairs. The program also allows students to capitalize on the unparalleled opportunities that exist in the southern region of Georgia to study African and African-American connections, as observed in the Gullah/Geechee cultures and the African influences on the culture of the southern United States.

Africana Studies Minor


Africana Studies Concentration


AAST 3030 Selected Topics in Africana Studies
1-4 Credit Hours. 1-4 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
Designed to promote interdisciplinary engagement and, or, in individualized specialization so that the student can deepen his or her knowledge of Africa and the African Diaspora.
Cross Listing(s): AAST 3030S; YORU 3030.

AAST 3030S Selected Topics in Africana Studies
1-6 Credit Hours. 1-6 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
Designed to promote interdisciplinary engagement and, or, in individualized specialization so that the student can deepen his or her knowledge of Africa and the African Diaspora.
Cross Listing(s): AAST 3030; YORU 3030.

AAST 3130 African American History to 1877
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
African American history from African beginnings to Reconstruction. This is a study of the thought and actions of people of African ancestry from their origins in precolonial Africa to the conclusion of the Civil War and its aftermath.
Cross Listing(s): HIST 3130, YORU 3130.

AAST 3131 African American History Since 1877
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
African American history from Reconstruction to the present.
Cross Listing(s): HIST 3131.

AAST 3230 Introduction to Africa and Its Diaspora
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
A general examination of the history, cultures, and societies of peoples of African descent throughout the world, with emphasis on those who live in Africa, the United States, the Caribbean, and Latin America.

AAST 3235 Race and Ethnicity
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
This course is a survey of the major concepts and theories in the study of racial and ethnic relations in the United States. The situations and experiences of various racial and ethnic groups are considered.
Prerequisite(s): A minimum grade of "C" in SOCI 1101.
Cross Listing(s): SOCI 3255.

AAST 3330 Yoruba Culture and Civilization
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
Introduction to Yoruba culture in Nigeria and other west African societies as well as the Diaspora.
Cross Listing(s): YORU 3330.

AAST 3332 African American Theatre
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
Investigates the contributions of black playwrights, actors, and directors to American theatre.
Cross Listing(s): THEA 3332.

AAST 3336 Francophone Cultures of Africa and the Caribbean
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
Continued development of all five competencies (listening, speaking, reading, writing, and culture) with a focus on an introduction to Africa and the Caribbean. Texts include fables, poems, newspaper articles, and film. Course work includes oral, reading, writing, and grammar activities. Conducted in French.
Prerequisite(s): FREN 2002.
Cross Listing(s): FREN 3336.

AAST 3435 African Art History
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
Surveys the major themes, cultural groups, and art traditions of Africa. Focuses on materials, functions, meaning and the distinctive aesthetic values of cultural objects and their ritual significance in African societies.
Prerequisite(s): A minimum grade of "C" in ARTH 2531 or ARTH 2532.

AAST 3436 African American Art History
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
The study of African American art and design from the period of pre-colonial Africa to the contemporary United States. The course investigates the creativity and cultural identity of African Americans and their contributions to the visual culture in America.
Prerequisite(s): A minimum grade of "C" in ARTH 2531 or ARTH 2532.

AAST 3530 History of Africa to 1800
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
Traces the development of significant social, economic and political institutions within precolonial Africa.
Cross Listing(s): HIST 3530, INTS 3530.

AAST 3531 History of Africa since 1800
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
Traces significant developments in precolonial, colonial and post-colonial African history. These include trade and the origins of the colonial state as well as African encounters with colonialism.
Cross Listing(s): HIST 3531, INTS 3531.

AAST 4133 Gullah and Geechee Language and Culture
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
This course introduces students to the culture, language, folklore, traditional stories, and creative output of the Gullah and Geechee people in Georgia and South Carolina through readings, lectures, films, and hands-on experiences.
Prerequisite(s): A minimum grade of "C" in ENGL 1102.
Cross Listing(s): ANTH 4133, LING 4133.

AAST 4134 The Civil Rights Movement
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
The course explores the origins, ideologies, strategies and legacy of the modern civil rights movement in the North and the South with special focus on the impact of race, class and gender on civil rights from 1946-1968.
Cross Listing(s): HIST 4134.
AAST 4330 Geography of Africa South of the Sahara
3 Credit Hours.  3 Lecture Hours.  0 Lab Hours.
A survey of the physical, cultural, political and economic geography of Africa south of the Sahara Desert. Selected problems or situations of contemporary interest will be incorporated.
Cross Listing(s): GEOG 4330.

AAST 4337 Rhetoric of Social Movements
3 Credit Hours.  3 Lecture Hours.  0 Lab Hours.
Introduces students to the rhetorical significance of selected movements, including labor reform, civil rights and environment protection, emphasizing the analysis of persuasive social movement discourse.
Cross Listing(s): COMS 4337.

AAST 4530 Revelation and Revolution
3 Credit Hours.  3 Lecture Hours.  0 Lab Hours.
Explores issues of gender, spirituality, and power within the context of African history.
Cross Listing(s): HIST 4530, WGST 4530.

AAST 4532 Destruction of Slavery
3 Credit Hours.  3 Lecture Hours.  0 Lab Hours.
Focuses on the end of plantation slavery in the nineteenth century Atlantic World. The geographic concentration and topics covered will vary according to the focus of the instructor.
Cross Listing(s): HIST 4532.

AAST 4630 Seminar in Africana Studies
3 Credit Hours.  3 Lecture Hours.  0 Lab Hours.
The Seminar in Africana Studies must be taken within the 15-hours block required for the minor in Africana Studies. It is a capstone course in which students apply knowledge gained in the classes they have taken in the Africana Studies program through discussion of selected texts, a major research paper, and an oral presentation required of all Africana Studies minors.
Prerequisite(s): AAST 3230 or YORU 3330.
Cross Listing(s): AAST 4630S.

AAST 4630S Seminar in Africana Studies
3 Credit Hours.  3 Lecture Hours.  0 Lab Hours.
The Seminar in Africana Studies must be taken within the 15-hours block required for the minor in Africana Studies. It is a capstone course in which students apply knowledge gained in the classes they have taken in the Africana Studies program through discussion of selected texts, a major research paper, and an oral presentation required of all Africana Studies minors.
Prerequisite(s): AAST 3230 or YORU 3330.
Cross Listing(s): AAST 4630.

AAST 4890 Directed Individual Study in Yoruba
1-15 Credit Hours.  1-15 Lecture Hours.  0 Lab Hours.
Concentrated study of a topic in Yoruba literature, culture, society, thought or language. May be repeated for credit provided a new topic is studied.
Prerequisite(s): YORU 3000.
Cross Listing(s): YORU 4890.

AAST 5233 The American City
3 Credit Hours.  3 Lecture Hours.  0 Lab Hours.
An examination of American urban development from the colonial period to the present with particular attention paid to migration, architecture, technology, politics, transportation, and urban culture in the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Graduate students will be given an extra assignment determined by the instructor that undergraduates will not be required to do.
Cross Listing(s): HIST 5233, AAST 5233G, HIST 5233G.