African American Studies

Overview
The Department of African American Studies is an intellectual community committed to producing, refining and advancing knowledge of Black people in the United States, the Caribbean, Latin America, Europe and Africa. A key component of the mission is to interrogate the meanings and dimensions of slavery and colonialism, and their continuing political, social and cultural implications.

The Department fully embraces the notion that a public institution can lead in shaping and defining disciplines, not just teaching them. It contributes to this mission by investing in a strong faculty and talented and ambitious graduate students from a variety of backgrounds. Faculty is drawn from disciplines as diverse as anthropology, cultural studies, linguistics, literature, history, sociology, performance, and education. But, the department is not simply a collection of experts from traditional disciplines; it is united by a relentless commitment to pushing the boundaries of knowledge through excellence in scholarship and pedagogy that are at once interdisciplinary and innovative.

Undergraduate Programs
African American Studies (http://guide.berkeley.edu/undergraduate/degree-programs/african-american-studies): BA, Minor

Graduate Program
African American Studies (http://guide.berkeley.edu/graduate/degree-programs/african-american-studies): PhD

African American Studies
AFRICAM 201A Interdisciplinary Research Methods 4 Units
Terms offered: Spring 2018, Fall 2014, Fall 2012
This seminar will provide a detailed introduction and working knowledge of the various methodological techniques appropriate for interdisciplinary research on the African Diaspora.

AFRICAM 201B Qualitative Research Methods for African American Studies 4 Units
Terms offered: Spring 2017, Spring 2016, Fall 2015
A review of competing epistemologies in qualitative research of African Americans.

AFRICAM 201D Theories of the African Diaspora 4 Units
Terms offered: Fall 2017, Fall 2016, Fall 2013
This course is intended to provide students with an initial background for the composition of the position paper discussing the concept and study of African Diaspora necessary for passing department qualifying exams. It will introduce some of the theoretical frameworks for, and approaches to, scholarship concerning the African Diaspora.
AFRICAM 240 Special Topics in Cultural Studies of the Diaspora 1 - 4 Units
Terms offered: Spring 2017, Spring 2016, Fall 2015
One hour of lecture per week per unit. Topics will vary from term to term depending on student demand and faculty availability.
Special Topics in Cultural Studies of the Diaspora: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements
Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit.

Hours & Format
Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1-4 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details
Subject/Course Level: African American Studies/Graduate
Grading: The grading option will be decided by the instructor when the class is offered.

Special Topics in Cultural Studies of the Diaspora: Read Less [-]

AFRICAM 241 Special Topics in Development Studies of the Diaspora 1 - 4 Units
Terms offered: Spring 2018, Fall 2017, Fall 2016
One hour of lecture per week per unit. Topics will vary from term to term depending on student demand and faculty availability.
Special Topics in Development Studies of the Diaspora: Read More [+]

Hours & Format
Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1-4 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details
Subject/Course Level: African American Studies/Graduate
Grading: Letter grade.

Special Topics in Development Studies of the Diaspora: Read Less [-]

AFRICAM 242 Special Topics in African Linguistics 4 Units
Terms offered: Fall 2015, Fall 2014, Spring 2012
Topics will vary to suit student demand or interest. The seminar will require solid grounding in linguistic theory.
Special Topics in African Linguistics: Read More [+]

Rules & Requirements
Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit.

Hours & Format
Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details
Subject/Course Level: African American Studies/Graduate
Grading: Letter grade.
Instructor: Mchombo

Special Topics in African Linguistics: Read Less [-]
AFRICAM 257A Identity Politics in the Caribbean and Africa 4 Units
An exhaustive examination of the conditions under which identity constructs (race, ethnicity, nation, religion, language, region, etc.) come to occupy the symbolic center in the organization of mass political movements in non-industrialized Third World societies. The course will be comparative in scope using case histories from Africa and the Caribbean. It will focus on the relationship between the “politics of identity,” national economic decision making, and the distribution of economic, social, cultural, and symbolic capital.

Identity Politics in the Caribbean and Africa: Read More [+]

Hours & Format
Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details
Subject/Course Level: African American Studies/Graduate
Grading: Letter grade.
Instructor: Hintzen

Identity Politics in the Caribbean and Africa: Read Less [-]

AFRICAM 257B Power, Domination, and Ideology 4 Units
Terms offered: Spring 2012, Spring 2011, Spring 2009
This course will focus on theories and realities of power, domination, and ideology as they pertain to issues of identity in the post-World War II political economies of Africa and the African diaspora.

Power, Domination, and Ideology: Read More [+]

Hours & Format
Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details
Subject/Course Level: African American Studies/Graduate
Grading: Letter grade.
Instructor: Hintzen

Power, Domination, and Ideology: Read Less [-]

AFRICAM 262 Black Feminist Criticism 4 Units
Terms offered: Spring 2009, Fall 2007, Fall 2006
This course will focus on the development of a black feminist criticism(s). We will be specifically concerned with the writings of significant black women critics of the 19th and 20th centuries who have used intersections of class, race, and gender to analyze major issues of their time.

Black Feminist Criticism: Read More [+]

Hours & Format
Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details
Subject/Course Level: African American Studies/Graduate
Grading: Letter grade.
Instructor: Hintzen

Black Feminist Criticism: Read Less [-]

AFRICAM C265 Research Advances in Race, Diversity, and Educational Policy 3 Units
Terms offered: Fall 2017, Fall 2016, Spring 2016
This introductory graduate seminar will engage the research literature on race, diversity, and educational policy to provide a foundation for examining contemporary issues in American public schooling. We will examine research on race, culture, and learning alongside more policy driven research on school structures, governance, finance, politics, and policy. In doing so, we will blend micro level examinations of teaching and learning with macro level considerations of politics and policy.

Research Advances in Race, Diversity, and Educational Policy: Read More [+]

Hours & Format
Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details
Subject/Course Level: African American Studies/Graduate
Grading: Letter grade.
Instructors: Nasir, Perry, Scott,J.
Also listed as: EDUC C265C

Research Advances in Race, Diversity, and Educational Policy: Read Less [-]
AFRICAM C286 The Education of African-American Students 3 Units
Terms offered: Spring 2012, Fall 2010, Spring 2010
This seminar will examine a wide range of perspectives on the education of African American children and adolescents in the United States. Readings will support students in understanding some of the key issues and tensions in African American education and school achievement, including the roles that culture, identity, parents, families, and communities play in the education and schooling of African American students; systemic issues in educational improvement and the perpetuation of "achievement gaps"; and language and power.

AFRICAM 296 Directed Dissertation Research 1 - 13 Units
Terms offered: Fall 2017, Spring 2017, Fall 2016
Open to qualified students who have been advanced to candidacy for the Ph.D. degree and are directly engaged in doctoral dissertation research.

AFRICAM 298 Master’s Examination Preparation Course 4 Units
Terms offered: Spring 2017, Spring 2016, Spring 2015
This class is designed to prepare second year graduate students for the spring Master’s Examination in African Diaspora Studies. Basing our syllabus upon the established reading list, we will meet weekly to discuss individual texts, methods of interpreting and critiquing works across disciplines, strategies for reading, studying, and ultimately taking the exam itself.

AFRICAM 299 Individual Study or Research 1 - 4 Units
Terms offered: Fall 2017, Fall 2013, Spring 2012
Individual study or research program to be worked out with sponsoring faculty before approval by department chair. Regular meetings arranged with faculty sponsor.
**AFRICAM C375 Critical Pedagogy: Instructor Training 4 Units**

Terms offered: Fall 2017, Fall 2016, Fall 2015

The seminar provides a systemic approach to theories and practices of critical pedagogy at the university level. Examines the arts of teaching and learning and current disciplinary and cross-disciplinary issues in African/diaspora and Ethnic Studies. Participation two hours per week as practicum in 39, "Introduction to the University: African American Perspectives" is mandatory. The course is required for students expecting to serve as graduate student instructors in the department.

Critical Pedagogy: Instructor Training: Read More [+]

**Hours & Format**

**Fall and/or spring:** 15 weeks - 2 hours of seminar per week

**Additional Details**

**Subject/Course Level:** African American Studies/Professional course for teachers or prospective teachers

**Grading:** Letter grade.

**Formerly known as:** Ethnic Studies Graduate Group C375/African American Studies C375

**Also listed as:** ETH STD C375

Critical Pedagogy: Instructor Training: Read Less [-]

**AFRICAM 601 Individual Study for Master's Students 1 - 8 Units**

Terms offered: Spring 2018

Individual study for the master's requirements in consultation with the adviser. Units may not be used to meet either unit or residency requirements for the master's degree.

Individual Study for Master's Students: Read More [+]

**Rules & Requirements**

**Prerequisites:** Consent of instructor

**Hours & Format**

**Fall and/or spring:** 15 weeks - 0-0 hours of independent study per week

**Additional Details**

**Subject/Course Level:** African American Studies/Graduate examination preparation

**Grading:** Offered for satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade only.

Individual Study for Master's Students: Read Less [-]

**AFRICAM 602 Individual Study for Doctoral Students 2 - 12 Units**

Terms offered: Spring 2018, Fall 2017, Spring 2017

Individual study, in consultation with group faculty, to prepare students for the doctoral oral examinations. A student will be permitted to accumulate a maximum of 8 units toward examination preparation. Units earned in this course may not be used to meet academic residence or unit requirements for the master's or doctoral degree.

Individual Study for Doctoral Students: Read More [+]

**Rules & Requirements**

**Prerequisites:** 201A-201B

**Repeat rules:** Course may be repeated for credit.

**Hours & Format**

**Fall and/or spring:** 15 weeks - 2-8 hours of independent study per week

**Summer:**

- 6 weeks - 5-20 hours of independent study per week
- 8 weeks - 3.5-15 hours of independent study per week
- 10 weeks - 3-12 hours of independent study per week

**Additional Details**

**Subject/Course Level:** African American Studies/Graduate examination preparation

**Grading:** Offered for satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade only.

Individual Study for Doctoral Students: Read Less [-]