

Revised Major in African American and African Studies

-PROPOSAL- May 2005

Overview:

African American and African Studies is proposing a major revision of its undergraduate program. In brief, we plan to strengthen the academic appeal and rigor of the major in the following manner: 1. to mandate a common core of study for all majors composed of three courses (Introduction to AAAS and two skills/theory courses), 2. to add a distribution requirement to insure that all majors take a majority of upper division courses, 3. to require the selection of one area of concentration (African American, African or Diaspora) to facilitate more targeted and in-depth study of one aspect of the global black experience, and, 4. to increase the credit hour requirement from 45 to 55 to accommodate the newly required core theory courses. Fortunately overlap between GEC and major requirements indicates that this change should not slow progress to graduation. The revised minor will consist of 25 hours, including 2 core courses (Intro and the first theory course) but will not require an area of concentration. Finally, we propose to reduce the currently listed number of undergraduate courses by a third (from roughly 75 to 50) in order to make the undergraduate curriculum more focused and coherent. This will entail removing dated courses (many in limbo) while adding a few new courses to better reflect recent trends in the field and our latest hires.

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In 2003 AAAS underwent in a comprehensive External Review. In part, it concluded that our outdated undergraduate program lacks a coherent, challenging curriculum and the necessary guidelines to insure that majors/minors acquire the advanced levels of communicative and intellectual skills essential to career success and the enrichment of public and private life. As the product of intense conflicts born of the civil rights and black power movements, it is not surprising that the department has struggled to define vigorous, high quality academic programs. Everything had to be built from scratch without an agreed upon blueprint in a sometimes less than fully supportive environment. Fortunately, this long often frustrating period of gestation has finally nurtured a clarity of purpose and direction which now allow us to transform our programs into models of academic excellence, societal relevance and community engagement. This proposal to re-vision the AAAS undergraduate curriculum and the major and minor programs draws heavily on the incisive analysis and recommendations of the External Review Report which served to clarify and confirm our own insights and an emerging consensus born of over thirty years of struggle.

Revised Major:

The major in African American and African Studies consists of 55 credit hours. All majors must take **3 Core Courses:** AAAS 201, an introduction to the discipline and two analytic/methodological courses, AAAS 310, and AAAS 545 or 595), preferably in sequence. In addition, majors must complete a minimum of 20 or up to 30 hours in the chosen **Area of Concentration** (African American, African or Diaspora); and, a minimum of 5 hours each in the remaining areas. Moreover, the 55 credit hours must satisfy the **Distribution Requirement:** a) 10 to 15 hours at the 200-level; b) 10 to 20 hours at the 300-level; c) 5 to 15 hours at the 400-level; and d) 15 to 30 hours at the 500-level. A maximum of 10 hours in individual/independent studies and/or outside of the department can count towards the major.

AAAS MAJOR

CORE COURSES (15 Hours)

AAAS 201 Introduction to AAAS
AAAS 310 Perspectives on the African Diaspora

(Select one)

AAAS 545 Intersections: Approaches to Race, Gender, Class, Sexuality
AAAS 595 Theorizing Race

OUTSIDE AREAS (5 Hours in each deselected area)

AAAS *Please see complete outlines on pp. 6-8
AAAS

AREA OF CONCENTRATION (20 to 30 Hours)

AAAS
AAAS
AAAS
AAAS

AAAS
AAAS

Revised Minor:

The minor in AAAS consists of 25 credit hours which must include 2 core courses (AAAS 201 and 310) and a minimum of 10 hours at the upper divisional, 400- to 500-level. No area of concentration is required to fulfill the minor program.

AAAS MINOR

CORE COURSES (10 HOURS)

AAAS 201 Introduction to African American and African Studies
AAAS 310 Perspectives on the African Diaspora

ADDITIONAL COURSES (15 HOURS)

AAAS 400/500 Open
AAAS 400/500 Open

AAAS No restrictions

Rationale:

The AAAS major currently requires students to complete 45 credit hours which must include AAAS 101, our Intro course, a minimum of 5 hours in each of 4 categories: History, Literature, Culture and Politics/Society, and 20 elective hours. These guidelines did not always result in a clearly structured course of study and left too much discretion in the hands of majors. For instance, the current rules makes it possible for a student to complete the major taking *only* 200-level courses wherein s/he would not have developed higher level analytic and/or oral or written communication skills. Nor, would such a student have acquired an in-depth understanding of *any particular* subject area within the field of Black Studies.

This must change immediately in order to insure that our graduates have both the kind of knowledge and skills required to succeed in the highly competitive labor market of the 21st century or effectively engage in the civil and political arenas of our collective life. We intend to ask much more from our students and provide them with the clear structure and support they need to fulfill new rigorous requirements and excel. To this end we will simultaneously implement a comprehensive advising program. Every major will be required to meet with a member of the Undergraduate Committee each Fall quarter to plan his/her AAAS course schedule for the year and review progress toward graduation. ^{up to department} These sessions will inform students which courses may be taken to satisfy both GEC and major requirements at the same time and identify opportunities for academic assistance/advancement or awards/recognition available through the department or campus-wide.

The new **common core** (AAAS 201, 310 and 545 or 595) is conceived as the bedrock of the revised major: in these three courses our majors will develop a shared language and approach/perspectives to study the broad subject areas and seminal issues that define African American, African and African Diaspora Studies as an academic field of inquiry. This shared experience is crucial because we want our majors to clearly understand the broad context in which the particular areas of concentration they choose to focus their own studies fit. The introductory course will bring potential majors together at the start of an intellectual journey into the field; the first theory course (AAAS 310) will acquaint students with concepts and skills they will need to pursue in-depth knowledge and begin to carry out simple research in their major field; and, the final theory course (either AAAS 545 or 595) will re-unite all majors who, by then would have significant understanding of their chosen areas of concentration (African American, Africa and Diaspora), to acquire more advanced analytic and methodological tools. An added benefit should arise as students with different areas of concentration share with each other the insights, issues and questions which they are most knowledgeable about based on their area of concentration. Hence, although required to focus on one part of the Black world all of our majors will have repeated opportunity to appreciate the whole and its dynamics of interdependency. The increased credit hours requirement from 45 to 55 is necessary to accommodate the new common core but should not extend time to graduation with careful course scheduling.

The required selection of an **area of concentration** will bring the undergraduate program in-line with significant changes that have occurred in the discipline over the past thirty years. Moreover, it provides majors with a clearly defined course of study designed to yield an in-depth knowledge of a limited and coherent subject area. This change will also highlight an implicit strength of our department which the External Review noted we have underplayed: We are one of the few Black Studies programs in the country with roughly an equal number of faculty members who respectively specialize in the subfields of African American and African Studies. And, in line with another ER recommendation, we are aggressively building our African Diaspora subfield as demonstrated by three of our most recent hires. In sum, the area of concentration rule along with the common core requirement will enable AAAS majors to deeply appreciate the complexity of the black experience and respect the fact that we cannot expect undergraduates to seriously study the entirety in more than a contextualizing manner.

The **distribution requirement** will insure that AAAS majors develop the kind of knowledge, research and communicative skills that society needs and expects of people who have had the privilege to receive a higher education. Anyone who completes the AAAS major in the future will have taken *the majority* of his or her classes at upper division level which means s/he will have successfully demonstrated advanced academic skills. At least two of these upper division courses must be at the 500-level; but, students eager for more intellectual challenge and opportunity to refine skills can take up to six such courses in pursuit of the major. Every major is required to take at least one 400-level course because at this level our courses are specially designed to include non-traditional learning environments and experiences such as study abroad or service-learning in the low income urban communities in Columbus.

Finally, the proposal to **cut the undergraduate curriculum** down from roughly 75 to 50 courses is required to up-date the AAAS course listing and guarantee that the department can schedule all of the courses majors and minors need to graduate within a four year cycle. An added benefit of this sizeable reduction is that we can add new courses devoted to cutting edge topics and/or the interests of new faculty hires without overloading the curriculum. A look at the revised curriculum should tell students, faculty and administrators what we are actually teaching on a regular basis and where the department is headed as we contribute to the still relatively new field of African American and African Studies.

Samples of AAAS Major by Area of Concentration

African American Concentration

AAAS 201	Introduction to AAAS
AAAS 218	Black Urban Experience
AAAS 288	Bebop of Hip Hop
AAAS 310	Perspectives on the African Diaspora
AAAS 323.01	History of Slavery
AAAS 323.02	History from Emancipation
AAAS 338	African Territories as Nation-States
AAAS 495	Service-Learning in African American Urban District
AAAS 595	Theorizing Race (or AAAS 545 for second theory course requirement)
AAAS 565	Slavery in the Atlantic World
AAAS555.02	Topics in African American History II

Total: 55 credit hours

African American Concentration

AAAS 201	Introduction to AAAS
AAAS 230	Black Women
AAAS 310	Perspectives on the African Diaspora
AAAS 305	Sociolinguistics of African American English
AAAS 327	Intro to African Politics
AAAS 361	Psychology of Black Experience
AAAS 495	Service-Learning in African American Urban District
AAAS 545	Intersections: Approaches to Race, Gender, Class, and Sexuality (or AAAS 595 for second theory course requirement)
AAAS 551	Topics in African American & Related Literature
AAAS 561	Topics in African American Psychology
AAAS 571	Images in Media Production

Total: 55 credit hours

Africa Concentration

AAAS 201	Introduction to AAAS
AAAS 244	Survey of African American and African Music
AAAS 310	Perspectives on the African Diaspora
AAAS 342	Music, Religion, and Ritual in Africa
AAAS 350	History of Modern Africa
AAAS 485.03	West Africa: Society and Culture
AAAS 485.04	West Africa: Study Abroad Tour
AAAS 595	Theorizing Race (or AAAS 545 for second theory course requirement)
AAAS 541	History of Islam in History
AAAS 575	History of South Africa
AAAS 565	Slavery in the Atlantic World

Total: 58 credit hours (485.04 is eight credit hours)

African Concentration

AAAS 201	Introduction to AAAS
AAAS 218	Black Urban
AAAS 310	Perspectives on the African Diaspora
AAAS 327	Intro to African Politics
AAAS 338	African Territories as Nation-States
AAAS 485.01	Southern Africa: Society and Culture
AAAS 485.02	Southern Africa: Study Abroad Tour
AAAS 545	Intersections: Race, Gender, Class & Sexuality (or AAAS 595 for second theory course requirement)
AAAS 527	Pan-Africanism and Nationalism
AAAS 530	Analysis of African Political Systems
AAAS 575	History of South Africa

Total: 58 credit hours

Diaspora Concentration

AAAS 201	Introduction to AAAS
AAAS 244	Survey African and African American Music
AAAS 288	Bebop to Hip Hop
AAAS 310	Perspectives on the African Diaspora
AAAS 351	Caribbean Literature
AAAS 367.04	Black Women Writers
AAAS 495	Community Service Learning African American in Urban Experience
AAAS 527	Pan-Africanism and Nationalism
AAAS 545	Intersections: Race, Gender, Class and Sexuality (or AAAS 595 for second theory course requirement)
AAAS 551	African American & Related Literature
AAAS 565	Slavery in the Atlantic World

Total: 55 credit hours

Diaspora Concentration

AAAS 201	Introduction to AAAS
AAAS 291	The Black Family
AAAS 290	Black Youth
AAAS 310	Perspectives on the African Diaspora
AAAS 361	Psychology of Black Experience
AAAS 495	Community Service Learning African American in Urban Experience
AAAS 595	Theorizing Race (or AAAS 545 for second theory course)
AAAS 527	Pan-Africanism and Nationalism
AAAS 530	Analysis of African Politics
AAAS 565	Slavery in the Atlantic World
AAAS 545	Intersection: Race, Gender and Sexuality

Total: 55 credit hours

DISTRIBUTION OF AAAS COURSES BY AREA OF CONCENTRATION

African America

AAAS 154*	Introduction to African American Literature (*100 level courses do not count towards the major)
AAAS 218	Black Urban Experience
AAAS 230	Black Women
AAAS 254	Themes in African American Literature
AAAS 288	Bebop to Doowop to Hip Hop
AAAS 305	Sociolinguistics of African American English
AAAS 322.01	African American History-Age of Slavery
AAAS 323.02	African American History-Emancipation to Present
AAAS 326	Black Americans and the Law
AAAS 345	African American Thinkers
AAAS 367.03	African American Voices in U.S. Literature
AAAS 376	African American Art
AAAS 378	History of Jazz I
AAAS 379	History of Jazz II
AAAS 493	Individual Studies
AAAS 495	Community Development-Service Learning (repeatable 2X)
AAAS 551	African American & Related Literature
AAAS 555.01	Topics in African American History I
AAAS 555.02	Topics in African American History II
AAAS 561	Topics in African American Psychology
AAAS 571	Images in Media Production
AAAS 582	Studies in African American Art

African

AAAS 121*	African Civilizations to 1870
AAAS 122*	African Civilizations 1870-present
AAAS 251	Introduction to African Literature
AAAS 327	Introduction to African Politics
AAAS 338	African Territories as Nation-States
AAAS 342	Music, Religion, Ritual in Africa
AAAS 342H	Honors version
AAAS 350	Modern African History
AAAS 485.01	Southern Africa: Society & Culture
AAAS 485.02	Southern Africa: Study Abroad Tour
AAAS 485.03	West Africa: Society & Culture
AAAS 485.04	West Africa: Study Abroad Tour
AAAS 493	Individual Studies
AAAS 530	Analysis of African Political Systems
AAAS 541	History of Islam in Africa
AAAS 575	History of South Africa
AAAS 581	Philosophy in Contemporary African Literature
AAAS 584H	Literature & Modern African Experience

Diaspora

AAAS 201	Introduction to African American Studies
AAAS 244	Survey of African & African American Music
AAAS 261	Black-White Behavior
AAAS 290	Black Youth
AAAS 291	Black Family
AAAS 310	Perspectives on the African Diaspora
AAAS 351	Caribbean Literature in English
AAAS 361	Psychology of the Black Experience
AAAS 367.04	Black Women Writers
AAAS 493	Individual Studies
AAAS 504	Black Politics
AAAS 527	Pan Africanism & Nationalism
AAAS 545	Intersection: Race, Gender & Sexuality
AAAS 565	Slavery in the Atlantic World
AAAS 595	Theorizing Race

DISTRIBUTION OF AAAS COURSES BY LEVEL

200 Level African American-AA=4; A-Africa=1; D-Diaspora =5

AAAS 201	Introduction to African American & African Studies (D)
AAAS 218	Black Urban Experience (AA)
AAAS 230	Black Woman (AA)
AAAS 244	Survey African and African American Music (D)
AAAS 251	Introduction to African Literature (A)
AAAS 254	Themes African American Literature (AA)
AAAS 261	Black-White Behavior (D)
AAAS 290	Black Youth (D)
AAAS 291	Black Family (D)
AAAS 288	Bebop to Doowop to Hiphop (AA)

300- Level AA=9; A=5; D=4

AAAS 310	Perspectives African Diaspora (D)
AAAS 305	Sociolinguistics of African American English (AA)
AAAS 323.01	African American History – Age of Slavery (AA)
AAAS 323.02	African American History of – Emancipation – Present (AA)
AAAS 326	Black Americans and the Law (AA)
AAAS 327	Introduction to African Politics (A)
AAAS 338	African Territories as Nation-States (A)
AAAS 342	Music, Religion, Ritual in Africa (A)
AAAS 342H	Honors version (A)
AAAS 345	African American Thinkers (AA)
AAAS 350	Modern African History (A)
AAAS 351	Caribbean Literature in English (D)
AAAS 361	Psychology of Black Experience (D)
AAAS 367.03	African American Voices in US Literature (AA)
AAAS 367.04	Black Women Writers (D)
AAAS 376	African American Art (AA)
AAAS 378	History of Jazz I (AA)
AAAS 379	History of Jazz II (AA)

400-Level* AA=1; A=4; 1 open

AAAS 485.01	Southern Africa: Society and Culture (A)
AAAS 485.02	Southern Africa: Study Abroad Tour (A)
AAAS 485.03	West Africa: Culture and Society (A)
AAAS 485.04	West Africa: Study Abroad Tour (A)
AAAS 493	Individual Studies
AAAS 495	Community Development-Service Learning (repeatable 2x) (AA)

*Assumes we drop AAAS 451Black/Caribbean Literature and Swahili Literatures courses AAAS 452 & 453.

500- Level AA=8; A=4; D=5

AAAS 504	Black Politics (D)
AAAS 527	Pan Africanism & Nationalism (D)
AAAS 530	Analysis of African Political Systems (A)
AAAS 541	History of Islam in Africa (A)
AAAS 545	Intersection: Race, Gender and Sexuality (D) [545 or 595 required]
AAAS 551	African American & Related Literature (AA)
AAAS 555.01	Topics in African American History I (AA)
AAAS 555.02	Topics in African American History II (AA)
AAAS 561	Topics in African American Psychology (AA)
AAAS 565	Slavery in the Atlantic World (D)
AAAS 571	Images in Media Production (AA)
AAAS 575	History of South Africa (A)
AAAS 582	Studies in African American Literature (AA)
AAAS 584H	Literature & Modern African Experience (A)
AAAS 595	Theorizing Race (D) [AAAS 595 or 545 required]
AAAS 581	Philosophy in Contemporary African Literature (A)

***Department of African American & African Studies Undergraduate Courses**
 (*Based on Registrar's Office Current On-line Record)

Current Courses	Course Description	Date Approved	Proposed Change
101	Intro Afr. Am. & Afr. Studies	0971	101 to 201
121	African Civilization to 1870	0692	
122	African Civilization 1870 to Present	0692	
130.01	African History	0672	withdraw
154	Intro. to Afri Am Literature	0174	
180	Fundamental of Black Dance	0374	withdraw
208.20	African Performing Ensemble	0199	
218	Black Urban Experience	0174	
230	Black Woman	0372	
244	Survey of Afr. & Afr.-der.Music	0372	
247	Africa-19 th Century	0672	withdraw
248	Leadership Contemporary Africa	0672	withdraw
251	Introduction to African Literature	0372	
254	Themes in Afr. Amer. Literature	0174	
261	Black-White Behavior	0975	
270	Basic Musicianship	0174	withdraw
271	Contemporary Black Drama	0174	
278	Contemporary Black Art	0374	withdraw
281	Leaders in Search of an Ideology	0174	withdraw
282	Major Themes Afr. & Afr. Am Cult	0983	
284	Afro-American Thought	0174	withdraw
290	Black Youth	pending	690 to 290
291	The Black Family	pending	691 to 291
294	Group Studies	0372	
310	Persp. African Diaspora	0904	
305	SocioLing. of Afr. Am English	0300	
323.01	History of Afr. Am-Age of Slavery	0998	
323.02	History of Afr. Am-Emanc. To Present	0998	
325	<i>Blacks and the Political Order</i>	0372	withdraw
326	Black Americans & Legal System	0372	
327	Intro. to African Politics	0372	
338	Afr. Territories as Nation-States	0372	
342	<i>Music, Religion, Ritual in Africa</i>	0399	
H342	Music & Religion in Africa	0104	
345	African American Thinkers	0196	
350	History of Modern Africa	0199	
351	Caribbean Lit. in English	0372	
352	Afr. Am. Cultural & Intell. Trad.	0372	withdraw

361	Psych. Of Black Experience	0975	
367.02	Afr. Am. Theatre History	0193	withdraw
367.03	Afr. Am. Voices in U.S. Lit.	0393	
367.04	Black Women Writers	0193	
375	Early African Am Art	0374	withdraw
376	African American Art	0374	
378	History of Jazz I	0174	
379	History of Jazz II	0174	
391	Historical Geography. Black Am	0174	withdraw
395	Thry & Prac. Black Stud. Paradigm	0998	withdraw
451	Black/Carib. Exp. In Literature	0372	withdraw
452	Swahili Lit. I	0995	withdraw
453	Swahili Lit. II	0196	withdraw
460	Political Thought in Afr. Lit.	0395	withdraw
485.01	South Africa: Society & Culture	0304	
485.02	South Africa: Study Tour	0304	
485.03	West Africa: Culture & Society	0304	
485.04	West Africa: Study Tour	0304	
493	Individual Studies	0604	
495	Community Dev.-Service Learning	0903	
500	Contemporary Black Thinkers	0971	withdraw
525	Europ. Colonial Politics Africa	0372	withdraw
527	Pan-Africanism & Nationalism	0372	
530	Analysis Afr. Political Systems	0372	
541	History of Islam in Africa	0904	
545	Intersec.: Race, Gender, Class & Sexuality	0904	
551	Afr. Am. & Related Literature	0372	
552	Contemporary Afr. Am Culture	0372	withdraw
555.01	Topics Afr.Am. History 1	0199	
555.02	Topics Afr. Am History 2	0199	
561	Topics Afr. Am Psychology	0901	
565	Slavery Atl World	0904	
571	Images in Media Production	0379	
575	History of South Africa	0904	
580	Contemp. Afr. Am. Leaders	0372	withdraw
581	Philosophy in Contemp. Afr. Lit.	0372	
582	Studies Afr. Am Literature	0698	
H584	Lit. & Modern Exp. in Africa	0398	
591	Workshop in Creative Writing	0374	withdraw
595	Theorizing Race	0399	