

Department of African American and African Studies 486 University Hall 230 North Oval Mall Columbus, OH 43210 614-292-3700 Phone http://www.aaas.osu.edu

4 Febraury 2018

To whom it may concern,

With this cover letter, the Department of African American and African Studies (AAAS) presents documents pertaining to the **revision of the major degree program in AAAS**. This revision is motivated by:

- a desire to make modest increases in majors over the past few years more robust and sustaining, following several years of declining major numbers;
- an observed need to streamline the proposed course of study in order to facilitate access to and progress through the major;
- a related observation that we have an increasing number of prospective double majors, people wishing to combine AAAS with another course of study, whom we hope to recruit with a more accessible and coherent major; and
- an interest in updating our major course requirements to account for current scholarship in the discipline and better reflect and support our stated program goals.

The following items are included in this major program revision proposal:

- 1. Document explaining the requested changes to the major degree program in AAAS (including reference to relevant assessment data and possible impact on student enrollment)
- 2. Sample assessment documents for the revised major degree program in AAAS
- 3. Current and revised curriculm maps for the major degree program in AAAS
- 4. Current and revised semester major forms for the major degree program in AAAS

Revisions to the major degree program in AAAS were voted on and approved by the AAAS faculty during the 6 November 2017 faculty meeting.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns pertaining to the proposed revision.

Sincerely,

Ryan Skinner, Associate Professor

Director of Undergraduate Studies African American and African Studies African American and African Studies Major Revision Proposal 4 February 2018

This is a revision of the existing major in African American and African Studies

1. General Information

This is a revision of the existing major in African American and African Studies. Its name is African American and African Studies. Students will receive a BA in African American and African Studies. The proposed implementation is July 1, 2018, or beginning of AU 18 semester (whichever is appropriate). The academic units responsible for administering the program are the Department of African American and African Studies and the College of Arts & Sciences.

2. Description of the Major in Catalogue Style

The African American and African studies (AAAS) major teaches students about the social, cultural political, economic, historical, and intellectual experiences of Africans and their descendants throughout the world. This field of study encourages students to critically examine the role of race in society through a variety of disciplines and from an intersectional perspective, emphasizing how race relates to class, gender, nationality, ethnicity, and ideologies on a global scale. This major prepares students for multiple career paths, whether in higher education, law, public health, urban planning, social work, corporations, or any number of fields that stand to benefit from the knowledge acquired in AAAS.

3. Explanation of Requested Changes and Rationale to the Major Curriculum

As stated in the cover letter, this revision to the major in African American and African Studies is motivated by several factors:

- a desire to make modest increases in majors over the past few years more robust and sustaining, following several years of declining major numbers;
- an observed need to streamline the proposed course of study in order to facilitate access to and progress through the major;
- a related observation that we have an increasing number of prospective double majors, people wishing to combine AAAS with another course of study, whom we hope to recruit with a more accessible and coherent major; and
- an interest in updating our major course requirements to account for current scholarship in the discipline and better reflect and support our stated program goals.

To address these motivating factors, the faculty of the Department of African American and African Studies has agreed to the following proposed changes to the current major program:

1. **Lowering the overall credit hour requirement for the major from 36 to 30**. The rationale for this change is to make the major more manageable and attractive to prospective students, particularly those wishing to double major.

2. Elimination of the "capstone seminar" (AAAS 4998) listed under "Part A" of the current major advising sheet. This course has never been offered, in part due to difficultly staffing the course, but also as a result of course scheduling pressures arising from a significantly reduced faculty size and deployment.

3. Inclusion of AAAS 4921 ("Intersections") as a fourth course requirement

under the category "core courses." Our current major advising sheet states that students may take either AAAS 3340 ("Theorizing Race") or 4921. In this proposed revision, both courses would be required, reflecting the importance of critical race and intersectional studies to the current discipline. This would also strengthen one of our program leaning goals ("Goal B"), to "identify, critique, and appreciate the intersections between race, class, gender, ethnicity, and sexuality from the historical and existential perspectives of African and African-descended peoples."

4. Elimination of the four "cognate areas" listed under "Part B" of the current major advising sheet. These are: 1) Representation & Performance; 2) Social Issues, Community Development, & Public Service; 3) Histories, Cultures, Languages, & Literatures; and 4) Race, Ethnicity, Gender, & Sexuality. The rationale for this change is twofold. First, feedback from our undergraduate advisors indicates that these "cognate areas" are very difficult explain to our students. It is challenging to help students understand the meaning of these categories and their import to the major. Second, only one "cognate area" (Histories, Cultures, Languages, and Literatures) can currently be serviced by existing course offerings, and only if the student begins this coursework as a freshman. In short, the "cognate areas" are both confusing and nearly impossible to fulfill as degree requirements. Eliminating these would make the major much more dynamic and flexible and would mitigate the challenge of adjusting our curriculum to changes in faculty and course offerings over time.

5. Eliminating the "cognate areas" would further necessitate **a revision to our listed goals in the TracDat assessment software**. Currently, there is a discrepancy between the "Goal A" listed in TracDat and in our Curriculum Map. The TracDat listing for the first goal (Goal A) reads: "AAAS majors will demonstrate an in-depth knowledge and mastery of substantive information relevant to one area of concentration (African American, African or Diaspora) and an understanding of the interdependent black world." The Curriculum Map listing for first goal (Goal A) reads: "Demonstrate an understanding of the cultural, socio-political, and historical formations, connections, conditions, and transformations evident throughout the African World." The TracDat's reference to an "area of concentration" reflects the existing emphasis on "cognate areas," and should be amended to better match the proposed major revisions. Thus, we propose replacing the current TracDat listing with the current Curriculum Map listing.

6. Elimination of the "breadth" requirement listed under "Part C" of the current major advising sheet. The rationale for this change is similar to those motivating the elimination of "cognate areas." Namely, our undergraduate advisors struggle to explain this language ("cognate areas," "breadth") to our current and prospective students, creating an unnecessary impediment to their access to and progress through the major. Further, because many of our majors declare in the sophomore or junior years, the six additional credit hours required under this category ("breadth") adds what the faculty has determined to be an excessive burden on our advanced students (juniors and seniors) working toward the completion of their degree. Further, our undergraduate advising suggests that these additional credit hours dissuade potential majors from pursuing the degree (see item #1 above).

7. In place of these categories ("cognate areas" and "breadth"), our current proposal would require **18 credit hours of more simply defined "elective courses"** beyond the required 12 credit hours of "core courses." Of these 18 credit hours, 9 would be required at the 4000-level to ensure rigorous advanced study within the discipline. The remaining 9 credit hours must be 2000-level or above. In total, this revised major degree program would require a total of 12 hours of coursework at the 4000-level (including AAAS 4921, one of the "core courses") to ensure broad and rigorous exposure to the rich interdisciplinarity of African American and African Studies. We believe that this curricular change would further strengthen one of our program's learning goals ("Goal C"), to "implement interdisciplinary research methods and methodological perspectives applicable to advanced study, community development, and public service."

With these changes implemented, our **new major degree program in AAAS** would appear as follows:

Core Courses (four required courses, 12 credit hours)

- 2201 Major Readings in African American and African Studies
- 3310 Global Perspectives on the African Diaspora
- 3440 Theorizing Race
- 4921 Intersections

Elective Courses (six elective courses, 18 credit hours)

- Of the 18 credit hours, 9 (or three courses) must be at the 4000-level
- The remaining 9 credit hours must be 2000-level or above

Total: ten courses (30 credit hours)

4. Assessment Data: Current Problems and Proposed Revisions

In preparing this proposal, the AAAS Undergraduate Studies Committee consulted departmental Program Coordinator Mollie Workman and Academic Advisor Nadia Barksdale. They were asked to provide any relevant assessment data that would serve as an impetus for this proposal. Their responses (included below) indicate that **such data is largely lacking**, due in large part to the curricular issues this proposal seeks to rectify. This is what they wrote:

Nadia Barksdale (Academic Advisor, AAAS):

"As the academic advisor for students majoring in African American and African Studies, it is my job to help students apply for graduation. Part of this process involves making sure that their Degree Audit Report (DARS) runs properly. For a student majoring in AFAMAST, the DARS will not ever run complete, despite the fact that the student has completed all requirements for graduation. Any graduating senior with 36 hours in the major and 15 of those hours at the 4000-level or above will still face an incomplete audit due to the fact that the department states AFAMAST 4998 as a requirement, despite the fact that the department does not offer this course and has not done so for years. The department also asks the students to select a concentration area, but does not offer enough classes to complete any concentration area besides "Histories, Cultures, Languages, and Literatures" – and to even complete that concentration area, a student would still be at the mercy of course offerings semester to semester. Because of these issues, I make DARS exceptions for every student graduating with a major in AFAMAST, even if they do have the proper number of hours and rigor across their curriculum."

Mollie Workman (Program Coordinator, AAAS):

"We have not been able to complete our major assessment for several years due to the assessment being based on a portfolio that was never collected in the 4998 course that was never offered. The new program would allow us to start using an assessment plan that we will be able to enact."

Thus, in addition to the curriculum changes in this proposal, we are also proposing **a revision of our major assessment plan**. The new major assessment plan includes the following points, including two direct and two indirect measures:

- Direct course assessment of 1) the major's introductory course (AAAS 2201: Major Readings) and 2) an advanced core course (AAAS 3440: Theorizing Race). Another advanced core course we could assess is "Intersections" (AAAS 4921). However, because this course is cross-listed with, and often taught by faculty in Comparative Studies, it makes more sense for us to assess AAAS 3440, which is housed entirely in our program.
- Indirect discursive evaluation of our core courses
- Indirect exit interview with graduating majors, using an online qualtrics survey

Attached to this application are: 1) the two direct assessment rubrics for AAAS 2201 and 3440; 2) a discursive evaluation script for AAAS 2201; and 3) a sample exit interview script.

We believe that these changes to our major assessment plan will have **an immediate positive effect on our ability to assess our students' experience of and progress within our major degree program**–practices which we have been hindered in effectively completing in recent years because of the difficulty in administering our existing assessment rubrics.

5. Possible Impact on Student Enrollment

As addressed in the proposed changes above, the primary goal of these revisions is to **increase the number of majors in African American and African Studies**. While we have seen a modest increase in majors in recent years, this follows a period of significant decline, and we are still well below the number our program enjoyed a decade prior. With room to grow, we hope that these revisions will created a more flexible, dynamic, and attractive major, and bring more students into the fold of African American and African Studies at the Ohio State University.

MAJOR PROGRAM FORM (current) Department of African American & African Studies

Last	F	First		Middle		
Mailing Address						
City/ST/Zip						
Email		Home Ph	one	Mol	bile	
OSU ID #						
College of Enrollment			Additional Mai	or(s)		
College of Enrollment Additional Major(s) Minor(s) Projected Date of Graduation						
Minor(s)			Projected Date	of Graduation_		
Have you filed a degree application in the College of Arts and Sciences office? Yes No						
ASC Honors: Contract Honors Advisor						
Thesis Thesis Advisor						
	raduation. E		rades below. Cu		jor. Minimum grade average of courses should be listed as "IP"	
Part A. Core Requireme				Current Ran	ık Date	
Course #	Credit Hours	Projected Semester	Actual Semester	Grade	Notes	
AAAS 2201	3				Formerly 200/201	
AAAS 3310	3				Formerly 310	
AAAS 3440 or 4921	3				Formerly 595 and 545	
AAAS 4998	3					
Part B. Cognate Area – the 4000-level and above		urs from one of th	he Cognate Area	as selected belo	ow; a minimum of 12 hours at	
Check only one:Representation & Performance						
Social Issues, Community Development, & Public Service						
	Histories, C	ultures, Languag	es, & Literature	S		
	Race, Ethnicity, Gender, & Sexuality					

Course #	Credit Hours	Projected Semester	Actual Semester	Grade	Notes

Rev 4/3/09

MAJOR PROGRAM FORM (current) Department of African American & African Studies

Part C. Breadth Requirement -6 credit hours from among the course offerings in the three outside Cognate Areas; a minimum of 3 hours at the 4000-level and above.

ourse #	Credit Hours	Projected Semester	Actual Semester	Grade	Notes		
otal Hours Con	npleted:	Origin	al Revisio	n	Update		
culty Adviser	Comment Section	:					
		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·					
		Date	Signa	ature of Stu	dent	Date	
Name of Stud	dent (Print)						

MAJOR PROGRAM FORM (proposed) Department of African American and African Studies

Last	First	Middle
Mailing Address		
City/ST/Zip		
Email	Home Phone	Mobile
OSU ID #	-	
College of Enrollment	Additional Majo	r(s)
Minor(s)	Projected Date of	of Graduation
Have you filed a degree application	n in the College of Arts and Science	es office? Yes No
ASC Honors: Contract	Honors Advisor	
Thesis	Thesis Advisor	
Instructions: A minimum grade of C (2.00) is required for graduation. (in progress).	C- is required for all courses taken v. Enter all earned grades below. Cur	within the Major. Minimum grade average of rent semester courses should be listed as "IP"

Part A. Core Courses – 12 credit hours Current Rank_____ Date_____

Course #	Credit Hours	Projected Semester	Actual Semester	Grade	Notes
AAAS 2201	3				
AAAS 3310	3				
AAAS 3440	3				
AAAS 4921	3				

Part B. Elective Courses – Of the 18 credit hours, 9 (or three courses) must be at the 4000-level. The remaining 9 credit hours must be 2000-level or above

Course #	Credit Hours	Projected Semester	Actual Semester	Grade	Notes

MAJOR PROGRAM FORM (proposed) Department of African American and African Studies

Total Hours Completed:	Origin	nal	Revision	Update	
Faculty Adviser Comment Section:					
Name of Student (Print)	Date		Signature of St	tudent	Date
Name of Faculty Adviser (Print)	Date		Signature of Fa	aculty Adviser	Date

Program Learning Goals

African American and African Studies (AAAS)

Goal A: Demonstrate an understanding of the cultural, socio-political, and historical formations, connections, conditions, and transformations evident throughout the African World.

Goal B: Identify, critique, and appreciate the intersections between race, class, gender, ethnicity, and sexuality from the historical and existential perspectives of African and African-descended peoples.

Goal C: Implement interdisciplinary research methods and methodological perspectives applicable to advanced study, community development, and public service.

	Program Learning Goals					
	Goal A: Demonstrate an understanding of the cultural, socio-political, and historical formations, connections, Conditions, and transformations evident throughout the African World.	Goal B: Identify, critique, and appreciate the intersections between race, class, gender, ethnicity, and sexuality from the historical and existential perspectives of African and African- descended peoples.	Goal C: Implement interdisciplinary research methods and methodological perspectives applicable to advanced study, community development, and public service.			
Core Courses						
2201	Beginning	Intermediate				
3310	Intermediate	intermediate				
3440	Intermediate	Advanced	Beginning			
4921	Intermediate	Advanced	Intermediate			
4788	Intermediate	Intermediate	Advanced			
Representation and						
Performance Cognate						
Area Courses						
2251	Beginning					
2253	Beginning					
2281	Beginning					
2270	Beginning	Beginning				
2288	beginning	Beginning				
3342H	Intermediate					
3451	Intermediate					
3376	Intermediate					
4378	Advanced					
4460	Advanced		Intermediate			
4551	Advanced		Intermediate			
4571	Advanced		Intermediate			
4582	Advanced		Intermediate			
4584H	Advanced		Intermediate			
Social Issues,						
Community						
Development, & Public Service						
Cognate Area Courses						
Cognate Area Courses						

2218	beginning		
2261	beginning	beginning	
2290	beginning	beginning	
2291	beginning	beginning	
2327	beginning	~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~	
3230	Intermediate	Intermediate	
3361	Intermediate	Intermediate	
3440	Intermediate	Advanced	Beginning
4504	Advanced	Intermediate	Intermediate
4561	Advanced		Intermediate
4570	Advanced		Intermediate
4921	Intermediate	Advanced	Intermediate
51895		Intermediate	Advanced
Histories,			
Cultures,			
La11guages, &			
Literatures			
Cognate Area			
Courses			
2367.01	Beginning		Beginning
2367.02		Beginning	
2251	Beginning		
2253	Beginning		
2281	Beginning		
3342H	Intermediate		
3376	Intermediate		
3451	Intermediate		
4452	Advanced		Intermediate
4453	Advanced		Intermediate
4460	Advanced		Intermediate
4551	Advanced		Intermediate
4527	Advanced	Intermediate	Intermediate
4571	Advanced		Intermediate
4584H	Advanced		Intermediate
5485.01	Advanced		Intermediate
5485.02	Advanced		Intermediate
5798	Advanced		Intermediate
Race, Ethnicity,			
Gender, & Sexuality			
Cognate Area Courses			
2367.02		Beginning	Beginning
2261	Beginning	Beginning	
2291	Beginning	Beginning	
2243	Beginning	Beginning	

3230	Intermediate	Intermediate	
4527	Advanced	Intermediate	Intermediate
4535	Advanced	Advanced	Intermediate
4921	Intermediate	Advanced	Intermediate
3440	Intermediate	Advanced	Beginning

	Program Learning Goals				
	Goal A: Demonstrate an understanding of the cultural, socio-political, and historical formations, connections, conditions, and transformations evident throughout the African World.	Goal B: Identify, critique, and appreciate the intersections between race, class, gender, ethnicity, and sexuality from the historical and existential perspectives of African and African- descended peoples.	Goal C: Implement interdisciplinary research methods and methodological perspectives applicable to advanced study, community development, and public service.		
Core Courses					
2201	Beginning	Intermediate			
3310	Intermediate	Intermediate			
3440	Intermediate	Advanced	Beginning		
4921	Intermediate	Advanced	Intermediate		
Elective Courses			 		
2000-Level (Max of 3 courses)	Beginning	Beginning	Beginning		
3000- Level (Max of 3 courses)	Beginning/Intermediate	Beginning/Intermediate	Beginning/Intermediate		
4000-Level	Advanced	Advanced	Advanced		
5000-Level	Advanced	Advanced	Advanced		

RATING OF AAAS 2201 FINAL PAPERS (direct course assessment)

Paper # _____ Reviewer _____ Date Reviewed _____

This scoring rubric is designed to help instructors assess how well students are meeting AAAS learning outcomes as reflected in 2201's final research paper assignment. Please rate each criterion with a score of 1 through 4, 1 indicating the criterion was not met and 2 through 4 indicating increasing levels of accomplishment.

Student will be able to think critically about issues pertinent to African American and African studies

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
No	Basic	Intermediate	Advanced
Shows no	Shows	Shows	Shows
comprehension of	comprehension of	comprehension of	comprehension of
concepts; little	concepts related to	concepts related to	concepts related to
knowledge of	African American	African American	African American
African American	and African studies	and African studies	and African studies;
and African studies	and some	and analyzes ideas	applies, analyzes
	application of ideas		and evaluates ideas

Student will be able to pursue interdisciplinary inquiries about African American and African studies and to pose questions that cut across disciplinary fields

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
No	Basic	Intermediate	Advanced
Does not connect	Recognizes various	Connects various	Synthesizes various
various disciplines	disciplines with a	disciplines with an	disciplines through
or understand	focus on African	articulated focus on	an articulated and
African American	American and	African American	analytical focus on
and African studies	African studies but	and African studies	African American
as interdisciplinary	does not make clear		and African studies
	connections		

Student will be able to perform research related to African American and African studies through developing an argument, organizing data, displaying evidence for that argument, and expressing ideas in writing

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
No	Basic	Intermediate	Advanced
Does not provide	Describes	Demonstrates an	Articulates
clear arguments or	arguments and	ability to develop	sophisticated
supportive	organizes data but	arguments	arguments, analyzes
evidence; does not	lacks supportive	supported with	interconnected
express ideas	evidence and clear	evidence and clear	evidence and
clearly	written expression	written expression	develops clear
			discussion of ideas

Comments:

RATING OF AAAS 3440 (Theorizing Race & Ethnicity) (direct course

assessment)

 Paper # _____
 Reviewer _____

Date Reviewed _____

This scoring rubric is designed to help instructors assess how well students are meeting AAAS learning outcomes as reflected in 3340's end-of-semester assignment (final paper, exam, or other). Please rate each criterion with a score of 1 through 4, 1 indicating the criterion was not met and 2 through 4 indicating increasing levels of accomplishment.

Student will be able to think critically about issues pertinent to African American and African studies

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
No	Basic	Intermediate	Advanced
Shows no	Shows	Shows	Shows
comprehension of	comprehension of	comprehension of	comprehension of
concepts; little	concepts related to	concepts related to	concepts related to
knowledge of	African American	African American	African American
African American	and African studies	and African studies	and African studies;
and African studies	and some	and analyzes ideas	applies, analyzes
	application of ideas		and evaluates ideas

Student will be able to pursue interdisciplinary inquiries about African American and African studies and to pose questions that cut across disciplinary fields

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
No	Basic	Intermediate	Advanced
Does not connect	Recognizes various	Connects various	Synthesizes various
various disciplines	disciplines with a	disciplines with an	disciplines through
or understand	focus on African	articulated focus on	an articulated and
African American	American and	African American	analytical focus on
and African studies	African studies but	and African studies	African American
as interdisciplinary	does not make clear		and African studies
	connections		

Student will be able to perform research related to African American and African studies through developing an argument, organizing data, displaying evidence for that argument, and expressing ideas in writing

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
No	Basic	Intermediate	Advanced
Does not provide	Describes	Demonstrates an	Articulates
clear arguments or	arguments and	ability to develop	sophisticated
supportive	organizes data but	arguments	arguments, analyzes
evidence; does not	lacks supportive	supported with	interconnected
express ideas	evidence and clear	evidence and clear	evidence and
clearly	written expression	written expression	develops clear
			discussion of ideas

Comments:

Discursive Course Evaluation

Major Readings in African American and African Studies

AAAS 2201

Are you taking this course as a core requirement for the AAAS major or minor?

If so, which? ______

Below is a list of the **objectives** for this course, as listed on the course syllabus. Please read the list carefully and then indicate how well each objective was met, using a scale of 1 (Not Well) to 5 (Very Well). If you can, please also give a brief explanation after your rating.

Course Objectives:

At the end of the semester, students should be able to:

1. think critically about the concept of "race" in the African World

Rating:	Explanation:	
2.	articulate the role of oral traditions in reconstructing African pasts	
Rating:	Explanation:	
3.	describe the rich cultural heritage of Africans in the Americas	
Rating:	Explanation:	
4.	interrogate histories of colonialism and racial segregation	
Rating:	Explanation:	
5.	appreciate the modern-day dynamism and diversity of the Africa and its diaspora	
Rating:	Explanation:	
6.	and, locate ideas and inquiries within the interdisciplinary field of African American and A Studies	frican
Rating:	Explanation:	

Discursive Course Evaluation, AAAS 2201

What aspect(s) of the course were particularly good?

What suggestions do you have for improving the course?

OSU Department of African American and African Studies Survey of Graduating Students

1. How many years did it take you to complete your BA degree?

2. During which year of college did you decide on AAAS as your major? Why did you first decide to choose it?

3. What additional majors or minors did you complete?

4. Outside of coursework, what other AAAS activities were you a part of (brownbag lectures, field trips, campus events, work study, etc.)?

5. How helpful did you find the core courses for the major – Major Readings (2201), Global Perspective (3310), Theorizing Race (3440), and Intersections (4921)? What do you feel like you learned from these courses? Do you have any suggestions for their improvement, or for other courses that you think should be required for the major?

6. What subject areas (conceptual issues, areas or regions, historical periods) do you wish had been included more in departmental course offerings? Put another way, if we could hire other faculty members to teach in our department, what subjects would you have been interested in learning more about?

7. What would be your dream/preferred employment after graduating? Do you plan on pursuing a career related to AAAS, either now or in the future? Do you have any more feedback about how AAAS has impacted your possible career goals?

8. How often did you meet with your academic advisor and/or program coordinator in AAAS? How helpful were these meetings?

9. Can you explain how the AAAS major has shaped your intellectual development? What new perspectives do you feel like it opened up for you?

10. On a scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent), how would you rate your overall educational experience in AAAS at OSU?

11. Is there anything else you would like to tell us about your experience in AAAS at OSU?