

# **Revisions to AAAS PhD, MA, and Graduate Minor Programs**

## **Proposal Approved by AAAS Faculty**

*The following proposal explains and summarizes curricular and programmatic changes designed by the Graduate Studies Committee and approved by faculty in the Department of African American and African Studies in the academic years 2016–17 and 2017–18. We wish to implement the new programs by Autumn 2018.*

Since its founding in 1968, the Department of African American and African Studies has developed an interdisciplinary curriculum focused on the study of African and African-descended societies. The department's intellectual and pedagogical missions have been guided by a global understanding of the African continent and its diasporas and a desire to use complex and multilayered perspectives that incorporate rigorous theoretical and conceptual engagements. The Department of African American and African Studies offers graduate degrees at the MA and PhD levels. The Masters of Arts program was established in 1975 to develop an advanced interdisciplinary approach to the study of African and African-descended societies. To fulfill its intellectual and pedagogical mission, in 2012 the department started its PhD program, offering doctoral degrees in African American and African Studies with specializations in African American, African, and African Diaspora Studies.

The proposed revisions to the department's graduate program deeply engage and strengthen its mission, which is to produce and disseminate knowledge and understanding about African peoples globally. The department offers students from all communities the opportunity to acquire the theories, practices, methodologies, critical thinking, and communication skills necessary to master an interdisciplinary approach to the historical, cultural, social, psychological, political, and economic experiences of people of African descent throughout the world. To foster and maintain an intellectual environment in our community on and off campus, we assist students and community members in their development as lifelong learners and informed citizens, seeking to better the community, nation, and world.

The revisions being proposed were formulated by the Graduate Studies Committee in response to the continuing evaluation of the new PhD program, now in its 4<sup>th</sup> year. Now that the program has been functioning for a number of years, we were able to see which parts of our program work as originally designed and which parts need to be changed to reflect the needs of the program and its students, as well as the ever-changing landscape of the field of African American and African Studies. The information used by the Graduate Studies Committee to assess the program included the following:

- A consultation with currently enrolled and recently graduated graduate students.
- An evaluation of the progress and structural learning needs of the students.
- A study of the structure of other interdisciplinary programs on campus (particularly WGSS and Comparative Studies).
- A study of competing programs (in Africana, Black, or African American Studies) across the nation.
- An assessment of the direction of the field of African American and African Studies.

This document will begin by laying out the current coursework requirements and structure of the graduate programs and defining the problems that have arisen. It will proceed with the proposed revisions in terms of core requirements and program structure for the PhD, MA, and graduate minor, respectively.

## 1. Current Core Coursework, Program Structures, and Credit Hour Requirements

Our current **core coursework** requires MA and PhD students to take

- Graduate Survey in African American and African Studies (AFAMAST 7753).
- Methodological Perspectives in African American and Africans Studies (AFAMAST 7754).
- Theorizing Race and Ethnicity (AFAMAST 7756).

The MA program further requires students to

- Select a **regional area of concentration (African American, African, or Comparative Diaspora Studies)** that reflects their research and intellectual interests and complete **18** credits in said concentration. Each of these regional tracks is **further divided into two focus areas**: cultural studies and social studies, which require 3 credits each.
- **Three** credits from one of the two other concentration areas.
- Thesis option: **6** credit hours of thesis hours OR non-thesis option: **6** hours of electives.

The MA program requires a **total of 36 credit** hours to complete and is expected to take two academic years. In consultation with their advisor, MA students will decide to either complete the MA exam or a thesis. If students choose the thesis option, 6 credit hours can be used as thesis research/writing.

The PhD program further requires students to

- Select a **regional area of concentration (African American, African, or Comparative Diaspora Studies)** that reflects their research and intellectual interests and complete **15** credit hours in said concentration. Each of these regional tracks is **further divided into two focus areas**: cultural studies and social studies, which require 6 hours each.
- Additionally, students are also required to complete **9** credits in the other two regional areas of concentration.
- **12** credits in electives.
- **15** credits for the Prospectus and Dissertation.

Only students who have previously completed an MA in AAAS or a related field are eligible for admission to the PhD program. The total number of credits required for the **PhD** is currently **87** for students with an internal MA and **90** for students with an external MA. Students entering with an external MA can transfer up to 30 of the credits earned elsewhere. Students with an MA from AAAS at Ohio State can transfer up to 36 credits. This means students with an external MA have to complete 60 credits at the PhD level (45 of those in course requirements and 15 in dissertation credit hours) and those with an internal MA need to complete 51 credits (36 of those in course requirements and 15 in dissertation credit hours).

## 2. Problems with Current Set-Up

The Graduate Studies Committee concluded that the following **problems** exist with our current structure:

**(1) Structural Discrepancy:** one of the central problems we have been contending with since the inception of the PhD program is that it was designed as a program in which internal MA students would flow into it. In practice, however, several students with external MAs were admitted to the program. Since this discrepancy was never spelled out in the Graduate Handbook, which focuses on the 87 credit hour plan, it has caused much confusion. The lack of accounting for the inflow of external MAs into the PhD program is illustrated by the old PhD advising sheet (see appendix D), which is only set up for students with an internal MA.

**(2) Number of required credits:** currently the program takes 87 credit hours to degree for PhD students with an internal MA and 90 credit hours to degree for PhD students with an external MA. Not only does the latter place us well above the Graduate School requirement of 80 credit hours to degree, the unevenness between the trajectories for students with an internal vs. external MA has been the cause of much confusion.

(3) **Areas Requirement:** currently the MA and PhD programs are structured into three geographic areas (African Studies, African American Studies, and African Diaspora Studies). The subdivision into three fields, with 2 focus areas each, causes problems for graduate course scheduling and enrollment: too many courses are needed since all areas need courses each semester and there is too little enrollment per course as a result. This issue has become particularly pressing given the steep faculty attrition in the past couple of years. In fact, it is currently impossible to complete the program within the parameters of these rules. Additionally, it does not follow the current trend of other programs or the direction of the field, which is geared toward interdisciplinary, intersectional, and transnational work.

(4) **Core Requirements:** the current requirement for graduate students to enroll in AFAMAST 7754 as the methods requirement does not serve the interdisciplinary needs of our students, who seek additional methods coursework.

### 3. Proposed MA Coursework and Program of Study

The Department of African American and African Studies offers a two-year MA degree program whose purpose is to provide a broad-based graduate education in African American and African Studies. The proposed MA is designed to allow students to pursue their areas of interest through formal course work, community engagement, independent study, study abroad opportunities, and (elective) MA research. The MA program of the Department of African American and African studies encourages interdisciplinary and intersectional work. The proposed changes follow the same format as the PhD program (see below), doing away with regional areas of study in exchange for thematic areas of study in order to better serve both our students' research interests as well as the interdisciplinary nature of the field of Black Studies. Moreover, the proposed changes further support the learning goals the department expects its MA students to attain:

- Articulate the theoretical and practical intersections between race, gender, class, nationality, ethnicity, and sexuality using a Black Diasporic perspective.
- Demonstrate in-depth knowledge and mastery of the relevant sources, methodological approaches, and concepts in their area of study.
- Exhibit in writing and discussion an understanding of epistemological, philosophical, and political debates that shape the discipline of African American and African Studies and its ongoing social and political significance.
- Recognize the value of public service, community organizing, advocacy, and activism in African American, African, and African-descended communities.
- Demonstrate the analytical, critical, oral, and writing skills necessary to produce, design, and independently conduct research.

The MA program requires 36 credit hours to complete; of which 9 credit hours are core courses. It is expected to take two academic years to complete the degree requirements. In consultation

with their advisor, MA students will decide to either complete the MA exam or a thesis. If students choose the thesis option, 6 credit hours can be used as thesis research/writing. MA coursework is geared toward preparing students for their exam or thesis. The required core courses provide MA students with the necessary interdisciplinary background in African American and African Studies, while the elective courses—rooted in one of the five thematic areas listed below—can be used to cultivate a focus area that students can integrate into either their thesis or examination.

### **Modifications to Existing Program:**

(1) Core Requirements: removing AFAMAST 7754 as a required methodology course in exchange for students enrolling in a methodology course from the approved list that is best suited for their research (decided in consultation with their advisor). The following courses have been approved by the Graduate Studies Committee to fulfill this requirement:

- African American and African Studies 7810: Topics in Black Feminist Theory.
- African American and African Studies/History 7430: African Historiography and Methodology.
- Anthropology 8891.05: Graduate Seminar in Research Design and Ethnographic Methods.
- Art Education 7200.10: Introduction to Research Methodologies and Methods.
- Comparative Studies 6390 and 6391: Approaches to Comparative Cultural Studies I & II.
- Dance 7900: Theories and Methods.
- English 6795 and 7895: Survey of Methods and Seminar in Research Methods in Rhetoric and Composition.
- Film Studies 7001: Advanced Theory Seminar: Methods and Applications.
- Geography 7102: Fieldwork in Human Geography.
- History 7900: Colloquium in the Philosophy of History.
- Music 6786: Music Research Methods and Bibliography.
- Music 8885: Fieldwork in Ethnomusicology.
- Sociology 6608: Qualitative Methods in Sociology.
- Theatre 6701: Research Methods.
- Women's Gender, and Sexuality Studies 7760: Feminist Inquiry.

(2) Areas Requirement: transitioning to thematic areas of study instead of regional areas of study to better fit students' research interests and the interdisciplinary and diasporic nature of

the field of Black Studies. The proposed changes to the areas requirement are based on the assessment of (1) the research areas of faculty becoming increasingly transnational and intersectional, no longer neatly corresponding to geographic fields, (2) national trends in leading programs in Black/Africana/African American and African Studies moving away from geographic or regional fields toward thematic tracks (Northwestern University, University of Texas in Austin, Indiana University, and Penn State University, to name a few examples), (3) the increasing interest graduate students have in transnational and intersectional scholarship, which is hampered by the ways in which the current geographic tracks shape graduate course offerings by encouraging geographic restrictions, and (4) the elaborate credit hour requirements unnecessarily limit students' ability to complete coursework and to take the courses they need for their interdisciplinary research topics.

The proposed structural change includes a modified areas requirement that is thematically focused, rather than geographically, and follows the nodes of scholarship around which the field is currently structured. Students will be encouraged to focus on gaining expertise in one of the five areas of their choice, but there will be no specific course or credit hour requirement attached to the thematic areas. With this new program, we propose students aim to take a minimum of two courses per semester in the department, making it so that roughly two-thirds of a student's coursework is rooted in the department of African American and African Studies. This allows students to take some of their coursework outside of the department, encouraging truly interdisciplinary and intersectional work. Exemptions are possible on the advice of the student's advisor and permission of the Graduate Chair. Based on this assessment and adjustments, the Master's program in the Department of African American and African Studies will be focused on the following thematic areas:

1. Black Social Thought and Political Action:

The area examines theories and practices of both inequality and social justice in transnational African and Afro-diasporic contexts and how these contexts may intersect, conceptually and materially, with other identities such as gender, class, sexuality, and nationality. This area amplifies the particular experiences of diasporic peoples with structures, policies, and global capitalism. Courses in this area will provide students an opportunity to investigate a variety of interdisciplinary frameworks, theoretical perspectives, and methods related to the study of the global black world.

2. Critical Gender and Sexuality Studies:

This interdisciplinary area explores the role race, gender, and sexuality take in shaping ideas of identity, oppression, and privilege. Because the courses in this area situate gender and sexuality as temporally and geographically specific concepts that evolve over time, students will be methodologically challenged to incorporate intersectionality, queer theory, Black feminist studies, Black masculinity studies, and disability studies into their

engagement with canonical texts. Ultimately, this area encompasses both methodology and subject.

3. Black Arts and Cultures:

The area encompasses the performing and visual arts, literature, and the comparative study of cultures, societies, and communities in transnational African and Afro-diasporic contexts. In courses supporting this area of study, students will encounter and examine a diverse range of artistic genres, repertoires, texts, performance practices, and expressive cultural traditions in a diverse array of black social environments worldwide. Further, students will learn to closely read, listen, and view cultural products and practices of the African world and thoughtfully submit them to careful and rigorous analysis.

4. Transnational Black Histories:

Fundamentally shaped by (often forced) migration, the histories of Black peoples stretch far beyond the African continent. This area of study places the societies, cultures, and political systems of Africans and peoples of African descent across the world in historical perspective. Students will learn how to use historical methods and knowledge in order to analyze and understand current events and conditions. Research and courses in this area can be geographically focused or transnational, global, or comparative, but will depart from the view that there are certain common conditions that have fundamentally shaped the fate of black peoples across the globe.

5. Critical Theory:

The goal of the critical theory component is to instruct students in theories of race and ethnicity in their relations and intersections with studies of culture, gender, class, political economies, state formations, and ideologies. Students will gain skills to analyze and conceptualize the ways in which race defines modalities of power and conflict, collective identities, and intellectual or philosophical meditations. The approach of the component is interdisciplinary and its focus encompasses African and African-descended populations on a global scale. Specific emphasis is placed on the ways in which blackness is theorized in terms of structural relations as well as patterns of agency and identity.

\*A list of corresponding courses is provided in Appendix A at the end of this proposal\*

The process for the thesis and exam remain unchanged, with the exception that the focus of a student's studies (and therefore their exam or thesis material) is rooted in thematic areas of study instead of a regional area of study.

The MA Comprehensive Examination. All 5 areas of concentration (listed above) should be represented on the reading list. The written component will be followed by a one-hour oral defense.

A student electing the Thesis Option will choose one of the 5 thematic areas and develop a research topic in the context of this thematic area.

For suggested MA timelines, please see Appendix H. The old and the updated Program of Study advising sheets can be found in Appendix B and C, respectively.

Faculty approved these revisions to the MA program by unanimous vote on **April 3 and October 2, 2017**. The proposed implementation date is **Fall semester 2018**.

**In summary:**

**MA Requirements with Proposed Adjustments:**

**Required Core Theory Courses: 9 hours (3 courses)**

**AFAMAST 7753** – Graduate Survey in African American and African Studies

**AFAMAST 7756** – Theorizing Race and Ethnicity

**Methods course from the approved list**

**Elective Courses: 27 hours**

**27 hours** in electives, 6 of which can be used for thesis research/writing hours (AFAMAST 6999)

Only 6 hours of AFAMAST 5193/8193<sup>1</sup> – Individual Studies may count toward the degree. The permission of the Director of Graduate Studies is required when a student wishes to enroll in additional independent study hours.

Students should aim to enroll in two courses from the department every semester, ensuring that two-thirds of their coursework comes from the field of African American and African Studies.

---

<sup>1</sup> We are currently using AFAMAST 5193 but AFAMAST 8193 Individual Studies has been submitted for curricular review.



## 4. Proposed PhD Coursework and Program of Study

The Department of African American and African Studies offers a PhD degree program whose purpose is to develop advanced graduate students who are able to demonstrate theoretical knowledge and the critical, analytical, argumentative, and writing skills necessary to design, conduct, elaborate, and disseminate research in the field of global African American and African studies. The proposed core coursework, applied to both our PhD and MA programs, does away with the areas requirement and rather emphasizes thematic tracks and allows for students to enroll in a methodology course that better suits their research. Our PhD and MA examinations will also change to reflect program changes.

The proposed PhD coursework is geared toward preparing students for their candidacy exams and to design and implement a dissertation project. Moreover, the proposed changes further support the learning goals the department expects its PhD students to attain:

- Demonstrate the analytical, critical, oral, and writing skills necessary to produce, design, and independently conduct research.
- Articulate the theoretical and practical intersections between race, gender, class, nationality, ethnicity, and sexuality using a Black Diasporic perspective.
- Demonstrate in-depth knowledge and mastery in all areas of concentration through a combination of qualitative and quantitative research, conceptual work, and theoretical reflection.
- Exhibit in writing and discussion an understanding of epistemological, philosophical, and political debates that shape the discipline and its ongoing social and political significance.
- Recognize the value of public service, community organizing, advocacy, and activism in African American, African, and African-descended communities.

Below we outline the planned changes in credit hours, areas requirements, and program structure.

### **Credit Hours:**

For students with an internal MA: the successful completion of the PhD program in AAAS requires a minimum of **80** credit hours of graduate course work, 50 of which need to take place at the PhD level:

- **38** credit hours of course electives.
- **12** Prospectus and Dissertation credit hours (AFAMAST 8998 and 8999).

For Students with an external MA: the successful completion of the Ph.D. Program requires a minimum of **80** credit hours of graduate work, **50** of which need to take place at the Ph.D. level:

- **9** credit hours in core course requirements.
- **29** credit hours of course electives.
- **12** Prospectus and Dissertation credit hours (AFAMAST 8998 and 8999).

All students should aim to take at least two courses per semester in the department, but exemptions are possible on the advice of the student's advisor and permission of the Graduate Chair. Students may take up to 6 credit hours of individual studies. The permission of the Director of Graduate Studies is required when a student wishes to enroll in additional individual studies above the 6-hour limit. The electives include the option of **3 hours** in reading hours for candidacy exams.

Compared to the old program, internal MA to PhD students still hold an advantage in terms of coursework to be completed (they can choose more electives), but the total number of credits has been evened out to 80, in line with the Graduate School requirement, which also makes the program more feasible within the 4-year funding structure.

**Areas Requirement:** The proposed changes to the areas requirement are based on the assessment of (1) areas of faculty becoming increasingly transnational and intersectional, no longer neatly corresponding to geographic fields, (2) national trends in leading programs in Black/Africana/African American and African Studies moving away from geographic or regional fields toward thematic tracks (Northwestern University, University of Texas in Austin, Indiana University, and Penn State University, to name a few examples), (3) the increasing interest graduate students have in transnational and intersectional scholarship, which is hampered by the ways in which the current geographic tracks shape graduate course offerings by encouraging geographic restrictions, and (4) the elaborate credit hour requirements unnecessarily limits students' ability to complete coursework and to take the courses they need for their interdisciplinary research topics.

The proposed structural change includes a modified areas requirement that is thematically rather than geographically focused and follows the nodes of scholarship around which the field is currently structured. Students will be encouraged to focus on gaining expertise in one of the five areas of their choice, but there will be no specific course or credit hour requirement attached to the thematic areas. With this new program, we propose students aim to take a minimum of two courses per semester in the department, making it so that roughly two-thirds of a student's coursework is rooted in the department of African American and African Studies. This allows students to take some of their coursework outside of the department, encouraging truly interdisciplinary and intersectional work. Exemptions are possible on the advice of the student's advisor and permission of the Graduate Chair. Based on this assessment and adjustments, the doctoral program in the Department of African American and

African Studies will be focused on the following thematic areas in place of the current regional areas:

1. Black Social Thought and Political Action:

The area examines theories and practices of both inequality and social justice in transnational African and Afro-diasporic contexts and how these contexts may intersect, conceptually and materially, with other identities such as gender, class, sexuality, and nationality. This area amplifies the particular experiences of diasporic peoples with structures, policies, and global capitalism. Courses in this area will provide students an opportunity to investigate a variety of interdisciplinary frameworks, theoretical perspectives, and methods related to the study of the global black world.

2. Critical Gender and Sexuality Studies:

This interdisciplinary area explores the role race, gender, and sexuality take in shaping ideas of identity, oppression, and privilege. Because the courses in this area situate gender and sexuality as temporally and geographically specific concepts that evolve over time, students will be methodologically challenged to incorporate intersectionality, queer theory, Black feminist studies, Black masculinity studies, and disability studies into their engagement with canonical texts. Ultimately, this area encompasses both methodology and subject.

3. Black Arts and Cultures:

The area encompasses the performing and visual arts, literature, and the comparative study of cultures, societies, and communities in transnational African and Afro-diasporic contexts. In courses supporting this area of study, students will encounter and examine a diverse range of artistic genres, repertoires, texts, performance practices, and expressive cultural traditions in a diverse array of black social environments worldwide. Further, students will learn to closely read, listen, and view cultural products and practices of the African world and thoughtfully submit them to careful and rigorous analysis.

4. Transnational Black Histories:

Fundamentally shaped by (often forced) migration, the histories of Black peoples stretch far beyond the African continent. This area of study places the societies, cultures, and political systems of Africans and peoples of African descent across the world in historical perspective. Students will learn how to use historical methods and knowledge in order to analyze and understand current events and conditions. Research and courses in this area can be geographically focused or transnational, global, or comparative, but will depart from the view that there are certain common conditions that have fundamentally shaped the fate of black peoples across the globe.

## 5. Critical Theory:

The goal of the critical theory component is to instruct students in theories of race and ethnicity in their relations and intersections with studies of culture, gender, class, political economies, state formations, and ideologies. Students will gain skills to analyze and conceptualize the ways in which race defines modalities of power and conflict, collective identities, and intellectual or philosophical meditations. The approach of the component is interdisciplinary and its focus encompasses African and African-descended populations on a global scale. Specific emphasis is placed on the ways in which blackness is theorized in terms of structural relations as well as patterns of agency and identity.

\*A list of corresponding courses is provided in Appendix A at the end of this proposal\*

The process for the Candidacy Examination remains the same, but the thematic areas will serve to structure the exams. Students will be examined on their knowledge of one major field and two minor fields. The major and minor fields should be selected from the list of 5 thematic areas that compose the program.

For the suggested PhD timelines, please see Appendix I. The old and the updated Program of Study advising sheets can be found in Appendix D and Appendix E, respectively.

**Core Course Requirements:** The proposed change is based on the assessment from faculty and students that (1) AFAMAST 7756 (Theorizing Race and Ethnicity) and AFAMAST 7753 (Graduate Survey) are currently meeting students' needs for interdisciplinary training within the department, (2) students are enrolling in methods courses outside the department that are more closely aligned with their research needs, and (3) it is necessary for students to take a more specialized methods course (possibly outside the department) that is more closely aligned with their research plans.

Our new core course requirements will be:

- Graduate Survey in African American and African Studies (AFAMAST 7753).
- Theorizing Race and Ethnicity (AFAMAST 7756).
- Additional methods course requirement to be selected from the approved course list in conjunction with a student's advisor based on the student's planned research. The following courses have been approved by the Graduate Studies Committee to fulfill this requirement:
  - African American and African Studies 7810: Topics in Black Feminist Theory.
  - African American and African Studies/History 7430: African Historiography and Methodology.

- Anthropology 8891.05: Graduate Seminar in Research Design and Ethnographic Methods.
- Art Education 7200.10: Introduction to Research Methodologies and Methods.
- Comparative Studies 6390 and 6391: Approaches to Comparative Cultural Studies I & II.
- Dance 7900: Theories and Methods.
- English 6795 and 7895: Survey of Methods and Seminar in Research Methods in Rhetoric and Composition.
- Film Studies 7001: Advanced Theory Seminar: Methods and Applications.
- Geography 7102: Fieldwork in Human Geography.
- History 7900: Colloquium in the Philosophy of History.
- Music 6786: Music Research Methods and Bibliography.
- Music 8885: Fieldwork in Ethnomusicology.
- Sociology 6608: Qualitative Methods in Sociology.
- Theatre 6701: Research Methods.
- Women's Gender, and Sexuality Studies 7760: Feminist Inquiry.

The list of methods courses will be evaluated and updated yearly by the Graduate Studies Committee. Methods courses not listed can fulfill the methods requirement with special approval from the Graduate Studies Director.

## **In Summary:**

### **PhD Requirements with Proposed Adjustments:**

#### **A. For Students with an Internal MA:**

**Elective Courses: 38 hours**, chosen in consultation with the student's faculty advisor.

**Includes 3 hours** of reading hours for candidacy exams.

Only 6 hours of AFAMAST 8193 – Individual Studies may count toward the degree. The permission of the Director of Graduate Studies is required when a student wishes to enroll in additional independent study hours.

#### **Dissertation and Prospectus Hours: 12 hours**

**AFAMAST 8998** – Research in African-American and African Studies:

Dissertation

**AFAMAST 8999** – Dissertation Writing

**B. For Students with an External MA:****Required Core Theory Courses: 9 hours (3 courses)**

AFAMAST 7753 – Graduate Survey in African American and African Studies

AFAMAST 7756 – Theorizing Race and Ethnicity

**Methods course from the approved list**

**Elective Courses: 29 hours**, chosen in consultation with the student's faculty advisor.

**Includes 3 hours** of reading hours for candidacy exams.

Only 6 hours of AFAMAST 8193 – Individual Studies may count toward the degree. The permission of the Director of Graduate Studies is required when a student wishes to enroll in additional independent study hours.

**Dissertation and Prospectus Hours: 12 hours**

AFAMAST 8998 – Research in African-American and African Studies:  
Dissertation

AFAMAST 8999 – Dissertation Writing

**Conclusion:** The enrollment expectations over the course of the next several years is estimated at 3–5 students per year. The revisions follow national trends in Africana/Black/African American and African Studies programs and will thus increase our competitiveness on a national level; encourage transnational, comparative, and intersectional work; align the department's resources better with the interests of graduate students; advance the mission of the department; and maintain the department's learning goals. Faculty approved both of these revisions to the program by unanimous vote on **April 3 and October 2, 2017**. The proposed implementation is **Fall semester 2018**.

## **5. Current and Proposed Graduate Minor Coursework**

The minor in African American and African Studies is open to any graduate student outside of the department interested in developing an interdisciplinary secondary area of expertise. A graduate minor in African American and African Studies provides an excellent interdisciplinary

background for students in a wide variety of disciplines, including but not limited to history, anthropology, sociology, city and regional planning, education, and public health. Completion of the graduate minor is noted on a student's official Ohio State transcript.

In order to complete a minor in African American and African Studies, the current requirements are:

- Graduate Survey in African American and African Studies (AFAMAST 7753).
- Methodological Perspectives in African American and African Studies (AFAMAST 7754).
- Theorizing Race and Ethnicity (AFAMAST 7756).
- One elective Course.

Resulting in a total of **12 credit hours** with **4 courses**.

The proposed changes are based on the assessment that (1) the methods course is redundant for many who have already completed their required methods course in their home department, (2) the methods requirement limits students from taking more specialized courses in the minor, and (3) the current structure only allows for one elective course, which limits the student's exposure to the field.

Based on the above assessment, the modification of the African American and African Studies minor will include the removal of Methodological Perspectives in African American and Africans Studies (AFAMAST 7754). The revision will thus result in the minor being comprised of two core courses (AFAMAST 7753 and 7756) plus two elective graduate-level courses. There will be no changes to credit hours. Faculty approved these revisions to the program unanimously on **April 3 and October 18, 2017**. The proposed implementation date is **Fall semester 2018**.

### **In summary:**

#### **Graduate Minor Requirements:**

The requirements for the minor include successful completion of 12 credit hours of graduate-level courses in African American and African Studies.

#### **Required Core Courses: 6 hours (2 courses)**

**AFAMAST 7753** – Graduate Survey in African American and African Studies.

**AFAMAST 7756** – Theorizing Race and Ethnicity.

#### **Elective Courses: 6 hours (2 courses)**

Choose **two** AFAMAST courses at the 5000-level or above.

## 6. Reliable Scheduling Plan

### Impact on Faculty Teaching Assignments

The proposed changes will enable faculty to teach courses more closely aligned to their interdisciplinary and transnational interests. It will also make scheduling more efficient. Because of the reduction in department-based core courses and the relinquishing of course requirements in relation to geographic and focus areas, the department will be able to reduce the number of graduate courses that need to be scheduled and thereby increase the enrollment of scheduled courses. This will result in less last-minute cancellations of courses.

### Previous Scheduling Plan

In theory, the old graduate program structure required at least 6 additional courses (2 per geographic area in order to cover the focus areas) to be scheduled in order to provide students with enough courses to fulfill their program requirements. In reality, this was never feasible and graduate students routinely had to have the program requirements waived to be able to graduate. Under the previous graduate program coursework plans, core courses (AFAMAST 7753, 7754, and 7756) were offered either Autumn or Spring semester on an annual basis. The chart below depicts our schedule the last several academic years.

2015–16		2016–17	
AUTUMN	SPRING	AUTUMN	SPRING
7753	7754	7753	7754
7756	XXX	7756	XXX
XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX
XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX

### Proposed Scheduling Plan

Under the newly proposed plan, the core courses AFAMAST 7754 and 7756 will continue to be offered on an annual basis in either Autumn or Spring semester. By making 7754 optional and moving from a geographic to a thematic focus allows us to offer 2 or 3 elective courses each semester. This is more closely aligned with current and projected faculty and budgetary



considerations. The chart below illustrates what our potential course schedule could look like offering 3 courses a semester.

2018–19		2019–20	
AUTUMN	SPRING	AUTUMN	SPRING
7753	7756	7753	7756
XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX
XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX
XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX

## Curriculum Transition Plan

The newly proposed program description and articulation of requirements will supersede all previous program requirements as of Autumn semester 2018, pending final formal approval. Program requirements will apply to all students who first enroll in the PhD or MA program or Graduate Minor, while other students still completing coursework will be grandfathered in (with the necessary flexibility.) All future incoming PhD and MA students will be required to enroll in AFAMAST 7753, 7756, and a chosen methods course. Candidacy and MA exams will correspond with the new thematic areas rather than regional focus areas. All future Graduate Minors will be required to enroll in AFAMAST 7753 and 7756 and two elective courses.

Category	Autumn 2016 Requirements	Proposed Autumn 2018 Requirements	Changes
<b>Core courses</b>	<p><b>MA &amp; PhD:</b> AFAMAST 7753 AFAMAST 7754 AFAMAST 7756 (students with internal MA complete these during MA coursework)</p> <p><b>Minor:</b> AFAMAST 7753 AFAMAST 7754 AFAMAST 7756</p>	<p><b>PhD students with External MA:</b> AFAMAST 7753 AFAMAST 7756 Methods course of student's choosing from approved list in consultation with advisor</p> <p><b>PhD students with Internal MA: N/A</b> (completed during MA)</p> <p><b>Minor:</b> AFAMAST 7753 AFAMAST 7756</p>	<p><b>PhD students with External MA:</b> Removed 7754 from the core courses and replaced it with an open methods requirement to allow students to take a methods course best suited to their research</p> <p><b>Minor:</b> Removed the methods course requirement to allow for another elective course</p>
<b>Elective requirements</b>	<p><b>PhD: 15</b> hours in selected regional concentration (6 of which in 2 focus areas each), + <b>9</b> credit hours in other two regional areas of study, + <b>12</b> credits in electives for a total of <b>36</b> hours of course credit hours.</p> <p><b>MA – Thesis Option: 18</b> credit hours in regional area of concentration, of which 12 must be main region of concentration and 3 must be one of the other two regions, + <b>3</b> hours in breadth requirement, + <b>6</b> credit hours of thesis research, for a <b>total of 27 credit hours.</b></p> <p><b>MA Non-Thesis: 18</b> credit hours in regional area of concentration of which 12 must be main region of concentration and 3 must be one of the other two regions. + <b>3</b> hours in breadth + <b>6</b> credit hours of electives, for a <b>total of 27 credit hours.</b></p>	<p><b>PhD with External MA: 29</b> elective credit hours informed by thematic concentration, which includes 3 credit hours for exam reading.</p> <p><b>PhD with Internal MA: 38</b> elective credit hours informed by thematic concentration, which includes 3 hours for exam reading.</p> <p><b>MA – Thesis Option: 21</b> elective hours + <b>6</b> hours of thesis research, for a <b>total of 27 credit hours.</b></p> <p><b>MA Non-Thesis: 27</b> elective credit hours.</p> <p><b>Minor: 6</b> elective credit hours.</p>	<p><b>PhD &amp; MA:</b> Removed required regional concentrations (subdivided in focus areas) from PhD and MA in exchange for suggested thematic concentrations, which do not have course requirements attached to them. Frees course selection to be based on faculty, offerings, and student research needs in consultation with advisor.</p> <p>Changed elective credit hours in PhD tracks in order to reduce PhD to a total of 80 credit hours for both students with internal and external MA.</p> <p><b>Minor:</b> Increased the number of elective credit hours for students to gain more specialization.</p>

	<b>Minor:</b> 3 credit hours.		
<b>MA Exam Option</b>	Comprehensive examination based on regional area of study and an oral defense.	Comprehensive examination based on list representing all thematic areas with oral defense.	Adjusted exam to work for thematic areas of study and to assure broad knowledge coverage in MA exam option.
<b>MA Thesis Option</b>	Thesis based on topic selected in conversation with advisor.	Thesis topic selected in conversation with advisor, based in one of the thematic areas.	Use of thematic areas in selection of thesis topic.
<b>PhD Candidacy Exams</b>	Comprehensive written examination based on regional area of study with two minor areas in the other regional areas and oral defense.	Comprehensive written examination based on thematic area of study with two minor fields in additional thematic areas of study.	Adjusted candidacy exam to reflect thematic areas of study and student research interests.
<b>PhD Prospectus and dissertation hours</b>	15 credit hours	12 credit hours	Reduced based on Graduate School credit hour requirements, as well as 4-year funding structure
<b>PhD Prospectus</b>	Written and defended the semester following candidacy.	- no change -	- no change -
<b>PhD Dissertation</b>	As outlined by the Graduate School and in consultation with Dissertation Committee of at least three graduate faculty members, one of whom is the student's advisor.	- no change -	- no change -

## Appendix A

### GRADUATE COURSES BY THEME

#### **Black Social and Political Action**

- 5240: Race and Public Policy in the United States (3)
- 5485.01: Southern Africa: Society and Culture (3)
- 5485.02: West Africa: Society and Culture (3)
- 5485.03: Afro-Brazilian: Society and Culture (3)
- 7085: 19<sup>th</sup> Century African American Political Thought (1–6)
- 7086: The Civil Rights and Black Power Movements (1–6)
- 7507: Black Lives Matter: Law and Culture (3)
- 7580: Enslavement, Emancipation, Colonial and Postcolonial Realities (3)
- 7725: Political Development of Sub-Saharan Africa (3)
- 7730: Black Political Movements and Organizations (3)
- 7765: African Social Movements in the Age of Globalization (3)
- 7862: Mental Health in the Africana Community (3)

#### **Critical Gender and Sexuality Studies**

- 7087: Black Women in the United States (3)
- 7810: Topics in Black Feminist Theory (3)
- 8840: Seminar in Black Masculinity Studies (3)
- 8865: Race, Gender, and Class in the Diaspora (3)

#### **Black Arts and Cultures**

- 5485.01: Southern Africa: Society and Culture (3)
- 5485.02: West Africa: Society and Culture (3)
- 5485.03: Afro-Brazilian: Society and Culture (3)
- 6757.01: Introduction to Graduate Studies in African American Literature, 1746 to 1900 (3)
- 6757.02: Introduction to Graduate Studies in African American Literature, 1900 to Present (3)
- 7750: Language and Society in Africa (3)
- 7751: Introduction to Graduate Studies and African Literature (3)
- 7760: African Pop Culture (3)
- 7851: Seminar in Critical Approaches to Black Literatures (3)
- 8850: Consumer Culture, Race, and Modernity (3)

- 8865: Race, Gender, and Class in the Diaspora (3)

### **Transnational Black Histories**

- 5485.01: Southern Africa: Society and Culture (3)
- 5485.02: West Africa: Society and Culture (3)
- 5485.03: Afro-Brazilian: Society and Culture (3)
- 6757.01: Introduction to Graduate Studies in African American Literature, 1746 to 1900 (3)
- 6757.02: Introduction to Graduate Studies in African American Literature, 1900 to Present (3)
- 7080: Studies in African American History (1–6)
- 7081: African Americans in Early America (1–6)
- 7082: African Americans During the 19<sup>th</sup> Century (3)
- 7083: African Americans During the 20<sup>th</sup> Century (1–6)
- 7084: African American Historiography (1–6)
- 7085: 19<sup>th</sup> Century African American Political Thought (1–6)
- 7086: The Civil Rights and Black Power Movements (1–6)
- 7087: Black Women in the United States (3)
- 7430: Studies in African History (3)
- 7580: Enslavement, Emancipation, Colonial and Postcolonial Realities (3)
- 7725: Political Development of Sub-Saharan Africa (3)
- 7730: Black Political Movements and Organizations (3)
- 7751: Introduction to Graduate Studies and African Literature (3)
- 7765: African Social Movements in the Age of Globalization (3)
- 8080: Seminar in African American History (1–6)
- 8350: Transnational History of the African World (3)

### **Critical Theory**

- 7760: African Pop Culture (3)
- 7810: Topics in Black Feminist Theory (3)
- 7851: Seminar in Critical Approaches to Black Literatures (3)
- 8850: Consumer Culture, Race, and Modernity (3)

**Appendix B**  
**Original MA Program of Study Advising Sheet**

*MA Program of Study for Students*  
*Semester Advising Sheet*

MA Thesis Plan: 30 credits of course work, 6 hours of thesis research, and an oral examination.

Non-thesis Plan: 36 credits of course work, a comprehensive written examination, and an oral defense.

*Students select from one of three areas of concentration: African American Studies, African Studies, or Comparative African Diaspora Studies. Within each concentration are comprised of focus areas.*

**Program Requirements:**

**Core courses: 9 hours**

**Specific Concentration: 18 hours**

**Breadth Requirement: 3 hours**

**Thesis: 6 hours or 6 additional hours of course work  
(dependent upon the plan)**

**Total: 36 hours**

*Name:* \_\_\_\_\_

*GPA (3.0 minimum requirement)* \_\_\_\_\_

*Matriculation Date:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Advisor:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Concentration Area:* \_\_\_\_\_

**9 hours in core courses:**

<b>Course</b>	<b>Credit hours</b>
AAAS 7753: Graduate Survey in African American and African Studies	3
AAAS 7754: Methodological Perspectives in African American and African Studies	3
AAAS 7756: Theorizing Race and Ethnicity	3

**18 hours in the area of concentration**

	<i>SEM</i>	<i>CREDIT</i>	<i>GRADE</i>

**3 hours breadth requirement**

	<i>SEM</i>	<i>CREDIT</i>	<i>GRADE</i>

**6 hours: Thesis or additional course work dependent upon plan**

	<i>SEM</i>	<i>CREDIT</i>	<i>GRADE</i>

**Total: 36 hours**

**Appendix C**  
**Proposed MA Program of Study Advising Sheet**

**Department of African American and African Studies**  
***MA Program of Study for Students***

**Student Information**

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Academic Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Committee Members: \_\_\_\_\_

**Core Courses:** Students must take 7753, 7756, and an approved methods course as core requirements for the MA in African American and African Studies. These courses may not be substituted.

<b>Course #</b>	<b>Course Title</b>	<b>Term</b>	<b>Grade</b>
7753	Graduate Survey in African American and African Studies	_____	_____
7756	Theorizing Race and Ethnicity	_____	_____

Approved Methods Course (Please consult the approved methods course list in the handbook):

\_\_\_\_\_

**AAAS Elective Courses:** Students must take at least 27 credit hours of elective courses guided by their thematic area of research. Up to 6 hours may be used for thesis research/writing hours.

<b>Course #</b>	<b>Course Title</b>	<b>Term</b>	<b>Grade</b>
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____



Course #	Course Title	Term	Grade
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

36 CREDIT HOURS REQUIRED IN MA COURSEWORK  
 HRS EARNED \_\_\_\_\_

**Comments:**

**Appendix D**  
**Original PhD Program of Study Advising Sheet**

*PhD Program of Study for Students*  
*Semester Advising Sheet*

PhD Requirements: 36 credits of course work, Comprehensive Examination, 15 hours of thesis research, and an Oral Dissertation Defense.

*Students select from one of three areas of concentration: African American Studies, African Studies, or Comparative African Diaspora Studies. Within each concentration are comprised of focus areas.*

**Program Requirements:**

**Core courses: 9 hours\***

**Specific Concentration: 15 hours**

**Elective: 12 hours**

**Breadth Requirement: 9 hours**

**Prospectus and Dissertation: 15 hours**

**Total: 51 hours**

---

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

GPA (3.0 minimum requirement) \_\_\_\_\_

Matriculation Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Advisor: \_\_\_\_\_

Concentration Area: \_\_\_\_\_

*\*In the current program paperwork, the core course credit hours are not counted toward the PhD because it was assumed all students in the PhD would have received their MA internally.*

**9 hours core courses:**

<b>Course</b>	<b>Credit hours</b>
AAAS 7753: Graduate Survey in African American and African Studies	3
AAAS 7754: Methodological Perspectives in African American and African Studies	3
AAAS 7756: Theorizing Race and Ethnicity	3

**15 hours in the area of concentration**

	<i>SEM</i>	<i>CREDIT</i>	<i>GRADE</i>

**9 hours breadth requirement**

	<i>SEM</i>	<i>CREDIT</i>	<i>GRADE</i>

**12 hours of elective**

	<i>SEM</i>	<i>CREDIT</i>	<i>GRADE</i>


**15 hours: Prospectus and Dissertation**

	<i>SEM</i>	<i>CREDIT</i>	<i>GRADE</i>

**Total: 51 hours**

**Appendix E**  
**Proposed PhD Program of Study Advising Sheet**

**Department of African American and African Studies**  
***PhD Program of Study for Students***

**Student Information**

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Academic Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Committee Members: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

<b><u>Program Milestones</u></b>	<b>Date Completed/Expected</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Reading List Approved	_____	_____
Candidacy Exam Taken	_____	_____
Language Proficiency	_____	_____
Prospectus Defense	_____	_____
Dissertation Defense	_____	_____

**Core Courses (9 credit Hours):** Students who have completed their MA outside the department (External MA) must take 7753, 7756, and an approved methods course as core requirements for the PhD in African American and African Studies. These courses may not be substituted. Students who completed the MA in the department (Internal MA) must take 9 elective credit hours in place of the already completed core courses.



_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

**Dissertation & Prospectus Hours (12 credit hours):** Students are allotted 12 hours for dissertation and prospectus work.

<b>Course #</b>	<b>Course Title</b>	<b>Term</b>	<b>Grade</b>
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

50 CREDIT HOURS REQUIRED IN PhD COURSEWORK  
 HRS EARNED \_\_\_\_\_

**Comments:**

**Appendix F**  
**Original Graduate Minor Program of Study Advising Sheet**

**Graduate Minor Program Form**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

OSU Student ID #: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Graduate Minor: **African American and African Studies**

**Graduate Minor Program of Study**

<b>Course Number</b>	<b>Course Title</b>	<b>Credit Hours</b>
<b>REQUIRED</b> AAAS 7753	Graduate Survey in African American and African Studies	03
AAAS 7754	Methodological Perspectives in African American and African Studies	03
AAAS 7756	Theorizing Race and Ethnicity	03
ELECTIVE		03

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Student Signature Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Advisor Signature Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
 AAAS Graduate Studies Chair Date



**Appendix G  
Proposed Graduate Minor Program of Study Advising Sheet**

**Department of African American and African Studies  
*Graduate Minor Program of Study for Students***

**Student Information**

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Academic Year: \_\_\_\_\_

**Core Courses:**

	<b>Term</b>	<b>Grade</b>
7753 Graduate Survey in African American and African Studies	_____	_____
7756 Theorizing Race and Ethnicity	_____	_____

These courses may not be substituted or waived.

**AAAS Elective Courses:** Students must take at least 6 credit hours of AAAS elective courses at the 5000-level or above. Both courses must be courses offered through AAAS.

<b>Course #</b>	<b>Course Title</b>	<b>Term</b>	<b>Grade</b>
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

12 CREDIT HOURS REQUIRED IN GRAD MINOR COURESWORK \_\_\_\_\_ HRS  
EARNED

**Comments:**

**Appendix H Suggested Timeline for the New MA Program**

Year	Fall Semester	Spring Semester	Summer Semester
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Coursework</li> <li>- Draft Program of Study by end of semester</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Coursework</li> <li>- Finalize Program of Study and advisor</li> <li>- Draft Thesis plan: Thesis Prospectus (5–7 pp. + bibliography)</li> <li>- Submit Thesis/Exam Form to Graduate Program Coordinator</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>[- coursework]</li> <li>[- research thesis]</li> </ul>
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Coursework</li> <li>- Exam Plan: reading lists and study questions approved by the end of the semester</li> <li>- Thesis Plan: finalize Thesis Prospectus</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- File application to graduate at the start of the semester</li> <li>- Exam plan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coursework</li> <li>• Exam: oral defense less than 5 weeks before commencement</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Thesis plan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thesis hours</li> <li>• Thesis defense at least 5 weeks before commencement</li> <li>• Submit thesis at least 4 weeks before commencement</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>[-Thesis plan: defense and filing at least 3 and 2 weeks, respectively, before commencement]</li> </ul>

**Appendix I: Suggested timeline for the New PhD Program:**

Year	Fall	Spring	Summer
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Coursework</li> <li>- Draft Program of Study and select advisor by end of semester</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Coursework</li> <li>- Complete Advising Meeting with committee</li> <li>- Finalize Program of Study plan (by end of semester)</li> </ul>	[- Coursework]
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Coursework/reading hours</li> <li>- Complete candidacy exam by end of semester (Fellows)</li> <li>- Apply for outside funding</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Coursework/Reading hours (GTA) or ABD (Fellows)</li> <li>- Complete candidacy exam by end of semester (GTA)</li> <li>- Complete and defend Prospectus (10–15 pages plus bibliography) by end of the semester (Fellows)</li> <li>- Apply for outside funding</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ABD (Fellows)</li> <li>- Draft Dissertation Prospectus (GTA)</li> </ul>
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ADB</li> <li>- Complete and defend Prospectus at start of the semester (GTA)</li> </ul>	- ABD	- ABD
4	- ABD	- ABD	-ABD