

The African American Studies
Major



January 24, 2013

The Program



- ❧ Founded in the fall of 1969 by faculty, students, and administrators. 45th Year anniversary celebration is this fall.
- ❧ We sponsor the following:
- ❧ A panel to discuss the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King in January of each year.
- ❧ Dr. Ronald Foreman lecture during the spring semester.
- ❧ Dr. James Haskins Visiting Scholar Fellowship
- ❧ Dr. Harry Shaw Undergraduate Travel Fund.
- ❧ Numerous programs with other units.

The Faculty and Affiliates



☞ We have core faculty members and faculty affiliates from the disciplines of Anthropology (5), Education (1), English (3), Geology (1), History (2), Law (1), Linguistics (2), Music (1), Political Science (2), Psychology (1), Religion (1), Sociology (3), and Women's Studies (2).

The African American Studies Certificate and Minor



- ❧ The first African American Studies certificate was awarded in 1971.
- ❧ Currently, 30 students are enrolled in the African American Studies minor which was first offered since 2006.
- ❧ The minor emphasizes the following themes:
 - ❧ Interdisciplinarity; Community based learning; The African American experience in a transnational context; and Analytic, writing, & research presentation skills and development.

Requirements for the Major



- ❧ A total of 120 credit hours, including the 30 hours of AFA courses, is required for our interdisciplinary major.
- ❧ The following 4 courses are required to fulfill the 30-hour requirement:
 - AFA 2000 Introduction to African American Studies
 - AFA 3110 Key Issues in African American & Black Atlantic Thought
 - AFA 4936 Integrative Senior Seminar, Part I of a Two Semester Capstone Course
 - AFA 4937 Integrative Senior Seminar, Part II of a Two Semester Capstone Course
- ❧ The research methods requirement: A 3 credit hour applied, experiential, or research methods course. Can be a statistics, service-learning, field research, or qualitative research methods course (inside or outside of AFA).
- ❧ 15 credits of AFA courses at the 3000 level or higher.

Student Learning Outcomes



☞ After graduation, students will be able to:

Identify, describe, and explain the theories in African-American Studies and the African Diaspora which include Afrocentricism, black nationalism, critical race theory, deracialization, black feminism, and womanism.

Use research skills to examine social issues of concern to African Americans.

Effectively articulate ideas in speech and in writing.

Demand for the Major



- Each semester between 150 and 200 students take AFA courses. According to our enrollment projections, we predict that we will have approximately 14 majors during the first year it is offered and approximately 68 by its fifth year.
- A survey of 80 students who were asked about their interest in an African American Studies major indicated that 100% of them are in favor of the major and 40% expressed a willingness to enroll in the major when it is approved.

Careers for African American Studies Majors



- Our program will prepare students to pursue teaching and other academic careers so that the nationwide shortages of teachers who can serve as role models to minority and low-income students. The majors who do not belong to racial/ethnic minority groups will learn about the African American experience, thus preparing them to work in racially diverse environments.
- The state of Florida is seeking individuals with knowledge of racial/ethnic issues and civil rights to fill various employment opportunities. Also, our students can fulfill employment needs in Florida's museums.
- Because of the interdisciplinary approach to knowledge used by our program, students can also pursue careers as anthropologists, archivists, attorneys, business owners, civil rights activists, educators, government officials, librarians, media professionals, professors, psychologists, public policy professionals, researchers, social workers, and writers.

Other Benefits



- ❧ No additional resources are needed in terms of additional funding or library resources.
- ❧ Assist the university with its efforts to diversity its student body (by attracting students of color from high schools and two-year colleges).
- ❧ Fill other employment needs in Florida and in the nation.
- ❧ Benefit the university's reputation as a "world class academic program."
- ❧ Further "university missions that meet community needs" through our Mentoring At-Risk Youth course and community outreach efforts.