The African American Studies Program is an interdisciplinary program that integrates the humanities, social and behavioral sciences and health related fields. A major in African American Studies leads to a Bachelor of Arts Degree. The Program also offers a minor. Since the Program requires only 40 hours for completion, students are encouraged to consider a “double major” with African American Studies.

The curriculum offered by the African American Studies Program advances knowledge about continental and diasporic African and African-American cultures and the history, literature, art, music, politics, economics, and religion associated with these cultures.

Our mission is to encourage critical thinking, develop analytical and writing skills, promote understanding and appreciation of contributions made by African Americans, and illuminate the complexity of race and the African American experience.

In addition to taking the required core classes for the major, students will be required to complete fifteen hours in one of three areas of emphasis: Global and Minority Health and Social Justice; Historical Investigation and Cultural Awareness; and History and Culture of Afro-Caribbean and Latino People.

The plan of study prepares students with critical knowledge, research skills, and communication skills to further their education in graduate and professional study in a variety of disciplines including African American Studies, Public Health, Criminal Justice, Public Administration, and Education; obtain employment in public health, social sciences, business and related fields; communicate effectively; and demonstrate the application of knowledge through community engagement.

The revised curriculum provides students more course options for completing the requirements of the degree. The revised curriculum also provides Areas of Emphasis that lead to a variety of career and graduate school opportunities. The three areas include: Global and Minority Health and Social Justice; Historical Investigation and Cultural Awareness; and the History and Culture of Afro-Caribbean and Latino People. As an African American Studies major, students select an area of study and complete enough hours to pursue a Master's or secure employment in that area. Students are able to develop goals early in their academic careers and strategies for achieving their goals.

In addition to the major in African American Studies, the Program also offers a minor. Students are required to complete 18 hours of coursework to fulfill the requirements for the minor. Students may also complete the minor online. Online courses will allow students to fulfill the minor requirements.

**Bachelor of Arts with a Major in African American Studies**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirements</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Required Core Course Hours</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>AAS 100 African American Studies Seminar</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>AAS 200 Introduction to African-American Studies</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>or AAS 201 Honors Introduction to African American Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>AAS 223 African-American History to Civil War</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>or AAS 224 African American History Since 1865</td>
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<tr>
<td>AAS 325 Black Psychology</td>
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<tr>
<td>AAS 350 Research Methods in African American Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>AAS 331 African Diasporic Traditions</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>AAS 420 Public Health and Medical Issues in African Communities</td>
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<tr>
<td>AAS 490 African American Studies Internship</td>
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<tr>
<td>AAS 493 Capstone Seminar</td>
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<tr>
<td>or AAS 495 Individual Studies</td>
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Students should select an Area of Emphasis and take 15 hours from the approved courses

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>MINORITY &amp; GLOBAL PUBLIC HEALTH/SOCIAL JUSTICE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AAS 220 History of Sport: The African American Experience</td>
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<td>AAS 273 The Black Power Movement</td>
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<td>AAS 310 Black Image: Screen and Television</td>
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<td>AAS 320 African Identity-Personality</td>
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<td>AAS 346 Race, Rhetoric, and Resistance</td>
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<td>AAS 442 Race, Crime, Gender and Social Policy or CJ 442 Race, Crime, Gender and Social Policy</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOC 250 Sociology of Race and Ethnicity</td>
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<td>SOC 280 Introduction to Medical Sociology</td>
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<td>SOC 282 Minority Health</td>
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<td>PUH 201 Introduction to Public Health</td>
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<td>PSC 319 Civil Liberties and Civil Rights</td>
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<td>PSC 350 African Politics</td>
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<td>CJ 100 Introduction to the Criminal Justice System</td>
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<td>CJ 230 The Judicial Process in America: An Overview</td>
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<td>ANTH 104 Introduction to Peace Studies</td>
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<td>ANTH 292 Anthropology of Slavery</td>
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<td>ANTH 371 Service Learning in Anthropology</td>
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<td>PHL 135 The Rule of Law</td>
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<tr>
<th>HISTORICAL INVESTIGATION &amp; CULTURAL AWARENESS</th>
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<tr>
<td>AAS 165 Jazz Styles: History and Appreciation</td>
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<tr>
<td>AAS 220 History of Sport: The African American Experience</td>
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<tr>
<td>AAS 235 Introduction to African History and Culture</td>
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<tr>
<td>AAS 260 History of Afro-Latin America or HY 260 History of Afro-Latin America</td>
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<td>AAS 273 The Black Power Movement</td>
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<td>AAS 300 African American Music</td>
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<td>AAS 301 History and Tradition of Gospel Music</td>
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<td>AAS 310 Black Image: Screen and Television</td>
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<td>AAS 311 Race and Representation in Media</td>
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<tr>
<td>AAS 335 The Psychology of Hip Hop</td>
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<td>AAS 346 Race, Rhetoric, and Resistance</td>
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<td>AAS 385 The History of Haiti</td>
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<tr>
<td>EH 324 African-American Special Topics</td>
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<td>EH 365 African American Literature, 1746-1954</td>
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<td>EH 366 African American Literature, 1954-Present</td>
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<td>EH 424 African-American Special Topics</td>
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<td>EH 422 African Literature</td>
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<td>EH 423 African Women's Literature</td>
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<td>EH 446 African American Autobiography</td>
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<td>EH 447 African American Dramatic Tradition</td>
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<td>EH 448 African American Poetry Tradition</td>
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<tr>
<td>EH 466 The Slave Narrative and Its Literary Expressions</td>
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<tr>
<td>EH 467 Black Women Writers</td>
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African American Studies

Minor in African American Studies

Requirements

Select 6 courses from the following courses: 18

AAS 100 African American Studies Seminar
AAS 165 Jazz Styles: History and Appreciation
AAS 200 Introduction to African-American Studies
AAS 220 History of Sport: The African American Experience
AAS 223 African-American Hist to Civil War
AAS 224 African American History Since 1865
AAS 235 Introduction to African History and Culture
AAS 250 Special Topics in African-American Studies
AAS 260 History of Afro-Latin America
AAS 273 The Black Power Movement
AAS 300 African American Music
AAS 301 History and Tradition of Gospel Music
AAS 310 Black Image: Screen and Television
AAS 311 Race and Representation in Media
AAS 320 African Identity/Personality
AAS 325 Black Psychology
AAS 330 African Aesthetics and Traditional Religion
AAS 331 African Diasporic Traditions
AAS 335 The Psychology of Hip Hop
AAS 345 Pulpits in Protest: Social Change Speeches from the Black Church and Beyond
AAS 346 Race, Rhetoric, and Resistance
AAS 350 Research Methods in African American Studies
AAS 385 The History of Haiti
AAS 400 Seminar in African American Studies
AAS 420 Public Health and Medical Issues in African Communities

AAS/CJ 442 Race, Crime, Gender and Social Policy (AAS 442)

A grade of ‘C’ or better is required for this major.

Proposed Program of Study for a Major in African-American Studies

Freshman

First Term Hours Second Term Hours
EH 101 3 EH 102 3
AAS 100 1 Core Curriculum Area IV: History
AAS 200 or 201 3 Core Curriculum Area II: Humanities
MA 110 3 Core Curriculum Area IV: Social and Behavioral Sciences
Core Curriculum Area IV: History
Core Curriculum Area II: Fine Arts
undefined

Sophomore

First Term Hours Second Term Hours
AAS 325 3 Core Curriculum Area II: Humanities
AAS 223 (AAS 223 ) 3 AAS 331 (AAS Area of Emphasis )
Core Curriculum Area II: Literature
Select Course from Area of Emphasis
Core Curriculum Area III: Natural Science with Lab

Junior

First Term Hours Second Term Hours
EH 365 3 EH 366 3
Core Curriculum III: Natural Science with Lab
AAS 335 3 Area of Emphasis
AAS Area of Emphasis
AAS 301 3 Electives
Elective

Senior

First Term Hours Second Term Hours
AAS 420 3 AAS 493 or 495 3
Area of Emphasis
Electives 6 Area of Emphasis
AAS 301 3 Elective

Total credit hours: 114

1 Select One: HY 101, HY 102, HY 105, HY 120 or HY 121.
2 Select One: ARH 101, ARH 203, ARH 206, MU 120, THR 100, THR 105, or THR 200.
3 Select One: EH 217, EH 218, EH 221, EH 222, EH 223 or EH 224.
African American Studies Honors Program

PURPOSE

The purposes of the Honors Program in African American Studies are to promote academic excellence; provide opportunity for majors to do extensive study and research in the discipline; and prepare academically talented majors to pursue graduate school or professional careers.

ELIGIBILITY

- completion of required AAS courses:
  - AAS 200 Introduction to African American Studies
  - AAS 350 Research Methods in African American Studies
  - AAS 331 African Diasporic Traditions
  - undergraduate cumulative GPA of 3.00
  - GPA of 3.25 in AAS courses
  - junior-senior level standing

REQUIREMENTS

- completion of required courses for the AAS major
- approval by the Program Director
- completion of AAS 497 Honors Seminar (Fall Semester)
- completion of AAS 498 Honors Thesis/Project (Spring Semester)
- formal presentation of the final project

BENEFITS

Participation in the African American Studies Honors program provides opportunities for academically talented students to have unique access to faculty and to interact with other honors students in an environment that encourages creative and innovative thinking. Seminar participation and research experience will be useful for graduate study or a career in the field. Completion of the Honors program is an advantage when applying to graduate programs. Finally, students who complete the program will be recognized at the African American Studies outstanding student ceremony and will graduate “With Honors in African American Studies.

CONTACT

For additional information and/or admission to the African American Honors Program, please contact:

Dr. Kay Morgan, Program Director
African American Studies Program
322 Heritage Hall
Birmingham, AL 35294-1152
Phone: 205-975-9651 or 975-9652
E-mail: kmorgan@uab.edu

Courses

AAS 100. African American Studies Seminar. 1 Hour.
AAS 100 is an initial course that introduces new majors and minors to the field and the African American Studies Program. Emphases will be placed on exploring the history and development of the AAS Program, major and minor requirements, internship and service learning opportunities and career options. Required of all new majors & minors.

AAS 150. Let’s BMEN. 1 Hour.
Given the historical and current retention rate at colleges/universities in the U.S.; this class is designed to assist young scholars in navigating an academic environment. This course will explore issues such as masculinity, cultural identity, leadership and education relative to African American males. It seeks to provide students with tools and strategies that can be employed as they matriculate through their college experience.

AAS 165. Jazz Styles: History and Appreciation. 3 Hours.
American jazz with emphasis on instrumental and vocal performers, jazz bands, and combos. Development of big band, swing, and popular music.

AAS 200. Introduction to African-American Studies. 3 Hours.
Examination of seven core areas of African American Studies: History, Religion, Social Organization, Politics, Economics, Creative Production, and Psychology. Emphasizes major thematic theoretical and critical discourses of Black Studies, and its emergence as a political/social movement and discipline. Relates the latter to the complexity and diversity of contemporary movements such as Civil Rights, Free Speech, Black Power, and Afro-centricism. Majors and minors in African American Studies should complete this course before enrolling in any higher level AAS course. Ethics and Civic Responsibility are significant components of this course. This course meets Blazer Core Curriculum History & Meaning with a flag in Global/Multi-Cultural Perspectives.

AAS 201. Honors Introduction to African American Studies. 3 Hours.
An advanced study of African American Studies as a discipline. Examines the seven core areas of the field with an emphasis on the major theories, critical discourses, and the emergence of Black Studies as a field of inquiry.

AAS 220. History of Sport: The African American Experience. 3 Hours.
This course provides a socio-cultural and historical overview of the African American athletes (male and female) that contributed to sports as we know them today. Focus will begin on the historical figures that helped shape sports culture and will continue into discussions about the role African-Americans play in collegiate and professional sports today.

AAS 223. African-American Hist to Civil War. 3 Hours.
Survey of the African American experience from Pre-Colonial Africa to the End of the Civil War.

AAS 224. African American History Since 1865. 3 Hours.
Survey of late 19th century to present African American history.
AAS 235. Introduction to African History and Culture. 3 Hours.
Media representations of an uncivilized Africa marked by political instability, hunger and wars is pervasive. This introductory course on African culture and History takes the student on a journey of Africa from “inception” to date. The course will explore early empires of Africa and Africa’s rich political and cultural traditions, diversity, conflicts and religion. This course will analyze historical events like the Transatlantic slave trade, the scramble for, and partition of Africa, colonialism and neo-colonialism on the African Continent, the struggle for independence and the role of America in emergent African Nations; and current events like the role of the African Union, ECOWAS and other regional organizations and the influence of Africa in world politics. It will also introduce Students to African Diaspora – causes, patterns and peculiar conflicts of diasporic existence and assimilation into American culture and society. The course serves as a launching pad to understanding Black and African-American studies.

AAS 250. Special Topics in African-American Studies. 3 Hours.
Specific topic in African American Studies.

AAS 260. History of Afro-Latin America. 3 Hours.
This course surveys the history of those countries of Latin America, e.g. Cuba, Brazil and Colombia, that comprise the heart of the New World's African diaspora, having received most of the roughly 10 million Africans brought to Latin American shores during the centuries-long transatlantic slave trade. It explores the dramatic experiences of Afro-Latin Americans including their roles in the destruction of slave systems, creation of nations based on democratic principles, and rise of vibrant multicultural societies.

AAS 273. The Black Power Movement. 3 Hours.
The Black Power Movement remains one of the most compelling—and misunderstood—elements of African American History. Since the 1960s, critics have—at best—accused Black Power of distracting attention from more productive endeavors, betraying the promise of civil rights, and dividing an interracial coalition of sympathetic liberals. At worst, opponents have attacked Black Power as a foolish, racist, and violent threat to white America, the state, and the Black Freedom Struggle itself. Participants and scholars, however, tell a different story. Rather than divisive and destructive, the Black Power Movement was unifying and creative. Rather than betraying a winning civil rights coalition, Black Power exposed and challenged the limitations of white allies and liberal reform. Rather than a radical break with the past, Black Power represented a new articulation of old traditions of race pride and self-determination. Accordingly, this course favors a deep historical context. We begin with the Nineteenth-century roots of Black Nationalism and black radicalism and move chronologically through the 1970s. Seeking to restore the distorted legacy of the Black Power movement, however, we also explore its shortcomings, lest its lessons for the Freedom Struggle in the present day go unexamined. Finally, this course also adopts a subtitle—“In Their Own Words”—to foreground and elevate the voices of historical actors, allowing the ideas and debates at the heart of Black Power to breathe in the 21st century. Each session will combine collective discussion of the readings and group analysis of primary sources with an abbreviated lecture.

AAS 290. Writing in African American Studies. 3 Hours.
Course offers students continued practice in reading, research, and writing central to academic investigation and to interdisciplinary approaches. Develops skills in writing across disciplines and critical thinking. Emphasizes readings on diverse, contemporary, and multicultural issues in African American Studies. Writing, Ethics and Civic Responsibility are significant components of this course.
AAS 345. Pulpits in Protest: Social Change Speeches from the Black Church and Beyond. 3 Hours.
This course is largely constructed around the study and the discussion of four major social movements involving African Americans and the protest speeches, sermons, and songs given by women and men from the Black Church and beyond. The course demonstrates the power of oration and rhetoric and how this medium was leveraged to expose oppression and bring about social change of the oppressed. The course is organized chronologically with an emphasis on the ideas of black social thought within the black church, political protest, and the speeches, sermons, and songs given in a particular movement with efforts to initiate social change.

AAS 346. Race, Rhetoric, and Resistance. 3 Hours.
This course is a study and discussion of race, protest movements, and the rhetoric, speeches, sermons, and music during four (4) major social movements involving African Americans. The course is organized chronologically with an emphasis on the ideas of black social thought in America.

AAS 350. Research Methods in African American Studies. 3 Hours.
Research Methods in Africana Studies will introduce students to a general conceptual framework for ordering the social theories and methods that people of African descent have used to interpret and understand Africana life experiences.
Prerequisites: AAS 200 [Min Grade: C]

AAS 366. African American Literature II. 3 Hours.
Cultural values from James Baldwin in 1950s, through black nationalist, civil rights, and black feminist movements, to contemporary writers such as Ishmael Reed, Charles Johnson, and Toni Morrison.
Prerequisites: EH 101 [Min Grade: C] and EH 102 [Min Grade: C] or EH 107 [Min Grade: C] and AAS 200 [Min Grade: C]

AAS 385. The History of Haiti. 3 Hours.
The course is an examination of the history of Haiti from slavery through the twentieth century to gain a broader understanding of the country and to develop the tools to critically challenge these dominant narratives and stereotypes about the country.

AAS 400. Seminar in African American Studies. 3 Hours.
Specific topic in African American Studies.

AAS 420. Public Health and Medical Issues in African Communities. 3 Hours.
This course introduces students to important health issues that face the African American community. The goals are to increase awareness and stimulate discussion about health problems facing African Americans, factors believed to cause, contribute or worsen these problems, and steps now taken to alleviate or eliminate these problems.
Prerequisites: AAS 200 [Min Grade: C]

AAS 442. Race, Crime, Gender and Social Policy. 3 Hours.
This class is an examination of crime and the policies of crime control within the context of race and gender. This class attempts to study crime and the policies of crime control within the context of race, class, and gender. We will address the following topics: (1) The role of inequality in participation of crime. Are persons in subordinate positions of power (racial & ethnic minorities, females & lower class) more likely to become involved in criminal behavior & why? (2) The manner in which race and gender independently affect interaction with the criminal justice system. How do persons in these groups interact with the criminal justice system as offenders, victims & professionals? (3) The manner in which crime policies have influenced interaction of these groups with the criminal justice system and alternatives to the present strategies.