AFRICANA STUDIES

The Africana Studies program promotes an interdepartmental, interdisciplinary examination of the diverse histories, cultures, politics, and peoples of the African diaspora. Regional coverage includes the United States, Africa, the Caribbean, Latin America, Europe, and the Middle East. Students are introduced to methodology from core areas of the humanities and social sciences to develop skills in comparative, cross-cultural analysis and research. A student’s course of study might range from Caribbean cultures, the literature of Black America, the historical evolution of African independence movements, or the sociology of power and equality in the United States, to an anthropological approach to the transatlantic slave trade.

Visit the department website (https://africanastudies.columbian.gwu.edu/) for more information.

UNDERGRADUATE

Bachelor’s program

• Bachelor of Arts with a major in Africana studies (http://bulletin.gwu.edu/arts-sciences/africana-studies/ba/)

Minor

• Minor in Africana studies (http://bulletin.gwu.edu/arts-sciences/africana-studies/minor/)

FACULTY

Program Director Xolela Mangcu

Committee on Africana studies J. James (Director), N. Blyden, H.G. Carrillo, S. Lubkemann, J.A. Miller, G. Squires, G. Wald, A. Zimmerman

COURSES

Explanation of Course Numbers

• Courses in the 1000s are primarily introductory undergraduate courses
• Those in the 2000s to 4000s are upper-division undergraduate courses that can also be taken for graduate credit with permission and additional work
• Those in the 6000s and 8000s are for master’s, doctoral, and professional-level students
• The 6000s are open to advanced undergraduate students with approval of the instructor and the dean or advising office

AFST 1001. Introduction to Africana Studies. 3 Credits.

An interdisciplinary introduction to the study of people of Africa and the African diaspora in historical context. Links in the cultural, political, and intellectual experiences of people of African descent in the Americas, Caribbean, Europe, and Africa.

AFST 3001. Documenting Black Lives. 3 Credits.

Students complete and present an original research project pertaining to black history and culture; research strategies, including the use of digital material, historical archives, and public history sites. Recommended background: completion of a prior course in any Africana-related topic and an interest in research.