AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES (AAS)

Interdisciplinary Program

African American Studies is a vibrant and dynamic discipline that creates new knowledge about the world and human existence through the critical and comprehensive study of the peoples, cultures, and ideas of Africa and the African diaspora. African American Studies at Wake Forest University distinguishes its approach to the discipline by its unique focus on the cultures, knowledges, and expressions of African descended people in the southern United States and their global reverberations.

The mission of African American Studies at Wake Forest University is to cultivate, nurture, and support signature intellectual contributions to the discipline of African American Studies, critical interdisciplinary scholarship, and human knowledge and understanding through the critical and comprehensive study of the cultures, experiences, expressions, and ideas of African descended people in the United States and in the African diaspora. African American Studies at Wake Forest University offers major and minor programs that leverage the unique intellectual and institutional strengths of the University.

Contact Information

The Program in African American Studies
Tribble Hall B207
Phone: 336-758-4728

Programs

Major

- African American Studies, B.A. (https://bulletin.wfu.edu/undergraduate/departments-programs/african-american-studies/ba-african-american-studies/)

Minor

- African American Studies, Minor (https://bulletin.wfu.edu/undergraduate/departments-programs/african-american-studies/minor-african-american-studies/)

Courses

AAS 100. Introduction to African American Studies. (3 h)
Introduces the history and evolution of the discipline, key scholars, ideas, and themes, and central disciplinary questions in African American Studies.

AAS 110. Introduction to Africana Philosophy. (3 h)
Introduces the history and development of Africana philosophy and explores significant issues, themes, and texts in the field.

AAS 200. Theories and Methods in African American Studies. (3 h)
Examines the major analytical, conceptual, methodological, and theoretical frameworks in African American Studies and interdisciplinary approaches that inform the discipline.

AAS 205. Black Cultural Studies. (3 h)
Interdisciplinary exploration of the conceptual, material, and theoretical dimensions of Black Cultural Studies and the key debates informing the politics and cultures of representation in African American and African diasporic cultural productions.

AAS 207. Black Popular Culture. (3 h)
Explores the various forms of Black popular culture and the cultural and intellectual politics that inform its reception and representation by scholars and the general public.

AAS 210. African American Intellectual Traditions. (3 h)
Explores significant figures and schools of thought in African American intellectual history.

AAS 220. African American Cultural Criticism. (3 h)
Examines the cultural criticism of significant African American cultural critics and development and evolution of distinctive forms of African American cultural criticism.

AAS 300. Black Feminist Theory. (3 h)
Examines the history and evolution of Black Feminist theory with a focus on key questions, issues, and thinkers that inform Black Feminist thought.

AAS 310. Organic Leadership: Lessons from the Black Freedom Struggle. (3 h)
Examines the ideas, models, and philosophies of leadership of select artists, activists, and intellectuals from the modern black freedom movement.

AAS 315. African American Social and Political Thought. (3 h)
Examines significant figures, themes, and traditions in African American social and political thought.

AAS 320. Philosophy and Race. (3 h)
Examines how and in what ways race is interrogated by African American philosophers and philosophers of African descent with critical attention to issues of identity, ethics, and politics.

AAS 322. Critical Theories of Race. (3 h)
Explores conceptions of race informed by Critical Race Theory and other forms of critical thought.

AAS 324. Race and the Modern World. (3 h)
Interdisciplinary examination of the intersections of ideas, institutions, ideologies, and practices that have defined race and processes of racialization in the modern era.

AAS 330. Politics of Black Religion. (3 h)
Examines the complex intersection of politics and Black religion with particular consideration to how political ideas, theories, and movements are influenced by the knowledges, rituals, traditions, and practices of Black religion.

AAS 340. Ethics of Black Power. (3 h)
Examines the ethical dimension of Black Power and the cultural, ideological, and political movements influenced by theories and politics of Black Power.

AAS 350. Politics of Black Liberation. (3 h)
Explores the histories, concepts, and ideas of Black political movements that make explicit claim to enacting liberatory politics.

AAS 355. African Political Philosophy. (3 h)
Critical examination of the political philosophy of significant Africana thinkers and traditions.
AAS 370. Special Topics in Arts, Aesthetics, and Expressive Cultures in African American Studies. (1-3 h)
African American Studies topics of special interest. May be repeated for credit if topic varies.

AAS 380. Special Topics in Ethics, Politics, and Society in African American Studies. (1-3 h)
African American Studies topics of special interest. May be repeated for credit if topic varies.

AAS 387. Black Radical Tradition. (3 h)
Examines the key concepts, texts, theories, and thinkers in the Black Radical Tradition.

AAS 390. Special Topics in History, Culture, and Theory in African American Studies. (1-3 h)
African American Studies topics of special interest. May be repeated for credit if topic varies.

AAS 391. Themes in Africana Philosophy. (3 h)
Select topics and themes in Africana philosophy.

AAS 392. Seminar in African American Studies. (3 h)
Offered by members of the African American Studies faculty on a topic of their choice. May be repeated for credit if topic varies.

AAS 396. Independent Study in African American Studies. (1-3 h)
Independent research projects in African American Studies which extend study in a particular course or explores new areas of interest. A maximum of 3 hours may apply to the African American Studies major or minor. By prearrangement.

AAS 397. Directed Reading in African American Studies. (1-3 h)
Reading in an area of African American Studies not otherwise available. A maximum of 3 hours may apply to the African American Studies major or minor. By prearrangement.

AAS 399. African American Studies Atelier. (3 h)
Capstone seminar for African American Studies majors to develop original research projects engaging key theoretical, methodological, and conceptual issues in the discipline.

Faculty
Program Director:
Corey D.B. Walker, Wake Forest Professor of the Humanities, Department of English and Interdisciplinary Humanities Program