

# 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 (<https://afam.wfu.edu/>)

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## 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 120. Introduction to Black Women's Studies. (3 h)

Introduces the history and development of Black Women's Studies and explores significant themes and topics in the field.

### AAS 130. Black Queer Studies. (3 h)

Examines critical topics, themes, and issues in Black Queer and Trans life, thought and culture.

### AAS 170. African Diaspora Studies. (3 h)

Survey of the key themes, topics, and linkages of the histories, cultures, politics, and ideas of continental and diasporic African communities across space and time.

### 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 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 230. Black Expressive Cultures in the Americas. (3 h)

Explores the histories and cultures of Black musical, media, and visual practices and aesthetics across African diasporic communities in the Americas.

### AAS 280. Race, Environment, and Justice. (3 h)

Examines the confluence of issues at the intersection of race, environment, and justice in the United States and the African diaspora.

### AAS 290. Black Autobiography and Memoir. (3 h)

Examines representative text tracing the histories, themes, and trends in Black self-writing.

### 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 305. Mothering While Black. (3 h)

Examines the histories of Black mothers and Black motherhood in the United States from to the present.

### 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. (POR)

**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. Africana 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. May be repeated for credit if topic varies.

**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. May be repeated for credit.

**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. May be repeated for credit.

**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.

Cordy, Phillip Cunningham, Crystal Dixon, Dean Franco, Nate French, Melissa Harris-Perry, Simeon Ilesanmi, Julia Jordan-Zachery, Vivian Laughlin, Lauren E. L. Lowman, Nina Lucas, Judith Madera, Dani Parker Moore, Guy Emerson Mount, Ronald Neal, Anthony Parent, Nate Plageman, Ariel Smith, Erica Still, Ana-Maria González Wahl, Eric King Watts, Betina Cutaia Wilkinson, Kyana R. L. Young

## Faculty

**Director:** Corey D.B. Walker, Dean of the School of Divinity, and Wake Forest Professor of the Humanities

**Professors:** Shanna Greene Benjamin, Claire Crawford, Melanie L. Harris, Daniel Henry, Alton B. Pollard III, Eshe Sherley

**Affiliated Faculty:** Brittany Battle, Rian Bowie, Terry Brock, Christopher Brown, Hana Brown, Sherri Lawson Clark, Tivia Collins, Regina Joyce