Africana Studies Student Benefits

Provides opportunities for students to learn about continental Africa and the experiences of people of African descent in the Black Atlantic societies of North America, the Caribbean and Latin America.

Explores the multifaceted political, economic, social, and cultural traditions of Africans and peoples of African descent.

Prepares students for admission to graduate school or for careers in Journalism, Education, Law, International Relations, and Politics among several others, in the globalized workplace.

“Often the history of African people is reduced to slavery, poverty, disease, and continuous oppression; but our history is so much more than that. Our people were leaders of the greatest empires and dynasties. They created much of the culture and innovation we know today and that story needs to be told.”

- Djevelyne Phileus, Africana Studies Student Assistant

“Africana Studies is not just the gathering of interesting stories, but the very same unfolding of one’s path. Knowing where we come from is just as important as knowing where we need to go.”

- Giunëur B. Mōşi, USMC Vet. (Africana Studies minor)

Edmund Abaka
Director, Africana Studies Program
A graduate of the University of Cape Coast in Ghana, West Africa, Professor Abaka earned his M.A. degree (European History) at the University of Guelph, Canada and a Ph.D. in African History at York University, Canada. Professor Abaka’s research interests cover commodities and trade in pre-colonial West Africa, Slavery and Emancipation, and the African diaspora. He has published a number of articles and book chapters on kola (one of the original ingredients for Coca-Cola), the colonial period in African history, and African youth.
About Our Program

The Africana Studies Program at the College of Arts & Sciences provides rigorous interdisciplinary training about the experiences of Africans and African-descended peoples in the Americas, the Caribbean, Latin America, and Europe. Mastery of the discipline of Africana Studies is important to students who will be functioning in a diversified, multicultural, multiethnic society.

The goal of the program is to:
• Research, acquire, and disseminate information about the historical and social experiences of Africans and people of African descent on all sides of the Atlantic basin.
• Advocate excitement and excellence in the study of African-descended peoples and thus foster multicultural and multiethnic understanding of society in a complex and globalized world.
• Promote critical interdisciplinary inquiry into the origins and transplantation of people of African descent across the world.
• Bring to students cutting-edge research findings that continue to shape the field of Africana Studies.
• Teach students to think critically about the global black experience.

Student Learning Outcomes

**Ability** to analyze primary documents and think critically about the interpretation of the black experience in the Atlantic basin through several courses.

**Knowledge** about African, African American, Caribbean and Latin American issues as they relate to African-descended peoples.

**Appreciation** of the interconnectedness and the interdependence of the human family. It is hoped, that this appreciation would encourage a spirit of community work, as well as volunteer work, in African-descended communities in particular and the world at large.

Curriculum

**MAJOR in Africana Studies** (30 credits)
- AAS 150: Introduction to Africana Studies
- AAS 490: Senior Seminar in Africana Studies
- HIS 201: History of Africa I (to 1800)
- HIS 209: African American History to 1877
  or HIS 210: African American History since 1877

One course in Caribbean Studies:
- ENG 361: Caribbean Literature
- ENG 374: Caribbean Women Writers
- APY 385: Caribbean Cultures
- GEG 212: Middle America and the Caribbean
- HIS 318: Modern Caribbean History

The remaining courses must be selected from the list of acceptable courses approved by the Program. Twelve of the 30 credits must be completed at the 300 level or above. A minimum 2.0 GPA is required in each course taken for the major.

**MINOR in Africana Studies** (15 credits)
- A minimum of six credits must be numbered 300 or higher.
- Students must maintain a minimum 2.0 GPA.
- AAS 150: Introduction to Africana Studies
- HIS 201: History of Africa I (to 1800)
  or HIS 209: African American History to 1877
- Plus 9 Elective credits from the list of acceptable courses approved by the program.