**AFRICANA STUDIES**

**Program Director:**

Dr. Donna Patterson, Associate Professor, Department of History, Political Science, and

Philosophy

**Africana Studies Advisory Committee:**

Dr. Joe Amoako, Professor, Department of English and Foreign Languages

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Dr. Dolores Finger Wright, Associate Professor, Department of Social Work

Dr. Akwasi Osei, Professor, Department of History, Political Science, and Philosophy

Dr. Marshall Stevenson, Dean, CAHSS, Department of History, Political Science and Philosophy

**AFRICANA STUDIES AT DELAWARE STATE UNIVERSITY**

The Africana Studies Program seeks to promote a general awareness and understanding of the African Diaspora through an exploration of historical and contemporary phenomena. The Program brings together scholars who are trained in Africana Studies and disciplines in the humanities and social sciences such as history, political science, and literature.

**MISSION AND PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS**

The minor in Africana Studies is intended to enrich the student's academic major with a general scholarly understanding of global African experience and agency within the framework of a liberal arts education at an HBCU.

**Opportunities for Minors**

One of the most commonly asked questions concerning the practical usefulness of becoming a student of Africana Studies is: What can I do with a major/minor in Africana Studies? The answer is: the same thing you can do with any liberal arts or science major or minor—and much more! Africana Studies is an academic discipline that provides rigorous academic preparation that emphasizes writing, discussion, critical thinking and analysis, the ability to discern and trace the connections between ideas and social phenomena, and the ability to identify the relationship of particular concepts and social realities to larger systems of knowledge and human relations. Students in Africana Studies courses explore history, philosophy, literature, religion, culture, politics, economics, language, law, and social dynamics with a special emphasis on African people in the United States and their interaction with African and other peoples in the global human experience. A concentration in Africana Studies, therefore, provides the foundation for critical thinking and broad education, which guide successful personal and professional ambitions. Furthermore, in a world that is increasingly more conscious of the value of diversity and cross-cultural communication, the Africana Studies perspective also makes the student a more attractive candidate to prospective employers.

**REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MINOR IN AFRICANA STUDIES**

The minor in Africana Studies requires nine (9) credit hours of Africana Studies courses: AFST-201, AFST-202, and AFST-400. The remaining nine (9) credit hours may be selected from any three (3) courses drawn from the humanities and the social sciences that have as their core the study of any part of or any people of the global African world.

**AFST-201. INTRODUCTION TO AFRICANA STUDIES**

The course offers a comprehensive, interdisciplinary exploration of key aspects of the African experience from antiquity to present, in Africa and throughout the African Diaspora. The course attempts to provide students with a fundamental intellectual understanding of the universal African experience as it has been described and interpreted by humanists and social scientists. Declared minors will be given priority for the course.

Credit, three hours.

**AFST-202. LANGUAGE AND CULTURE IN THE AFRICAN WORLD**

The course examines the interplay of verbal and nonverbal communication, written language, and cultural traditions of the African peoples in various parts of the world. From a scholarly perspective and within the frame of popular culture, the course looks at both contemporary and historical information to shed light on how language influences the global African societies and cultures.

Credit, three hours.

**AFST-400. SEMINAR IN AFRICANA STUDIES**

Intended primarily for juniors and seniors, the Capstone Seminar in Africana Studies offers reading, writing, and small-group discussion in a particular aspect of Africana Studies. Collegial, collaborative, and reflective, the seminar format will prepare some students for graduate study. Others will use the experience to culminate and organize prior coursework and research in Africana Studies. Seminar topics will vary from year to year, but will generally reflect the current research interests of the Instructor. Enrollment Limit: 20.

Credit, three hours.