

# African American Studies

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## FACULTY:

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Lecturer: Wilson

## AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES

The African American Studies Department is designed to bring into focus, through inter-departmental and multi-cultural course offerings in liberal arts and sciences, the history and culture of Africans and their descendants throughout the African diaspora from antiquity to the present. Readings and classroom lectures bring research, critical analysis, synthesis and interpretation to bear on the contributions of peoples of African descent to the evolution of human civilization, an approach that stimulates intellectual growth and the development of humanistic principles.

## COURSES:

### AFR 1201/AF 201 Early Black Writers in American Literature

**LIT Core**  
3 cl hrs, 3 cr  
A study of the black writers' contributions to American literature from the 17th century through the Harlem Renaissance.  
*Prerequisite: EG 1101/EG 101*

### AFR 1202/AF 202 Contemporary Black Writers in American Literature

**LIT Core**  
3 cl hrs, 3 cr  
A study of the black writers' contributions to American literature from the Harlem Renaissance to the present.  
*Prerequisite: EG 1101/EG 101*

### AFR 1211/AF 211 Early African Literature

**LIT Core**  
3 cl hrs, 3 cr  
African myths, short stories and novels provide insight into African manners, mores, ideas and thought patterns. Longer works illustrate the conflict between indigenous factors and European influences.  
*Prerequisite: EG 1101/EG 101*

### AFR 1212/AF 212 Modern African Literature

**LIT Core**  
3 cl hrs, 3 cr  
Emphasis on systematic and critical analysis of style and content. Focus on cultural, social and economic values as reflected by African writers.  
*Prerequisite: EG 1101/EG 101*

### AFR 1221 Survey of Black Literary Concepts

**LIT Core**  
3 cl hrs, 3 cr  
The novel, play, poem and didactic pamphlet will be explored as expressions of the quest for freedom and the desire for human fulfillment in a variety of cultural milieus. African writers Mofolo, Paatje, Dhlomo and Vilakazi; and American writers Dunbar, Chesnutt, Johnson and others are studied.  
*Prerequisite: EG 1101/EG 101*

### AFR 1222/AF 222 Current Caribbean Literature

**LIT Core**  
3 cl hrs, 3 cr  
A comparative study of the work of black writers in the Caribbean from 1920 to the present. Themes such as cultural and class confrontation, cultural assumptions and values, African/Caribbean aesthetic integrity and unity of purpose in a highly

complex multi-cultural society are subjected to in-depth literary analysis and synthesis.  
*Prerequisite: EG 1101/EG 101*

### AFR 1250/AF 250 Black Women in Literature

**LIT Core**  
3 cl hrs, 3 cr  
The various roles played by and attributed to the black woman in literature. Traditional as well as current efforts by black writers to hold up a mirror that reflects the true essence of the black woman. Students are encouraged to peer into that mirror and see how images of black women are reflected throughout the ages. The course encompasses writers from Africa, the Caribbean and North America.  
*Prerequisite: EG 1101/EG 101*

### AFR 1300/AF 300 Africana Folklore

**LIT Core**  
3 cl hrs, 3 cr  
The sociolinguistic process of creation in the oral literary tradition of people of African descent throughout the world. Through the study of poetry, tales, epics and proverbs, it examines the oral narratives and their underlying symbolism. Moral perceptions, aspirations, comedy, tragedy, satire and dilemma tales are discussed with a view to promoting critical thinking. Students gain insight into the various linguistic patterns and formulae by which socio-cultural ideals and concepts are transmitted. As a "bridge course," Africana Folklore is specifically designed for students not certified in CUNY reading and writing.  
*Prerequisite: None; corequisite: ENG 092R/DR 092 or ENG 092W/EG 092*

### AFR 1301/AF 301 Introduction to the Art of Africa

**AES Core**  
3 cl hrs, 3 cr  
A preliminary study of art and symbolism as expressed by indigenous African societies primarily from West Africa. An examination of the aesthetic qualities of sculpture and related visual arts connected with African religion, society and culture provides for greater meaning and understanding of the arts. Slide lectures, discussions and museum/gallery field trips are included.  
*Prerequisite: CUNY certification in reading and writing*

### AFR 1302/AF 302 Art and Architecture of Africa

**AES Core**  
3 cl hrs, 3 cr  
A study of the arts and architecture produced by the indigenous African societies of Ancient Egypt, Libya, Algeria, Nubia, Ethiopia and the countries of Central, Eastern and Southern Africa. The traditional aesthetics, qualities and characteristics of regional art forms are analyzed. Slide lectures/presentations, discussions and museum/gallery field trips are included.  
*Prerequisite: EG 1101/EG 101*

### AFR 1304/AF 304 African American/Caribbean Art

**AES Core**  
3 cl hrs, 3 cr  
A survey of 18th, 19th and 20th century black art from the United States, Canada, Brazil, and the French and English speaking Caribbean. Examples of prominent artists, their backgrounds and techniques are explored. In addition, the major political, economic and social circumstances which influenced the time period of their art and which give insight into the artists' creations are reviewed. The traditional aesthetics, qualities and characteristics of art forms are analyzed. Slides, lectures, discussions and museum/gallery trips are included.  
*Prerequisite: CUNY certification in reading and writing*

### AFR 1311/AF 311 African American/Caribbean Music

**AES Core**  
3 cl hrs, 3 cr  
The intrinsic melodic patterns, rhythm, harmonic structures, modality and other elements are examined, as well as ritualistic and social expressions of the culture. African American and West Indian music are historically traced form their indigenous African characteristics to today's African/Caribbean/European synthesis of religious and secular music.  
*Prerequisite: CUNY certification in reading and writing*

### AFR 2312/AF 312 Africana Philosophy and Religion

**PAL Core**  
3 cl hrs, 3 cr  
This course examines the interplay of philosophy and religion in the Africana World, the intricacies and interdependence of social values

(culture), economics, and politics as they impact the daily life and worldview of Africans. The course also discusses the cosmogenic, mythological, ontological as well as the epistemological aspects of Africana Philosophy.

The course will attempt to answer the question, "What is African Philosophy?" To provide a context for comparative analysis there will be a brief survey of some of the major philosophical traditions. The main themes to be analyzed will include the concepts of time, mind, person, art and religion. In addition, the philosophical interpretations of modern African and African American thinkers will be discussed. *Prerequisite: CUNY certification in reading and writing; corequisites: EG 1101/EG 101, background in Humanities and Social Science and department approval required*

**AFR 1321/AF 321**  
**Black Theater**  
**AES Core**

3 cl hrs, 3 cr

Elements of the dramatized cultural realities of the black experience in European and American culture are studied. Fundamental acting, directing, writings of black playwrights and student dramatic readings of literature are studied and performed. Field trips to plays are included. *Prerequisite: CUNY certification in reading and writing*

**AFR 1331/AF 331**  
**African Dance Workshop**

1 cl hr, 2 lab hrs, 2 cr

The practical application of style, form and ritual symbolism in African dances, which develop physical control, strength and balance, are performed. Aesthetic and creative impulses are stimulated and enhanced through the mastery of movement and vocabulary of African dance. *Prerequisite: None*

**AFR 1332/AF 332**  
**African American/**  
**Caribbean Dance Workshop**

1 cl hr, 2 lab hrs, 2 cr

A performance arts course exposing students to the various forms of ceremonial and recreational dance movements traditionally performed by people of African descent with emphasis on the Caribbean and the United States. Style, form and ritual symbols characteristic of African dances, which develop physical control, strength and balance, are explored through performance participation. *Prerequisite: None*

**AFR 1401/AF 401**  
**African Governments**  
**SS Core**

3 cl hrs, 3 cr

The dynamics of reconstructing nations in various areas of Africa from Afro-centric context. The anthropological, historical elements of the African struggle for political and economic autonomy, Pan-Africanism, nationalism and other sociological and cultural movements are addressed in terms of African and international affairs. *Prerequisite: CUNY certification in reading and writing*

**AFR 1402/AF 402**  
**The Heritage of Imperialism**  
**SS Core**

3 cl hrs, 3 cr

An examination of the thought, structure, operation and results of imperialism in human history generally, and the 19th/20th centuries in particular. European/American imperialism in the non-white areas of the world: the roles of the Industrial Revolution; the imposition of Western European institutions on indigenous peoples of Africa, Asia, North/South America; colonialism; attempts by these people to reestablish autonomous sociological and cultural systems. *Prerequisite: EG 1101/EG 101*

**AFR 1410/AF 410**  
**Geography of Africa**  
**and the Diaspora**  
**SS Core**

3 cl hrs, 3 cr

Physical, political, historical and economic geography of Africa and the African Diaspora. People and cultures from the continent of Africa as well as from areas in the Indian Ocean, Pacific Ocean, North America, Central and South America and the Caribbean regions are explored; African origins of humans and their migration throughout the earth. An introduction to the effects of climate, religion, economics, culture and politics on the people and cultures of Africans and their descendants. *Prerequisite: CUNY certification in reading and writing*

**AFR 1501/AF 501**  
**Seminar in Current**  
**Community Problems**  
**BS Core**

3 cl hrs, 3 cr

Examines case studies; reviews the actions, reactions and interactions of groups in urban America. Urban institutions and agencies are critically assessed in the context of a constitutional democracy. Perceptions, and the problems which they generate within urban black

communities, are analyzed.

*Prerequisite: CUNY certification in reading and writing*

**AFR 1502/AF 502**  
**The Sociology of**  
**Urban Poverty**  
**BS Core**

3 cl hrs, 3 cr

A critical study of the relationship between poverty and the black community. Psychological/ sociological and cultural dynamics within the black community and how they are affected by external historical and ideological factors. Poverty and its effects upon the peoples of Asia, Africa, the Caribbean and urban America. Students learn the skills of basic research methods, sociological theory and effective expository writing. *Prerequisite: CUNY certification in reading and writing*

**AFR 1601/AF 601**  
**Early African History**  
**SS Core**

3 cl hrs, 3 cr

The historical development of culture and civilization in early Africa. The causes, conditions, events and personalities which interact in history are examined in relation to continuity, development and change in the evolution of Egypt, Kush, Axum, Ethiopia, Ghana, Mali, and Songhay from 3500 B.C. to 1492 C.E. *Prerequisite: CUNY certification in reading and writing*

**AFR 1602/AF 602**  
**Modern African History**  
**SS Core**

3 cl hrs, 3 cr

In-depth study of the second entry of Europeans into Africa; survey of the colonial period, nationalism, the reconstruction of independent African states. Emphasis on the roles/functions of indigenous peoples and institutions that formed the matrix from which modern autonomous African states emerged. *Prerequisite: CUNY certification in reading and writing*

**AFR 1612/AF 612**  
**Blacks in Science,**  
**Technology, and Business**

3 cl hrs, 3 cr

This course examines the contributions of people in the African and Black world to the development of science, technology, and business. Beginning from the ancient world, the course will explore how different societies of the African and Black world developed an ethos and spirit of scientific inquiry in response to

problems of the times. An important part of this course highlights the significant contributions of African and Black women in the development of science, technology, and business. Additionally, the course will also explore how the present technological revolution in information impacts the African and Black world.

*Prerequisite: CUNY certification in reading and writing*

**AFR 1615/AF 615**  
**Early African**  
**American History**  
**SS Core**

3 cl hrs, 3 cr

A factual, conceptual and chronological survey of the African-American peoples from their African origins to the end of the American Civil War in 1865. The central organizational theme is the three-and-one-half century long struggle of African Americans to assert their human dignity, rights, potentials and contributions in the context of Euro-American social orders and processes. *Prerequisite: CUNY certification in reading and writing*

**AFR 1616/AF 616**  
**Modern African**  
**American History**  
**SS Core**

3 cl hrs, 3 cr

The history of African Americans in American society from the Emancipation Proclamation of January 1863 to the present. The topics studied include: the Reconstruction Era; the Nadir, industry and labor in the 19th century; progressivism; World War I; the 1920's; New Deal; World War II; the Korean War; the Civil Rights Era (1950s-1970s); Vietnam; the black cultural revolution, and the present psycho-socio economic actualities of African American life and culture in the American social order and process of the late 20th century. *Prerequisite: CUNY certification in reading and writing*

**AFR 1620/AF 620**  
**Afro-Caribbean History**  
**SS Core**

3 cl hrs, 3 cr

The historical, cultural, economic and political factors that shaped the peoples of the Caribbean. American, French, Spanish, English, African and indigenous influences are explored and contemporary issues are examined as they relate to historic factors. *Prerequisite: CUNY certification in reading and writing.*