

African Diaspora Studies

Interdisciplinary

The concentration has four central goals: (1) to offer students a structured program in the study of Africa and the African diaspora, (2) to help students explore the variety of cultural types and formations in the African diaspora, (3) to expose students to the connections between African studies and African-American studies, and (4) to promote curricular and extracurricular interest in and awareness of the cultures of the African diaspora for the campus as a whole.

FACULTY

Reginald L. Sanders, Director, Associate Professor of Music

Mindelyn Buford, Marilyn Yarbrough Teaching Fellow and Instructor of Sociology

Sylvie Coulibaly, Assistant Professor of History

Ennis B. Edmonds, Associate Professor of Religious Studies

Martine K. Green, Visiting Instructor of Drama

Marla H. Kohlman, Associate Professor of Sociology

Theodore O. Mason Jr., Professor of English (on leave)

Jesse E. Matz, Advisor to the President; Associate Professor of English

Hewlet G. McFarlane, Associate Professor of Psychology

Glenn M. McNair, Associate Professor of History

Peter M. Rutkoff, Professor of American Studies

Howard L. Sacks, Professor of Sociology

Jené Schoenfeld, Assistant Professor of English

William B. Scott, Professor of History

Ric S. Sheffield, Associate Provost; Associate Professor of Sociology and Legal Studies

David N. Suggs, Professor of Anthropology

Jonathan E. Tazewell, Thomas S. Turgeon Associate Professor of Drama

Stephen Carl Volz, Assistant Professor of History

THE CURRICULUM

The program in African diaspora studies consists of (1) AFDS 110 Introduction to African Diaspora Studies; (2) 1 unit of foundation courses (.5 unit in African studies and .5 unit in African-American studies); (3) 1.5 units of advanced courses (in no fewer than two departments); and (4) a .5 unit senior-level seminar course.

Courses approved for AFDS Senior Seminar Credit:

AFDS 410 Between Womanism and Feminism
 ANTH 471 Ethnomedicine: Africa
 ENGL 487 The Mulatto in American Fiction
 ENGL 488 Richard Wright and Toni Morrison
 SOCY 422 Topics in Social Stratification
 SOCY 440 Blackface: The American Minstrel Show
 SOCY 463 Intersection Theory
 HIST 411 The Civil Rights Era

Each spring, the director of the concentration, in consultation with Crossroads, the program's advisory committee, will determine the courses offered during the upcoming academic year that will fulfill the various program requirements. Courses counted toward a student's major may be counted toward concentration requirements. For a complete list of courses fulfilling the various requirements, students should consult the African diaspora studies Web site on the Kenyon Web site.

Students who wish to declare a concentration in African diaspora studies should consult with the program director. The director for 2009-10 is Reginald L. Sanders in the Department of Music.

FOR FIRST-YEAR AND NEW STUDENTS

We offer two distinct introductory courses to orient students to the interdisciplinary nature of African Diaspora Studies at Kenyon College. These courses are AFDS 108: The Crossroads Seminar and AFDS 110: Introduction to African Diaspora Studies. Each course places a distinct emphasis upon critical thinking, oral presentation, and critical writing as integral components of the learning experience. The objective of each course is to introduce students to the wide range of approaches which exist to develop a firm grasp of African Diaspora Studies as it currently exists, as informed by past events, and as history continues to unfold.

AFRICAN DIASPORA STUDIES COURSES

AFDS 108 The Crossroads Seminar

Credit: .5 unit

The Crossroads seminar is a course designed specifically with first-year students in mind. Crossroads is taught by an interdisciplinary group of Kenyon faculty members who have interests in teaching, researching, and engaging with others in the discussion of issues and concerns pertaining to African and African diaspora studies. The specific topic to be addressed each year in the Crossroads seminar is developed by the Crossroads faculty at the end of the preceding spring semester. The Crossroads seminar will typically be taught as a colloquium where several Crossroads faculty offer a set of lectures serving as discrete modules of the course. Within this format, the course is intended to be an exploration of the cultures of the African diaspora and their influences on the global culture. Students will also focus on analytical writing, scientific investigation, and public vocal expression. This course will typically be offered every other academic year. The Crossroads seminar will satisfy .50 unit of diversification in AFDS or AMST. The topic of the Crossroads Seminar for the 2009-10 academic year is *Gullah Culture*.

AFDS 110 Introduction to African Diaspora Studies

Credit: .5 unit

This discussion-based course introduces students to several of the most important approaches to the study of African diaspora experiences. Students taking this course will find themselves engaged with a variety of disciplines (e.g., anthropology, history, literary study, psychology, sociology, and visual and performing arts). Though some of the texts may change from year to year, the focus of this course will be to undertake a preliminary investigation into the connections and the relationship between Africa and other parts of the world. This course is typically offered each spring semester.

Instructor: Kohlman, Mason

AFDS 388 Black British Cultural Studies

Credit: .5 unit

One of the more important intellectual movements of the last decade goes by the name of black British cultural studies. This movement deserves study because it offers us important intellectual tools that are used to think about race, ethnicity, gender, class, and nationality in a rapidly changing world. The course begins with a brief consideration of cultural studies as a general proposition. After considering that question, we will turn to the specifics of black British cultural studies. One of the central threads of our study will be a consideration of how the various terms of analysis developed in the study of Great Britain and its former colonies might be usefully applied to the United States. Authors to be considered will include Hazel Carby, Paul Gilroy, Stuart Hall, and others. We will also read the work of thinkers who critically engage black British cultural studies, such as Aijaz Ahmad. English majors may count

this course toward departmental major requirements. This course is typically offered every two years.

Instructor: Mason

AFDS 410 Between Womanist and Feminist Theories

Credit: .5 unit

The objective of this interdisciplinary upper-level seminar is to offer a clear understanding of what feminist theory is, what womanist theory is, and how the two often overlap in history, social commentary, and methodology. As such, the materials used in the course make explicit reference to the many academic and social contexts that have given rise to both feminist theory and womanist theory. During the course of the semester, we will trace several elements of the African American experience, predominantly pertaining to women, in order to understand how disparate voices have been informed by each theoretical paradigm. We will specifically discuss fictional and academic texts, films, audio-clips, and several other examples of womanist and feminist discourses to cement your understanding of these theoretical paradigms. Prerequisites: AFDS 110 and one mid-level course that may be counted toward the AFDS concentration or permission of the instructor.

Instructor: Kohlman

AFDS 490 Senior Seminar

Credit: .5 unit

The senior seminar will be offered each year by a member of the AFDS faculty. Students should consult with the director to find out which courses are being taught in any given year that satisfy the AFDS Senior Seminar requirement.

AFDS 493 Individual Study

Credit: .5 unit

This course offers independent programs of reading and writing on topics of a student's own choice. The course is limited to seniors who are unable to study their chosen subject in a regularly scheduled course. Prerequisites: permission of instructor and program director.

ADDITIONAL COURSES APPROVED FOR THIS CONCENTRATION

AMST 110 August Wilson and Black Pittsburgh
 ANTH 113 Introduction to Cultural Anthropology
 DRAM 257 Theater of the African Diaspora
 ENGL 281 Fictions in Black
 ENGL 288 Introduction to African-American Literature
 ENGL 366 African Fiction
 ENGL 378 Race in the Nineteenth-Century Literary Imagination
 ENGL 388 African-American Literature, 1945-1980: From Ellison to Black Feminism
 HIST 102D United States History, 1865-Present
 HIST 145 Early African History
 HIST 146 Modern Africa
 HIST 176 Contemporary African-American History
 HIST 210 History of the South, 1607-Present
 HIST 248 History of Southern Africa
 HIST 310 The Civil War
 HIST 313 Black Intellectuals
 HIST 316 Jazz Age 1900-1930
 HIST 341 African Women in Film and Fiction
 HIST 349 Contemporary West African History through Fiction and Film
 HIST 350 Race, Resistance, and Revolution in South Africa
 HIST 373 Women of the Atlantic World
 HIST 411 The Civil Rights Era
 MUSC 302 The History of Jazz
 PSCI 332 African-American Political Thought
 RLST 232 Afro-Caribbean Spirituality
 RLST 342 Religion and Popular Music in the African Diaspora
 SOCY 230 Sociology of Race and Ethnicity in the United States
 SOCY 232 Sexual Harassment: Normative Expectations and Legal Questions
 SOCY 244 Race, Ethnicity, and American Law
 SOCY 250 Systems of Stratification
 SOCY 421 Gender Stratification
 SOCY 422 Topics in Social Stratification
 SOCY 440 Blackface: The American Minstrel Show