

DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN AND AFRICAN - AMERICAN STUDIES

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The Department of African and African-American Studies (AAS) articulates, in intellectual terms, the actual life experiences of Africans and people of African descent in North and South America and the Caribbean. Thus, students may utilize studies in AAS for any purpose in order to satisfy personal, educational and professional goals. The AAS major or minor offers students the sensitivity to minority issues and concerns that will stand the graduate in good stead when seeking private- or public-sector employment. Indeed, students who take AAS courses can capitalize on the increasing interest of private-sector employers in recruiting personnel who are aware of minority issues and concerns.

AAS majors go into graduate schools; appointments at federal, state and local levels; various United Nations agencies; and fields as diverse as banking, business, counseling, teaching, international studies, journalism, and labor relations.

Major Program

Basic components of the program, consisting of the core area as well as the supplementary fields within the major, are organized around the liberal arts disciplines. The core area subjects are selected from topics on Africa, on African-Americans in the United States, on the Caribbean and on other parts of the Third World.

Majors must complete 36 credits. These 36 credits must include 12 credits from the basic core and 24 credits from upper-division work offered by the department. After successfully completing 12 credits of introductory work, students are encouraged to select a liberal arts discipline in which to specialize. At least 12 of the 24 credits of required upper-division work must be in the chosen area of specialization.

Required Basic Core (12 credits):

Complete four of the following five courses:

AAS 100	Introduction to African-American Studies
AAS 104	Institutional Racism
AAS 113	Introduction to Afro-American History
AAS 204	African Politics and Society
AAS 215	Caribbean History
AAS 235	Introduction to African-American Literature

Required Upper-division Courses (24 credits):

1. In the area of specialization, at least 12 credits.
2. Electives, by advisement, to complete 24 credits. These remaining 12 credits are selected from the Department of African and African-American Studies or, where necessary, from other departments by advisement from the Department of African and African-American Studies.

Minor Program

Minors must complete 18 credits in courses offered by the department. These must include six credits of basic core courses and 12 additional upper-division credits of department courses.

DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN AND AFRICAN-AMERICAN STUDIES COURSES

AAS 100 Introduction to African-American Studies (A). Introduces the student to the multi-disciplinary nature of the study of African people in Africa, the Caribbean and in the United States. Acquaints students with the history, religion, sociology, politics, economics, the creative arts, and the psychology of African people in Africa and the Diaspora, with particular emphasis on their positional ties in the past, the present and in the future. Enables students to critically examine the place of the pan-African segment of humanity in light of the contending forces that have and continue to inform our global societies. *3 Cr. Every Semester.*

AAS 104 Institutional Racism (A,D). Pursues three major goals designed to enhance students' intellectual understanding of racism. Familiarizes students with the history and development of racist institutions in America. Engages students in an examination of the structure or "anatomy" of contemporary race relations in its interconnections with racial stereotypes and prejudice. Explores the psychological dimensions of racism, that is, how racism manifests itself in individual and group contexts. *3 Cr. Every Semester.*

AAS 113 Introduction to Afro-American History (A,D). Cross-listed as HST 113. Examines the historical experience and conditions of persons of African descent within the American historical milieu. *3 Cr. Every Semester.*

AAS 114 African-Amer Hist II 1865 to Present (A). Surveys the history of African Americans from 1865 to the present, covering such themes as emancipation, reconstruction, migration, urbanization, community formation and development, the political and cultural movements of the 1960s and 1970s, affirmative action, the underclass, and the reparations debate. Makes students aware of the historical conditions and development of people of African descent in the United States along with their contributions to American society. *3 Cr. Every Semester.*

AAS 203 Africa: Ancient and Precolonial (A). Explores the diversity of people and cultures in Africa from the earliest period of human history; Africa's historical foundation and historical development. *3 Cr.*

AAS 204 African Politics and Society (A,D,O). Introduces students to the basic problems confronting Africa as a continent in the contemporary world. *3 Cr.*

AAS 213 African Legacy (A). Provides a detailed examination of the nature of Africa's past, with specific attention to the manner in which song,

dance, storytelling and history become interwoven into one aspect of life. *3 Cr.*

AAS 215 Caribbean History (A). The importance of sugar in the world economy along with the procurement of Africans as free laborers will be evaluated in concert with economies in the Caribbean. Important events such as the Haitian Revolution will be analyzed to determine its effect not only on the Caribbean but the world at large. The objective of this course is to familiarize students with the multitude of social economic and political factors which brought change to the West Indies for a period of 500 years. *3 Cr. Spring.*

AAS 232 African Music and Drumming for Dance (A,P). Cross-listed as DNS 232. Provides a study of selected traditional musical instruments for dance accompaniment and the development of performance skills and techniques through studio and live performance applications. Explores traditional styles and their social and artistic needs for formal religious and recreational application, as well as modern educational and cultural usages in African schools and colleges. *3 Cr. Every Semester.*

AAS 235 Introduction to Afro-American Literature (A,H). Cross-listed as ENL 235. Provides an introductory survey of the literature of people of African ancestry in the Americas. Acquaints students with major literary figures and significant historical periods through a discussion of issues regarding the relationship between the writers and socio-political and cultural movements, and of questions concerning the socio-cultural function that the black writer serves for his/her community. *3 Cr. Every Semester.*

AAS 278 Afro-American Music and Culture (A,F). Cross-listed as MUS 278. Provides a basic history of black American music and related aspects of theatre, dance and literature from the 17th century to today. *3 Cr.*

AAS 302 History of South Africa (A). Examines several milestones in South African history, including the Mfecane, the Union Act, the formation of the African National Congress, the rise of the National Party, the Sharpeville massacre, the black consciousness movement, and the Soweto and Sebokeng uprisings. *3 Cr.*

AAS 303 Slavery and the Underground Railroad (A). Considers an aspect of American history (approximately 1830-1861) involving the quest for freedom by African slaves who ran away from bondage through an elaborate system of escape routes stretching from the US South to the North and Canada. Labeled the "Underground Railroad,"

these networks were managed by conductors who helped their passengers (the escaped slaves) move from station to station and to reach freedom in the North. Probes the background history of slavery, the legislative backcloth of the Underground Railroad, its geography of routes, and the biography of its major conductors. Also explores the local history of the Underground Railroad of Western New York, including planned visits to its stations in Buffalo, Rochester, and Ontario. 3 Cr. Spring.

AAS 307 Exploring the Black Experience (A,D,O). Explores the black experience through writing with a detailed examination of African peoples' social, cultural, and literary responses to the modern zeitgeist. Aims to increase students' response repertoire and writing abilities about African peoples' social, cultural and literary traditions. 3 Cr.

AAS 310 Urban Black Politics (A). Provides a study of the historical processes leading to larger urban black populations: forces permitting and restraining the exercise of political power in the urban black context; position of various black leaders and groups and their relationship with urban government; and the need for alternative strategies for the exercise of power. 3 Cr.

AAS 313 Slavery in the Antebellum South (A,D). Cross-listed as HST 313. Provides a study of some of the dynamics of slavery in the South between 1800 and 1860. Examines firsthand accounts of observers and the political, economic and racial implications of this system. Compares US plantation slavery to other slave systems in the Americas. Encourages students to borrow from the disciplines of anthropology, sociology, literature, economics, as well as from political and intellectual history. 3 Cr.

AAS 314 The Black Family (A). Cross-listed as SOC 314. Provides a study of the socio-cultural, political and economic conditions that afflict black family life. Confronts the pejorative tradition as the primary modality for examining black family life; and explores the African antecedents and continuities that have influenced the black family in the US. 3 Cr. Fall.

AAS 315 Contemporary Black Woman (A,D,I,W,Y). Cross-listed as WMS 315. Eclectically explores the various positions and roles played by black women in contemporary times against their historical backdrop. Focuses on the roles of black women in traditional and contemporary contexts in Africa; black women in rural and urban areas and in the Caribbean; and professional black women and their characteristics. 3 Cr. Every Semester.

AAS 317 Prejudice, Personality and Culture (A). Prerequisite: SOC100; Cross-listed as SOC 317.

Explores the historical and social conditions in which prejudice arises; social functions of prejudice and its psycho-social manifestations; the impact of prejudice and discrimination upon social and race relations in mass societies; and theories of prejudice. 3 Cr. Every Semester.

AAS 322 Gospel Music I (B). Cross-listed as MUS 322. Provides history of Black American gospel music and its relationship to contemporary music forms; includes performances of gospel music. 1 Cr.

AAS 330 African Dance II (A). Cross-listed as DNS 330. Prerequisite of AAS 232 or DNS 200. Provides for a study of rhythm through movement games; use of the materials of dance as an introduction to formal dances; African dance in the service of specific social needs; and the background of the dances. Requires performances. 3 Cr.

AAS 332 Urban Economic Problems (A). Cross-listed as ECN 332. Examines important urban economic issues, such as the location of economic activity, the ghetto and poverty, land use, suburbanization, housing, urban renewal, transportation, education, crime, public finance, growth and planning. Evaluates local and national policies. 3 Cr. Fall.

AAS 339 Writings By African-American Women (A,D,I,W,Y). Cross-listed as ENL 339, WMS 339. Explores literary representations of women in Afro-American fiction from the Harlem Renaissance to today. Examines the degree to which sexism, cultural stereotypes and racism influence the portrayals and functions of women in black American literature. To what extent is the author concerned with women's issues? How has the emergence of the feminist movement influenced contemporary authors? 3 Cr.

AAS 359 Black Church (A). Cross-listed as SOC 359. Provides for an extended definition of the soul (essence) of the black church, and a critical analysis of the works of exponents of the theology of liberation in the light of the historical experience of black people. 3 Cr.

AAS 360 Africa Today (A,D,I,W,Y). Seeks to deepen students' understanding of contemporary Africa. Gives attention to issues which have profoundly affected the lives of multitudes on the second largest continent. Includes issues such as slavery, racism, colonialism and neocolonialism, desertification, hunger and malnutrition, civil wars, the problem of refugees, development and underdevelopment, and the reality of winds of change in Mozambique, Angola, Zimbabwe, Namibia and South Africa. 3 Cr. Every Semester.

AAS 367 The African Novel (A,D,I). Cross-listed as ENL 367. Examines major authors and movements in the development of the novel in Africa.

Primary emphasis is on the texts themselves, but with attention to their social and historical contexts. *3 Cr.*

AAS 404 Cultures of Sub-Saharan Africa (A). *Cross-listed as ANT 404/504.* Explores the rich African heritage by means of a critical review of selected African ethnographic studies with particular focus on topics such as: subsistence agriculture, trade, kinship, political systems, urban life, and religion. Serves a broad spectrum of students to contribute to the need to understand the increasing global interdependence and cultural diversity of the present age. *3 Cr.*

AAS 408 Pan-Africanism (A). Historians of this global movement have tended to represent it as a 20th-century phenomenon. This is an erroneous view since the essentials of the ideology of Pan-Africanism existed years before the word entered dictionaries in 1900. Seeks to grapple with Pan-Africanism ideologically and practically. *3 Cr. Fall.*

AAS 410 Apartheid (A,D,I). Attempts to use certain realities of post-1948 South Africa to cast light on a racial conflict that has raged for more than 500 years over the broad issues of hegemony and economic resources. Grapples with issues such as human rights, the role of international capitalism in development and underdevelopment, Balkanization, Pax Africana and human survival. *3 Cr. Spring.*

AAS 416 20th Century Afro-American Issues (A,D,I). Deals with the continuing problem of what place black Americans should have in the socio-political scheme, a problem of dramatic contemporary importance because compromise solutions during this century have been short-lived, and because American policies have global implications which could influence foreign policy outcomes in Africa. Requires students to use scholarly articles, monographs and contemporary newspapers as the basis for discussion. *3 Cr. Spring.*

AAS 417 Cultural Heritage and the African American Child (A). Explores African-American creativity, as well as the despair African-Americans have and continue to exhibit in response to discrimination and opportunity. Contrasts children's game songs with the black English controversy. Examines the influence of social and educational policies on the behavior of African-Americans. *3 Cr. Every Semester.*

AAS 419 Civil War and Reconstruction (A). *Cross-listed as HST 419.* Surveys the breakdown of the American institutions that led to the Civil War, followed by an examination of the War itself and its controversial aftermath in the Reconstruction era. *3 Cr.*

AAS 420 Overseas Seminar in Africa (A). *Cross-listed as OAP 420.* Consists of lectures, discussions, on-site field trips and opportunities to interact with Africans. Introduces students to various aspects of life in Africa as seen in the history, economy, culture, arts, social change and political development of the country visited. *1-15 Cr.*

AAS 428 Racial and Ethnic Relations (A,D). *Cross-listed as SOC 428.* Studies the role of race and ethnicity in social relations. Examines major theoretical orientations toward racial and ethnic stratification, as well as the consequences of inequality for both majority and minority groups. *3 Cr.*

AAS 429 The Civil Rights Years (A). Explores the theme that the Civil Rights Movement (WW II to today) is one of the most significant in our history, one that made America a more democratic society, gave rise to other movements which transformed the face of American culture, changed those who participated in it, and influenced and created a new generation of American leadership. Entails telecourse instruction with print, video and audio materials. *3 Cr.*

AAS 433 African Dance III (A). *Cross-listed as DNS 433. Prerequisite AAS 330 or instructor's permission.* Covers advanced dance for recreation and ceremonial dance, including festival, war, court and ritual forms. Enables students to develop a mental, emotional and aesthetic awareness of the performance of an African dance. Examines the role of the African dance in the service of society in campus and off-campus performances. *3 Cr.*

AAS 435 Legal Rights of the Disadvantaged (A,D,I,W,Y). *Cross-listed as PLS 435, WMS 435.* An issue-oriented course. Provides an understanding of how the US legal system can improve the status of underprivileged persons, such as blacks, Hispanics, women, prisoners, the poor, students, Native Americans, homosexuals, and those with mental and physical disabilities. *3 Cr. Fall.*

AAS 460 Modern Africa (A,I). *Cross-listed as HST 460. Prerequisite HST 102.* As a course in 20th-century African history, surveys major patterns of pre-colonial Africa and examines the colonial experience and African struggles for independence. Also explores the problem of "development" in post-colonial African states. *3 Cr.*

AAS 476 The Harlem Renaissance (A). *Cross-listed as ARH 476.* Surveys painting, sculpture, photography and ceramics from the Harlem Renaissance of the 1920s. Provides an overview of the period including literature, music and dance. *3 Cr.*

AAS 485 The Jamaica Seminars (A). Focuses on Caribbean society, and the area's cultural, sociological, economic, and political aspects. Entails field study in Jamaica. *3 Cr.*

AAS 494 African Dance Ensemble (A). *Cross-listed as DNS 494. Prerequisite AAS 232 and 433.* Provides a study of advanced techniques in solo, duet and ensemble experience to explore special areas of drumming and dance; costuming and relationships to dances; and acquaintance with another dance culture and production methods. Entails class studies for lectures, demonstrations and performances. Includes video studies for discussion and examples of performance. 3 Cr.

AAS 499 Independent Study in AAS (A). Arranged in consultation with the instructor-sponsor and in accordance with procedures of the Office of Academic Advisement prior to registration. 1-6 Cr.

AGING STUDIES INTERDISCIPLINARY MINOR (585) 395-5506

Overview

An interdisciplinary aging studies minor is available for students interested in the study of aging/gerontology. The 18-credit minor includes courses, as available, in biology, nursing, psychology, recreation and leisure, social work, sociology and women, and gender studies. The minor consists of four required courses, an elective course, and a field experience related to aging. In addition to a field experience in aging, an elective course that relates to aging may be chosen from a variety of disciplines with the approval of the coordinator.

What is a minor in aging studies?

The interdisciplinary minor in aging studies is designed to meet the needs of students interested in pursuing a career working with or for older adults and their families. This field of study is becoming more prominent as the percentage of older adults increases in the United States and other countries. Students enrolled in the minor have the opportunity to learn about aging from a variety of perspectives and disciplines at The College at Brockport.

Courses and program

The approved 18-credit interdisciplinary minor may be combined with any other academic major offered by The College at Brockport. The aging studies minor consists of four required courses, an elective course, and a field experience in aging.

There are a variety of aging related courses and related topics offered by different departments. These courses may be selected individually to develop a concentration to meet student interests or career objectives. The aging studies coordinator can discuss these options.

Faculty and facilities

Aging studies courses are taught by faculty members from different departments of the College working together in a common interest area. They teach and work together in aging studies because of the importance of the area, their interest, and their knowledge.

The College at Brockport has excellent cooperative arrangements with public and private organizations throughout the region, enabling excellent opportunities for field experiences related to aging studies.

The College at Brockport Drake Memorial Library has a substantial and growing collection of holdings related to aging studies, with interlibrary loan arrangements to meet student needs.

The aging studies minor at The College at Brockport also has a funded scholarship from the New York State Federation of Home Bureaus.

Career opportunities

Continued growth is expected in employment opportunities that involve work with older adults and their families as more people are living longer and there is a public interest in meeting their needs.