

AFRICANA STUDIES - BLOOMFIELD COLLEGE (AFS)

AFS 105 Introduction to Africana Studies (3 credits)

This course will offer a broad survey of African peoples and the African Diaspora in the world, beginning with their African origins. Special attention will be paid to the enslavement of Africans, colonization, and the resultant freedom struggles undertaken by Africans and the African Diaspora. Satisfies SEEDS Ethical Inquiry student learning outcome in alignment with Diversity and Intercultural Competency value. Mutually Exclusive with HIS 105.

AFS 207 African-American History to 1877 (3 credits)

Prerequisite(s): WRT 105 with a final grade of C- or better. This course begins with the history of Africans, in continental Africa and their forced removal, and enslavement in North America and continues, through the Abolition movement, Emancipation, and Reconstruction. This course will examine the creolization of Africans in what became the United States, and the resultant religious, cultural, and political traditions. This is the first course in the African American History, sequence. Satisfies SEEDS Analyzing Cultures and Societies student learning outcome in alignment with Educated Citizenry value. Mutually Exclusive with HIS 207.

AFS 222 African American Literature (3-4 credits)

(Also ENG/WMS 222) Selected poetry, drama, fiction, autobiography, and essays by African-American authors, with emphasis on literary excellence. Authors range from Phillis Wheatley to Frederick Douglass, Imamu Amiri Baraka, Alice Walker, and Ishmael Reed. Lecture, discussion. Satisfies SEEDS Analyzing Cultures and Societies student learning outcome in alignment with Social Justice and Equity value.

AFS 225 Ideas Of Freedom, African-American History From 1877-Present (3 credits)

Prerequisite(s): WRT 105 or WRT 109 with a grade of C- or better. This course examines African American history from the end of Reconstruction to the presidency of Barack Obama, focusing on the African American experience in a global context. Key themes include the backlash from white supremacists, Jim Crow laws, the New Left, internationalism, the Black Panthers, the Civil Rights Movement, desegregation, and the role of African Americans in the military and its connection to the struggle for equality. This course satisfies the Writing Intensive requirement. Satisfies SEEDS Analyzing Cultures and Societies student learning outcome in alignment with Educated Citizenry value. Mutually Exclusive with HIS 225.

AFS 226 Literature of Race, Class, and Gender (3-4 credits)

Prerequisite(s): WRT 108 or WRT 109 with a grade of C- or better. Varied works of literature that illustrate how different races, ethnic groups, genders, and classes view themselves and each will be studied. Included are works of Philip Roth, Mary Gordon, Ishmael Reed and Alice Walker. Satisfies SEEDS Literary and Artistic Analysis student learning outcome in alignment with Social Justice and Equity value. Mutually Exclusive with ENG 226.

AFS 229 Language and Society: The Rhetorical Tradition in Contemporary Use (3 credits)

Prerequisite(s): WRT 109 with a minimum grade of C- or higher; concurrent enrollment allowed. This course surveys specific highlights in the rhetorical tradition (which, broadly speaking, focuses on the relationships between language and meaning) and what they can teach us about how we communicate persuasively. We will look carefully at a few specific points in the tradition's history (Nyaya systems, classical Greek, Enlightenment rhetorics of science, Ethiopian natural laws, and others) to explore their influences on (or exclusion from) language use in current social and political contexts. Satisfies SEEDS Political and Civic Life student learning outcome in alignment with Engagement, Agency, and Leadership value. Mutually Exclusive with WRT 229.

AFS 232 Introduction to Islam (3 credits)

Prerequisite(s): WRT 108 or WRT 109 with a final grade of C- or better. This course will introduce the student to the basic beliefs and practices of Islam. It will also survey major historical, cultural, theological, and social developments. Special attention will be given to the Arabian origins of Islam and to its subsequent growth into a dynamic global tradition. The role of Islam in the modern world and its impact on American society will also be considered. Mutually Exclusive with REL 232.

AFS 233 Selected Topics in Africana Studies (3 credits)

Prerequisite(s): WRT 109 with a minimum grade of C- or higher. This special topics course examines the historical and contemporary intersections of race, gender, ethnicity, and class within Black, Africana, and African American experiences. Through interdisciplinary lenses—ranging from history, sociology, and cultural studies to science, technology, and political economy—students explore how systems of power, knowledge production, and socioeconomic structures shape Black life across global contexts. Topics include the impact of scientific discourse on racial formation, the dynamics of inequality and resistance, and the evolving cultural, political, and intellectual contributions of African and African-descended communities. Emphasis is placed on critical inquiry, comparative analysis, and engagement with both foundational texts and emerging scholarship. Satisfies SEEDS Analyzing Cultures and Societies student learning outcome in alignment with Social Justice and Equity value.

AFS 241 Race, Ethnicity, and Social Justice (3 credits)

Prerequisite(s): CSJ 101, SOC 100, or PSY 100. This course concerns racial and ethnic inequalities from a sociological perspective. It focuses on the fundamental concepts of race, ethnicity, prejudice, and discrimination as they have played an important role in the maintenance of those inequalities. As such, the course examines how racial and ethnic inequalities have prevented social justice to be fully achieved, especially in the US. Satisfies SEEDS Political and Civil Life student learning outcome in alignment with Social Justice and Equity value. Mutually Exclusive with CSJ 241 and SOC 241.

AFS 248 Harlem Renaissance: Reflection (3 credits)

Corequisite(s): AFS 248. Prerequisite(s): WRT 108 or WRT 109 with a final grade of C- or better. Broad review of the literary period known as the Harlem Renaissance or the New Negro Movement. An examination of poetry, fiction, critical essays, art, and music for social and aesthetic values projected in the artistic production of the day. Highlighting the transnational, transethnic texture of African-American social consciousness. Mutually Exclusive with ENG 248.

AFS 260 African Religions, Civilizations, and Cultures (3-4 credits)

This course examines various expressions and forms of African spirituality, ethic, and culture. It challenges the long-standing myth that African religions are based on a monolithic cultural system. Religious traditions from West and Central Africa are central to the objectives of this course. Equivalent course REL/AFS 360 effective through Summer 2026. Mutually Exclusive with REL 260.

AFS 363 Major Writers of the African Diaspora (3 credits)

Prerequisite(s): WRT 108 or WRT 109 with a minimum grade of C- or higher and a 200-level literature course with a final grade of C or better, or the consent of the Instructor. Distinguished writers of African, Afro-Caribbean, Afro-Latin and African-American heritage. Emphasis is upon the theory and practice of diaspora and how it has shaped the literary voices of writers of African descent. Mutually Exclusive with ENG 363.