

# African Diaspora Studies

*Interdisciplinary*

## **Requirements:**

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.

## THE CURRICULUM

The African Diaspora Studies program consists of:

AFDS 108 - The Crossroads Seminar: African Diaspora Studies

AFDS 110 - Introduction to African Diaspora Studies

One (1) unit of foundation courses (.5 unit in African studies and .5 unit in African American studies)

One-and-a-half (1.5) units of advanced courses (in no fewer than two departments)

Half (.5) unit senior-level seminar course

Courses approved for AFDS Senior Seminar Credit:

AFDS 410 - Between Womanist and Feminist Theories

ANTH 471 - Ethnomedicine: Africa

ENGL 487 - The Mulatto in American Fiction

ENGL 488 - Richard Wright and Toni Morrison

HIST 411 - The Civil Rights Era

SOCY 422 - Topics in Social Stratification

SOCY 463 - Intersectional Theory

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 website on the Kenyon website.

Students who wish to declare a concentration in African diaspora studies should consult with the program director.

## 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 and AFDS 110. 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.

## TRANSFER CREDIT POLICY

Transfer credit may be applied toward fulfilling the one-and-a-half (1.5) units of required advanced coursework. Students planning to study abroad should seek approval of transfer credits, in advance, from the director.

### **Courses:**

#### AFDS 108 THE CROSSROADS SEMINAR

Credit: 0.5

The course is 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 typically will 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 also will focus on analytical writing, scientific investigation and public vocal expression. This course is limited to 15 students. The Crossroads seminar can count for .5 unit in AFDS or AMST. The seminar focus for fall 2016 is "Exploring the African Diaspora." This course will typically be offered every other year.

#### AFDS 110 INTRODUCTION TO AFRICAN DIASPORA STUDIES

Credit: 0.5

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 extensively 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 several other parts of the world. No prerequisite. This course typically is offered each spring semester.

Instructor: Staff

### AFDS 388 BLACK BRITISH CULTURAL STUDIES

Credit: 0.5

One of the more important intellectual movements of the last decade, black British cultural studies offers us important intellectual tools that are used to think about race, ethnicity, gender, class and nationality in a rapidly changing world. This course begins with a brief consideration of cultural studies as a general proposition, then turns to the specifics of black British cultural studies. One of the central threads of the course will be a consideration of how the various terms of analysis that were 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 also will 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. Open to sophomores, juniors and seniors only. This course is typically offered every two years.

Instructor: Mason

### AFDS 410 BETWEEN WOMANIST AND FEMINIST THEORIES

Credit: 0.5

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 specifically will 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. Prerequisite: AFDS 110 and one mid-level course that may be counted toward the AFDS concentration or permission of instructor.

Instructor: Kohlman

### AFDS 493 INDIVIDUAL STUDY

Credit: 0.5

The individual study option is a flexible concept to be negotiated between students and faculty members along with the director of the African Diaspora Studies Program. Typically, an individual-study course emerges from student initiative and depends on faculty interest and availability. Less frequently, individual study can be offered when students need to take a particular course in order to fulfill the requirements of the concentration and can draw on the expertise of a faculty member. Even in this circumstance, however, the option depends upon faculty availability. While we expect that students will broach the possibility of doing individual study, faculty will have the ultimate authority in determining how any individual study course is to be conducted. We view this option as an exceptional, not routine, opportunity. Given the interdisciplinary nature of the program, and the fact that aspects of the program change from

year to year, the director has the right to decline requests for individual study. Individual study courses in African diaspora studies typically will run for one semester and carry .5 unit of credit. In those very rare cases where the course has to be halted mid-semester, .25 unit of credit will be awarded.

**ADDITIONAL COURSES THAT MEET THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THIS CONCENTRATION:**

AMST 110: August Wilson and Black Pittsburgh  
ANTH 113: Introduction to Cultural Anthropology  
ANTH 471: Ethnomedicine: Africa  
ENGL 281: Fictions in Black  
ENGL 288: African-American Literature  
ENGL 316: Postcolonial Poetry  
ENGL 366: African Fiction  
ENGL 378: Race in the 19th-century Literary Imagination  
ENGL 386: Toni Morrison  
ENGL 388: Studies in 20th-century African American Literature  
ENGL 487: The Mulatto in American Fiction  
HIST 102D: United States History, 1865-Present  
HIST 145: Early Africa  
HIST 146: Modern Africa  
HIST 175: Early Black History  
HIST 176: Contemporary Black History  
HIST 210: History of the South, 1607-Present  
HIST 242: Americans in Africa  
HIST 310: The Civil War  
HIST 312: Blacks in the Age of Jim Crow  
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  
HIST 412: Race, Politics and Public Policy  
HIST 444: Faith and Power in Africa  
PSCI 332: African American Political Thought  
PSYC 424: Research Methods in Cross-cultural Psychology  
RLST 235: African Spirituality in the Americas  
RLST 342: Religion and Popular Music in the African Diaspora  
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

SOCY 463: Intersectional Theory