

**AFRICAN AMERICAN AND AFRICAN STUDIES
GRADUATE STUDIES CORE CURRICULUM
GENERAL COMPREHENSIVE EXAM READING LIST
2014-2016**

Updated August 2014

Submitted by

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AFRICAN AMERICAN AND AFRICAN STUDIES CORE CURRICULUM GRADUATE SEMINARS

When viewed as a single African Diasporic, Black World community, Black/Africana Studies programs have approached their curricular study from five different Diaspora models and foci, including 1) United States national focus as the origins of the academic arena; 2) The African Diaspora throughout the Americas only; 3) continental and hemispheric (Continental Africans as well as the African Diaspora in the Western Hemisphere) 4) global (Continental Africans and the worldwide African Diaspora including blacks in the America's, Europe and Asia); and 5) Studies of the African Diaspora (the globally dispersed Diaspora minus the continent).

MSU's African American and African Studies' core curriculum (graduate and undergraduate degrees and minors) emphasizes model (3) for programmatic and institutional reasons (sway of faculty research and program foundations). Our core curriculum is represented through three comparative and global geographic tracks- "African American Studies" "African Studies" and "African Diaspora Studies". Our four key graduate course seminars are represented through these geographical tracks as well as through a range of thematic clusters.

An Introduction to African American and African Studies I, II and III consist of a triage of required graduate seminars offered by the African American and African Studies (AAAS) graduate program. The courses provide graduate students in AAAS and others with the interdisciplinary foundational and comprehensive background knowledge required to conduct advanced study and research in the African American and African Studies discipline while also training graduate students to become successful future teacher-scholars in the Black/Africana Studies academy.

The courses cover a broad geographical scope as well as a deep historical depth of multi-disciplinary content pertaining to the political, economic, cultural and social lived experiences of African American, African and African descendent peoples, communities, nations and regions around the world. Each seminar presents comparative, global, historical and methodological knowledge of African descendants and Africans in each discrete place (communities, regions, nations and continents) by intellectually engaging students in the core elements that constitute the ethnic and area AAAS disciplinary study.

Each course begins with a history of the emergence and development of the Black Studies discipline which grew out of the US civil rights movement. Since then, the discipline has cultivated several different disciplinary iterations and academic off-shoots, including African American Studies, African Studies and African Diaspora Studies. Each course uses the emergence of and state of the discipline to guide students to the central constituents that inform the study of each comparative African descendent and African region, underscoring the central positioning that slavery, race and violent oppression have as key theoretical and

methodological concepts that comparatively and correlatively shape the core elements of the identity and subjective condition of African descendants and Africans.

Within the select region (The US, Africa, and the Caribbean/Latin America), each course builds upon these foundations by contextualizing the historical specificity of the separate trajectories and experiences among the regions after the Atlantic dispersal; while at the same time underscoring each region's sustained trans-generational global intersections and solidarities. In this regard, courses selectively examine each region's experience with slavery, imperialism, colonialism, segregation, civil rights, post-civil rights, apartheid, anti-colonialism, nationalism, anti-colonialism, migrations, gender difference and feminism, post-colonialism and post-racialism.

Building on these historical epochs and events that define the Black Studies disciplinary impetus, each course will also present the main issues that underline the politics, public policy and international relations of African descendent peoples including issues of discriminatory constitutionalism, exclusion from political representation and participation, uneven and under-development, and poverty and inequality.

Courses will examine African descendants and Africans' dynamic agency as political-economic and socio-cultural producers of and contributors to a diverse and plural global civilization. Each course will present the distinctive aspects of each region's political-economic innovation, socio-political agency, and cultural production, including its manifestation in a range of genres including religious, artistic, and literary expression.

AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES READINGS

AAAS 830

An Introduction to African American and African Studies II (African American Studies)

The late Manning Marable proclaimed that Black Studies ought to be “descriptive, prescriptive and corrective” (Marable, *Souls*, 2000). *An Introduction to African American and African Studies II (AAAS830 African American Studies)* builds on Marable’s disciplinary mission for Black Studies by providing graduate students with the foundational principles, themes and elements of the Black Studies field of study anchored by the African American experience.

Preparing students to conduct advanced research study and specialized knowledge production required for dissertation study of African American peoples and communities in historical, comparative and global perspective, the course begins with a comprehensive discussion of the origins, nature, debates and trends of the Black Studies discipline. In doing so, the course facilitates for students the theoretical and methodological scholarly grounding and introspection required for Black Studies graduate-level study.

Taking seriously the observation by Carter G. Woodson, that “the mere imparting of information is not education”(Woodson, 1925), classical and topical readings on race (Perry, Mills, Cox), the Black identity and Black discourses will be critically re-examined while key historical events in American history such as slavery (Akbar), colonialism, and emancipation, reconstruction, civil rights (Joseph) and post-racialism will be excavated to underscore these events’ connections, correlations, continuities and discontinuities with contemporary African American political affairs and public policy issues (Dyson, Mohammed). In this regard, we explore these issues as they pertain to contemporary African American political representation, constitutionalism and public policies in relation to sustained poverty, inequality and uneven development in Black communities (Rose, Robinson).

Significantly, as well, in an age indicative of the complexity of the Black condition signified by the persona of Barack Obama (Cobb) and globalization, the course equally examines the relative, yet, actually-existing power bases, as well as the creative and alternative expressions that have forged African American culture/s, feminisms (hooks), literary genres, and other dynamic aspects of African Americans’ political-economic agency, entrepreneurship, innovation, human capital and cultural production.

State of the Discipline

Readings explore Black Studies disciplinary orientation (explore the contested terminology – African American Studies, African Studies, Africana Studies, Pan-African Studies, Afro-American Studies, Africology, Black Studies- but agree that discipline is a legitimate, institutionalized and worthwhile inquiry of scholarship and education. Readings also trace the historical development of Black Studies; its history, evolution and debates from the US civil rights era – first black studies programs in 1968 San Francisco State and 1988 PhD at Temple)

Aldridge, Delores P. and Carlene Young. *Out of the Revolution: The Development of Africana Studies*. Lanham, Md.: Lexington Books, 2000.

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Anderson, Talmadge and James Stewart. *Introduction to African American Studies: Transdisciplinary Approaches and Implications*. Baltimore: Black Classic Press, 2007.

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Asante, Molefe K. and Karenga, Malauna, eds. *Handbook for Black Studies*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, (2006).

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Conyers, James L. *The Evolution of African American Studies*. Lanham, MD: University Press of America, 1995.

Conyers, James L. Jr. *Africana Studies: A Disciplinary Quest for both Theory and Method*. Jefferson, NC: McFarland & Company Inc., 1997.

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Karenga, Maulana. *Introduction to Black Studies*. 2nd Ed. Los Angeles: The University of Sankore Press, 1993.

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Norment, Nathaniel Jr., ed. *The African American Studies Reader*. 2nd Ed. Durham, N.C.: Carolina Academic Press, 2007.

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Rooks, Noliwe M. *White Money/Black Power: The Surprising History of African American Studies and the Crisis in Higher Education*. Boston: Beacon Press, 2006.

Troutt, David Dante. eds. *After the Storm: Black Intellectuals Explore the Meaning of Hurricane Katrina*. 1st ed. New York: The New Press (2007).

Williams, Zachary. *Africana Cultures and Policy Studies: Scholarship and the Transformation of Public Policy (Contemporary Black History)*. New York: Palgrave MacMillan, 2009.

Black Studies Ideological Paradigms, Black Subject, Philosophy, Identity, Gender, and Condition

Readings define/map out Black Studies approaches/ideologies (from Black nationalists, to Afrocentric, African-centered, to radical democratic multicultural and integrationist perspectives). Also highlights specific geographical scope (US African American, African continental pan-Africanism, African Diaspora). Also, readings cover Black Studies' core conceptual variables and philosophical themes that inform a Black Studies disciplinary impetus (Race and Racism, Exclusion, Oppression and Violence, Identity crisis, Hybridity and the Black condition as well as new 'representation' themes).

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Asante, Molefi Kete. *The Afrocentric Idea*. Revised and Expanded Edition. Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1998.

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Race

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Perry, Imani. *More Beautiful and More Terrible: The Embrace of and Transcendence of Racial Equality in the United States*. New York: New York University Press, 2011.

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**Historical Events and Contemporary Issues:
Oppression/Resistance, Discrimination, Segregation, Inequality, Access,
Inclusion and Development**

Readings explore the main issues that define Black peoples history and socio-cultural relations (slave trade, slavery, segregation, civil rights, colonialism, post-colonialism, Diaspora migrations and displacement, gender difference/black feminism's).

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AFRICAN STUDIES

AAAS 829

An Introduction to African American and African Studies I (African Studies)

Is the continent of Africa the historical antecedent, and therefore, the intellectual pedestal of the Black Studies discipline? After all, albeit during tragic circumstances, Africa gave birth to the Black Diaspora that informs the discipline. *An Introduction to African American and African Studies I (African Studies)* interrogates the role that Africa plays in shaping Black Studies.

From the original Pan Africanist writings of scholars such as 19th century scholars WEB DuBois and Edward Blyden to the more contemporary tripartite ideological perspectives on the study of Africa placing African Americans, White Americans and continental Africans in separate schools of thought, the course explores the transformations and trajectories that constitute the study of Africa in relation to the Black Studies discipline. In doing so, the course equally provides graduate students with the comprehensive knowledge base that informs the deep historicity, the cultural diversity and the political-economic complexity of the continent required for advanced research study of Africa by graduate students.

We examine the works of Cheikh Anta Diop and Tsehloane Keto to excavate the historical and intellectual roots of African-centered philosophies. We present the Atlantic slave trade and colonialism as historical events that have shaped modern Africa while also insightfully examining them from African perspectives and standpoints, using the works of Boubacar Bary, Walter Rodney, Franz Fanon, and Joseph Inikori; we also read and view the original biographies of Kwame Nkrumah and Patrice Lumumba. We intellectually navigate the contours of Africa's so-called, "postcolonial condition" by reviewing the classic works of Mudimbe and Mbembe; and the noted studies by African gender scholars, Amadiume, Oyewumi and Vera on African formations of gender difference and feminisms.

Political and economic issues constitute much of the current misrepresentation of Africa. As such, deploying the works of the likes of Nyerere, Mamdani, Grovogui, Makau, Adekeye and Zeleza, the course critically examines pertinent issues dominating African public and global affairs such as economic development, democracy and security albeit presenting what are these well-known Western 'Africa' policy signifiers through alternative, self-determined African-authored tropes and voices.

The State of the Discipline

Readings explore African Studies disciplinary orientation in relation to Black Studies programs (explore the contested terminology – African American Studies, African Studies, Africana Studies, Pan-African Studies, Afro-American Studies, Africology, Black Studies- but agree that discipline is a legitimate, institutionalized and worthwhile inquiry of scholarship and education). Readings also trace the historical development African Studies' as both integral and sometimes separate and distinct offshoot or trajectory from Black Studies (see the African-centered Paradigm, see continental-based Dar' vs. Ibadan schools of African history)

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The African Subject, Identity, Gender and Condition African Studies Ideology and Representation

Readings define/map out approaches/ideologies for understanding Africans. Readings cover African Studies' core conceptual variables that inform a disciplinary impetus (The Euro-Africa Encounter, Race and Racism, Exclusion, Oppression and Violence, Identity crisis, Hybridity and the African condition, philosophy as well as new 'representation' themes).

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Culture, Literature and Art

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Adebajo, Adekeye. *The Curse of Berlin: Africa After the Cold War*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2010.

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Toure, Ahmed Sekou. *Africa on the Move*. London: Panaf Books, 2010.

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Readings profile Africans' main agents and actors who have shaped the discipline and its subject histories up to the present

Achebe, Nwando. *The Female King of Colonial Nigeria: Ahebi Ugbabe*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2011.

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AFRICAN DIASPORA STUDIES

AAAS 831

An Introduction to African American and African Studies III (African Diaspora Studies)

An Introduction to African American and African Studies III (African Diaspora Studies) will provide an introduction to the study of the African Diaspora on a global scale. In addition to broad issues of disciplinary scaffolding and definition, the course examines foundational theories, methodologies and debates, and a selection of key themes driving recent scholarship in this field.

Readings in this section reflect the core curriculum's African Diaspora teaching and research cluster and distinguish themselves from the African American and African Studies clusters in their focus on 'transnational', 'migratory' and thus 'Diasporic' movements be they of African descendant peoples, cultures, or politics. Due to the research thrust of AAAS Diaspora faculty members, readings also tend to privilege Afro-Latin and Caribbean communities in the North America's. Engaging in contemporary debates about African Diaspora Studies, the track tends to provide a critical space to remap the Black Atlantic beyond Paul Gilroy's original framework (1993) anchored in the Anglophone Atlantic or the American branch of the African Diaspora. It considers the changing discourses regarding African and Black Diaspora studies and related fields, taking into account history, contemporary contexts, location, movement, displacement, globalization, migration, and the circulation of Black bodies and their experiences across time and space in a transnational framework.

The track hopes to broaden and deepen comparative discussions on the state of current knowledge production in the African Diaspora around the world and present innovative ways of strengthening the field through new literary, performative, historical and

theoretical interventions. Specific research topics may include case studies that may explore themes and issues regarding transatlantic slavery, creoles and creolization, Africa's role in the making of the Americas, African Diaspora cultural continuities, syncretism, hybridity, liberated Africans in the new world, Pan Africanism (s), modern African Diaspora communities, contemporary Diaspora identities, and 20th century new African Diasporas.

Sub-themes for this research track are historical Migration and Entangled Networks; Black Diaspora Identities, Race, Culture and Politics; Governmentality and Transnational Black Politics; Popular Culture and Mass Media; Performing and Translating Africa - Music, Dance, Rituals, Language and Style; The Arts and Literature: Black Diaspora Subjectivities; and finally, Historic vs Contemporary African Diasporas

The State of the Discipline

Readings explore African Diaspora Studies in relation to the Black Studies disciplinary orientation (explore the contested terminology – African American Studies, African Studies, Africana Studies, Pan-African Studies, Afro-American Studies, Africology, Black Studies- but agree that discipline is a legitimate, institutionalized and worthwhile inquiry of scholarship and education. Readings also trace the historical development of Black Diaspora Studies' offshoot or separate trajectory (eg. Ruth Hamilton school/Gilroy Atlanticist school)

Alberto, Paulina L. *Terms of Inclusion: Black Intellectuals in Twentieth-Century Brazil*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2010.

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Clifford, James. "Diasporas", *Cultural Anthropology* 9.3 (1994): 302-328.

Chireau, Yvonne. *Black Magic: Religion and the African American Conjuring Tradition*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2003.

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Fierce, Milfred. "Two Academic Programs in the African Diaspora: Afro-Brazilian Studies and U.S. Africana Studies". *Routes of Passage Rethinking the African Diaspora*. Ed. Ruth Simms Hamilton. East Lansing: Michigan State University Press, 2006.

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Obama, Barak. *Dreams from My Father: A Story Race and Inheritance*. New York: Three Rivers Press, 2006.

Victor Okafor, 'The Place of Africalogy' in the University Curriculum. *Journal of Black Studies*, 1996: v26, n6, 688-712. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.

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Palmer, Colin. "The African Diaspora" John Hope Franklin, *From Slavery to Freedom Symposium*. Duke University. Durham, North Carolina.1997.

Patterson, Tiffany Ruby, and Robin D.G. Kelley. "Unfinished Migrations: Reflections on the African Diaspora and the Making of the Modern World." *African Studies Review* 13. 1 (2000): 15-45.

Pinho, Patricia de Santana. *Mama Africa: Reinventing Blackness in Bhaia*. Durham, NC:Duke University Press, 2010.

Saho, Ajaya Kumar and Brij Maharaj., eds. *Sociology of Diaspora: A Reader*. Vol. 1. Jaipur, India: Rawat Publications, 2007.

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Vaughan, Megan. *Creating the Creole Island: Slavery in Eighteenth Century Mauritius*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2005.

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Zeleza, Paul T. "African Diasporas: Toward a Global History". *African Studies Review* 1.53. (2010).

Geographical Scope: Mapping the Diaspora

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Benesch, Klaus and Geneviève Fabre, *African Diasporas in the New and Old Worlds: Consciousness and Imagination (Cross/Cultures 69)* Rodopi, 2004

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The Diaspora (Africana) Subject, Identity, Gender and Condition

Readings define/map-out African Diaspora Studies approaches/ideologies

Barson, Tanya and Gorschluter, Peter, eds. *Afro-Modern: Journeys through the Black Atlantic*. Mustang, OK: Tate Publishing; First Edition, (June 1, 2010).

Berlin, Ira. "From Creole to African: Atlantic Creoles and the Origins of African-American Society in Mainland North America." *William and Mary Quarterly*, 3rd series, 53:2 (1996): 251-288.

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Historical Events and Issues

Slavery, Oppression/Resistance, Discrimination, Segregation, Inequality, Access, Inclusion and Development

Readings explore the main issues that define African Diaspora peoples' history and socio-cultural relations (slave trade and slavery, segregation, colonialism, post-colonialism, Diaspora migrations and displacement, gender difference/black feminism's).

Adderley, Rosanne Marion. *New Negroes from Africa: Slave Trade Abolition and Free African Settlement the Nineteenth-Century Caribbean*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2006.

Asiegbu, Johnson U. J. *Slavery & the Politics of Liberation, 1787-1861: A Study of Liberated African Emigration and British Anti-Slavery Policy*. Teaneck: Holmes & Meier Publishers, 1969.

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Kelley, Robin D.G. *To Make Our World Anew, Volume 1: A History of African Americans to 1880*. Oxford/New York: Oxford University Press, 2005.

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Culture, Literature and Art

Readings underscore the cultural expression of African Diaspora peoples (religion, sports, musical arts-from including Latin-African music –rumba, meringue, salsa, film/documentary, literature, and fine art).

Dodson, Jualynne E. *Engendering Church: Women, Power, and the African Methodist Episcopal Church*. Boulder: Roman & Littlefield, 2003.

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Hawthorne, Walter. *From Africa to Brazil: Culture, Identity, and an Atlantic Slave Trade, 1600-1830*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2010.

Long, Charles H. *Significations: Signs, Symbols, and Images in the Interpretation of Religion*. Aurora: The Davies Group, 1995.

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James G. Spady. *Marcus Garvey: Jazz, Reggae, Hip Hop and the African Diaspora*. New York: Marcus Garvey Foundation Publishers. December 31, 2011.

Thompson, Robert Farris. *Flash of the Spirit: African & Afro-American Art & Philosophy*. New York: Vintage, 1984.

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Politics: National and Global

Readings underscore the main issues that constitute African Diaspora peoples contemporary public policy - affirmative action, discriminatory constitutionalism and political representation, and political participation, underdevelopment, poverty and inequality (domestic and global).

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Frank, Zephyr L. *Dutra's World: Wealth and Family in Nineteenth-Century Rio de Janeiro*. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2004.

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Palmer, Colin A. *Eric Williams & the Making of the Modern Caribbean*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2006

Stoller, Paul. *Money Has No Smell: The Africanization of New York City*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2002.

Biographies

Readings profile African Diaspora peoples' main agents and actors who have shaped the discipline and its subject histories up to the present

Campbell, Horace. *Bob Marley Lives: Rasta, Reggae, and Resistance*. Tackey BCI, 1981.

Sweet, James H. *Domingos Álvares: African Healing, and the Intellectual History of the Atlantic World*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2011.

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