

# African American Studies

## Department Information

The minor in African American Studies provides an interdisciplinary investigation of the experiences, conditions, origins, accomplishments, and contributions of people of African ancestry in the United States. Students may deepen their appreciation and understanding of African Americans by studying their earlier history in Africa, their transition to the New World, and their diasporic experiences in other parts of the world. The African American Studies Program is comprised of eighteen courses offered through seven departments of instruction within the College of Arts and Sciences.

The minor in African American Studies takes advantage of those characteristics of the African American experience that make it uniquely valuable for serious academic study and teaching, for it exposes students to the diversity and unity of the African American experience as well as to the similarities and differences among the cultures of Africa.

## Areas Of Study

Minor in African American Studies

## Courses

### African-American Studies (AFR)

#### AFR 101 Intro to African Amer Studies 3 cr

An interdisciplinary investigation of the origins, experiences, conditions, accomplishments and contributions of people of African ancestry in the United States.

### College Of Arts And Sciences (CAS)

#### CAS 100 First Yr Exp - 2 cr

A course for first-year students majoring in the College of Arts & Sciences that assists with maximizing the student's potential to achieve academic success and to adjust responsibly to the individual and interpersonal challenges presented by college life. Taught in small groups, the course provides an introduction to the nature of higher education and a general orientation to the functions and resources of the University.

#### CAS 190 Special Topics - 1 TO 3 cr

This variable content course deals with selected topics from any of the disciplines in the College of Arts and Sciences. Topics will focus on current and relevant issues and may contain a service-learning component. The course may be repeated for credit when the topic varies for a maximum of six credit hours.

### Gender Studies (GS)

#### GS 101 Intro to Gender Studies 3 cr

This course provides an interdisciplinary, multicultural overview of the concept of gender and gender roles in patriarchal society. This course examines the social construction of gender in our society and how that has shaped such areas as economics, politics, cultural/social values, and the impact upon women and men in historical and contemporary terms.

#### GS 290 Special Topics - 3 cr

Study of selected topics with an area in gender studies. May be repeated for credit when content varies.

#### GS 490 Special Topics 3 cr

Advanced study of selected topics within an area in Gender Studies. May be repeated for credit when content varies for a total of six hours.

**GS 492 Gender Studies Seminar - 3 cr**  
Advanced study of selected topics in Gender Studies. May be repeated for credit when content varies for a total of six hours.

**GS 494 Directed Studies 1 TO 3 cr**  
Directed research under the guidance of a Gender Studies faculty member. Requires permission of instructor. Student is restricted to taking a maximum of six hours of Directed Studies.  
Pre-requisite: GS 101 Minimum Grade of D.

**GS 496 Internship - 3 TO 6 cr**  
Practical learning through occupational or community work with an approved agency dealing with gender-related issues. Readings and final report supervised by gender studies faculty. Special Permission required.  
Pre-requisite: GS 101 Minimum Grade of D.

## Gerontology (GRN)

**GRN 272 Gender and Aging 3 cr**  
This course examines the dynamics of gender and aging within society from an interdisciplinary perspective. Students will be introduced to controversies in gender over the life course. These include, but are not limited to, definitions and cultural boundaries, gender in childhood, gender and relationships, gender in education and the workplace, gender and sexuality, as well as gender in late life.

**GRN 290 Special Topics - 3 cr**  
This designation is used for interdisciplinary courses on aging on a variety of subjects. This course does not replace any course in a single discipline. May be repeated as long as the topic changes, to maximum of six semester hours.

**GRN 435 Health Disparities Life Span 3 cr**  
This course examines differences in health status across the life span. The course will focus heavily on racial/ethnic and socioeconomic disparities in health applying a social determinants' of health framework. Issues that will be considered include how income, education, neighborhood conditions, access to health care, and other community factors shape opportunities to be healthy. The course is cross-listed as SY 435 and GRN 435 and has been approved as an elective for the Undergraduate Certificate in Gerontology and the interdisciplinary minor in Gerontology.  
Pre-requisite: SY 109 Minimum Grade of D.

**GRN 490 Special Topics 3 cr**  
This course is designated for upper division students and graduate students, particularly those pursuing studies for the Certificate of Gerontology. The course content focuses on interdisciplinary treatments on various topics on aging. This course does not replace any course in a single discipline. (Examples of special topics: Trends and Issues in Gerontology; Leadership and Advocacy in Gerontology; Housing and Lifestyle Changes over the Life Course). May be repeated as long as the topic changes, to maximum of six semester hours.  
Pre-requisite: SY 372 Minimum Grade of D.

**GRN 494 Directed Studies 1 TO 3 cr**  
Under the guidance of a faculty member, the student will pursue directed research on readings of an approved topic in Gerontology. May be repeated as long as the topic changes, to a maximum of six semester hours. Requires permission of Director of Gerontology.  
Pre-requisite: SY 372 Minimum Grade of D.

**GRN 496 Internship - Gerontology 3 OR 6 cr**  
This course is to provide a practicum experience in gerontology in a setting selected by the student and approved by the Program Director. The course emphasis is on the experiential learning process and outcomes. The undergraduate student will apply theoretical concepts in specific areas of interest related to aging and intergenerational relations. Interns will meet as a group three times during the semester for orientation, professional development, and evaluation activities. The 3-hour internship requires 100 contact hours; the 6-hour internship requires 200 hours. Permission of Director of Gerontology is required. Fee.  
Pre-requisite: SY 372 Minimum Grade of C.

**GRN 535 Health Disparities Life Span 3 cr**  
The main purpose of this seminar is to provide students with an understanding of how social factors contribute to racial/ethnic, socioeconomic and gender disparities in health and health care. We will examine how dyadic relationships such as interpersonal forms of discrimination, marriage, and social ties may contribute to health disparities. We will also examine the ways in which neighborhood and community context, as well as inequalities in socioeconomic status materially shape health and access to health care services. The course is cross-listed as GRN 435/535 and SY 435/535 and has been approved as an elective for the Undergraduate/Graduate Certificate in Gerontology and the interdisciplinary minor in Gerontology.

**GRN 594 Dir St in Gerontology - 1 TO 3 cr**  
Under the guidance of a faculty member, the student will pursue directed research or readings of an approved topic in Gerontology. May be repeated as long as the topic changes, to maximum of six credit hours. Requires permission of the Director of Gerontology.

**GRN 596 Internship - Gerontology 3 OR 6 cr**

This course is to provide a practicum experience in gerontology in a setting selected by the student and approved by the Program Director. The course emphasis is on the experiential learning process and outcomes. The graduate student will apply theoretical concepts to leadership roles, conducting research and influencing social and health care policies related to aging and intergenerational relationships. Interns will meet as a group three times during the semester for orientation, professional development, and evaluation activities. The 3-hour internship requires 100 contact hours; the 6-hour internship requires 200 hours. Permission of Director of Gerontology is required. Fee.  
Pre-requisite: SY 523 Minimum Grade of B.

**GRN 597 GRN Teaching Apprenticeship 1 TO 3 cr**

Directed Studies/Apprenticeship that focuses on teaching Gerontology. The student will work directly with a member of the Gerontology graduate faculty to learn pedagogy, innovation in teaching, and course content that will equip the student for future teaching assignments. Many PhD programs offer both Teaching Assistantships and Research Assistantships. Gerontology students need to show evidence that they have had some teaching-related experience to compete strongly for the TA position. This course is also appropriate for students who anticipate careers in teaching within the field of Gerontology (aging or intergenerational studies). Arrangements must be made prior to registration. Permission of the Program Director is required.  
Pre-requisite: SY 372 Minimum Grade of C.

## Interdisciplinary Programs (IDS)

**IDS 290 Special Topics 1 TO 3 cr**

A study of selected topics of an interdisciplinary nature. May be repeated for credit when content varies. Requires permission of instructor.

**IDS 490 Special Topics 1 TO 3 cr**

Advanced study of selected topics of an interdisciplinary nature. May be repeated for credit when content varies. Requires permission of instructor.

**IDS 590 Sp Top 1 TO 9 cr**

Specialized topics not generally listed in the course offerings. Requires consent of Graduate Director.

## International Studies (IS)

**IS 100 Global Issues 3 cr**

This course introduces students to the basic structural components of the global system, including the nation-state system and the world economy, and explores the major schools of thought in such areas as security, economic prosperity and development, international law, gender and environmental studies. The course helps students understand the complex and interlinked issues facing global society, and current problems, and view the U.S. within a broader global context.

**IS 193 Study Abroad 1 TO 6 cr**

This course is an introductory International Studies course taught as part of a faculty-led study abroad program. Topics and credit hours vary based on availability.

**IS 200 People-Nations - 3 cr**

Variable content course focusing on particular nation or region of the world. Course offers a multi-disciplinary introduction to the people, society and politics. May be repeated for credit when content varies up to a total of 6 hours.

**IS 210 Global Engagement Orientation 1 cr**

This course introduces students to international global issues, allows students to identify opportunities for active engagement in these issues, and provides the framework for successful completion of the Global Engagement Certificate.

**IS 290 Special Topics - 3 cr**

Study of selected topics within a particular Area Studies Concentration. May be repeated for credit when content varies.

Pre-requisite: IS 100 Minimum Grade of D.

**IS 293 Study Abroad 1 TO 6 cr**

This course is an introductory International Studies course taught as part of a faculty-led study abroad program. Topics and credit hours vary based on availability.

**IS 363 Crime and Politics in LatinAm 3 cr**

An examination of the violent crime epidemic affecting many parts of Latin America, with specific focus on the themes of democratic transition, political economy, and foreign relations with the United States. Same as PSC 363 and CJ 363.

Pre-requisite: (PSC 130 or CJ 105 or IS 100 ).

**IS 371 Studies in Russia 3 TO 6 cr**

This course will cover specific topics in the history, politics, and culture of modern Russian civilization. May be repeated for credit when content varies.

**IS 372 Studies in E. Europe & C. Asia 3 TO 6 cr**

This course will cover specific topics in the history, politics, and culture of modern Eastern European and Central Asian civilizations. May be repeated for credit when content varies.

- IS 390 Sp Top-** **1 TO 3 cr**  
Advanced study of selected topics within a particular concentration. May be repeated for credit when content varies.
- IS 391 Study Abroad -** **0 TO 18 cr**  
Study of selected topics within a particular Area Studies Concentration. May be repeated.
- IS 393 Study Abroad** **1 TO 6 cr**  
This course is an advanced International Studies course taught as part of a faculty-led study abroad program. Topics and credit hours vary based on availability.
- IS 410 Global Engagement Capstone** **1 cr**  
Global Engagement Capstone is required for students completing the Global Engagement Certificate (GEC), and is a one hour course designed to help students reflect on the 16 hours of coursework and nine hours of globally engaged activities they have completed. Students will create a portfolio during the course, which will be presented to students and affiliated faculty at its conclusion.  
Pre-requisite: IS 210 Minimum Grade of P.
- IS 473 International Law** **3 cr**  
This course covers major issues, cases and topics in public and private international law. Course coverage includes individuals and corporations, diplomatic relations, jurisdiction, human rights, economic relations, treaties, environmental law, and more.  
Pre-requisite: (IS 100 Minimum Grade of C or PSC 130 Minimum Grade of C or PSC 270 Minimum Grade of D or CJ 105 Minimum Grade of C or CJ 205 Minimum Grade of C).
- IS 489 Leadership and World Leaders** **3 cr**  
An overview of the definitions, characteristics, and typologies of leadership, with a focus on lives and legacies of global influential political leaders over the past century.  
Pre-requisite: PSC 130 Minimum Grade of D or PSC 250 Minimum Grade of D or IS 100 Minimum Grade of D.
- IS 490 Special Topics** **3 cr**  
Advanced study of selected topics within a particular Area Studies Concentration. May be repeated for credit when content varies.  
Pre-requisite: IS 100 Minimum Grade of D.
- IS 491 Seminar on Terrorism** **3 cr**  
This course will introduce students to the meaning, characteristics, typology, history, and causes of terrorism. The course will also summarize the biographies of the most prominent terrorists, past and present, and conclude, with a discussion of counter-terrorism strategies. Cross-listed with PSC 491.  
Pre-requisite: EH 101 Minimum Grade of C and EH 102 Minimum Grade of C and IS 100 Minimum Grade of C.
- IS 492 Seminar -** **3 cr**  
Advanced study of selected topics in international studies from a comparative perspective. May be repeated for credit when content varies.  
Pre-requisite: IS 100 Minimum Grade of D.
- IS 493 Study Abroad** **1 TO 6 cr**  
This course is an advanced International Studies course taught as part of a faculty-led study abroad program. Topics and credit hours vary based on availability.
- IS 494 Directed Studies** **1 TO 3 cr**  
Directed research in the field of international studies. May be repeated or credit up to a total of 9 hours. Prerequisite: permission of IS Director
- IS 495 Senior Seminar - W** **3 cr**  
The course seeks to provide an interdisciplinary and cross-regional overview of the fields and research opportunities within international studies.  
Pre-requisite: EH 102 Minimum Grade of C.
- IS 496 Prof St Internship -** **3 TO 9 cr**  
Practical learning experiences through occupational or professional work with an approved international organization, governmental agency, or international business  
Prerequisite: Permission of IS Director
- IS 499 Senior Honors Thesis** **3 cr**  
The course covers major theoretical perspectives in organizational psychology based on empirical research and case studies. Students will explore learning theory, group dynamics, and change in different types of learning organizations.  
Pre-requisite: (EH 102 Minimum Grade of D or EH 105 Minimum Grade of D).
- IS 591 Study Abroad** **0 TO 12 cr**  
Graduate level international exchange programs for University of South Alabama students.

## Museum Studies (MUM)

- MUM 201 Intro to Museum Studies** **3 cr**  
This course is designed to provide a general introduction to museum history, practice, and the role of museums in contemporary society. The class will explore a range of museum positions, curatorial practices, collection management, museum administration, and the academic and public roles museums play in society.  
Pre-requisite: EH 102 Minimum Grade of C.
- MUM 290 Special Topics -** **3 cr**  
Different subjects or themes in museum studies as announced. This course may be repeated twice when content varies, for a maximum of nine credit hours.  
Prerequisite: To be announced.

**MUM 390 Special Topics -****3 cr**

Different subjects or themes in museum studies as announced. This course may be repeated twice when content varies. for a maximum of nine credit hours.  
Prerequisite: To be announced.