

## **Certificate Program in African American and Diaspora Studies**

### Program Description

African American and Diaspora Studies is by its very nature an interdisciplinary field. It acquaints students with myriad ways of thinking (historical, social-scientific, literary, theoretical, and quantitative), researching, and writing about the diverse experiences of African Americans in the United States and of African descended people throughout the African Diaspora (from dispersion, colonialism, the slave trade and slavery, through emancipation, decolonization, independence, and postcolonialism). African American and Diaspora Studies brings together the voluminous scholarship generated by historians; political scientists; sociologists; cultural, literary, and performance studies critics; and scholars working on diverse topics and constructions of class, race, ethnicity, gender, and sexuality. By considering the different manifestations of blackness and racialization as well as other forms of racialized identity across the globe from historical, empirical, and theoretical perspectives, students will learn to analyze how identity, race, and racism change over time and according to the specifics of geopolitical location. In addition, the certificate program in African American and Diaspora Studies emphasizes how blackness intersects with other ethnic identities (Latino, Native, and Asian American, etc.) and how it is shaped by gender, sexuality, and economic inequity.

### Requirements:

To participate in the African American and Diaspora Studies certificate program, students must declare their affiliation to the current Director of Graduate Studies in the department of African American Studies. To obtain the African American and Diaspora Studies certificate, students must complete five graduate courses in the department of African American Studies, at least two of which must be chosen from the following list of courses:

**AFAM 403 Diasporic Theory and Diaspora Tropes**

**AFAM 402 Memory Studies**

**AFAM 401 Conceptual Methodologies**

**AFAM 440 Black Historiography**

**AFAM 420 Expressive Arts and Cultural Studies**

**AFAM 460 Race, Politics, Society and Culture**

The remaining three electives are courses that will be taught by the core faculty in African American Studies.

*Graduate courses typically offered as electives include:*

410-0 Black Feminist and Black Queer Theories

415-0 Gender & Sexuality in the African Diaspora

421-0 Queer Issues in Independent Black Cinema

441-0 History of Black Women in the Diaspora

442-0 Africans in Colonial Latin America  
443-0 Queer Looks: On Black Visual Culture  
444-0 Civil Rights/Black Liberation  
445-0 Historicizing Race in Latin America  
463-0 Critical Race Theory  
465-0 Race, Conquests & Colonialism  
475-0 Genealogy of Racism as a Concept: Deconstruction & Governmentality  
480-0 Graduate Topics in African American Studies  
490-0 Independent Study

Students may petition the current Director of Graduate Studies (DGS) in the department of African American Studies to substitute one of the five required courses with a course offered by a Faculty Affiliate of African American Studies or an instructor whose course has been approved by the DGS.