

Title of the proposed minor: Graduate Minor in African American Studies

Sponsoring unit(s): African American Studies & Research Program

Description of program of study:

The African American Studies & Research Program (AASRP) offers a Graduate Minor (12 graduate hours) for any student enrolled in a graduate program at UIUC. Students enrolled in the graduate program are encouraged to apply for AASRP teaching assistantships and the Dianne Pinderhughes Graduate Travel Fellowship.

The interdisciplinary Graduate Minor in African American Studies is designed to explore a wide range of information and scholarship in African American studies and its subfields. Students have an opportunity to work with a broad and dynamic group of African Americanist scholars across the humanities and social sciences, and the arts and professions. Graduate students enrolled in the program are encouraged to participate in all African American Studies & Research Program activities, including the Program's lecture series, conferences, and reading groups. African American Studies at Illinois emphasizes historically specific critical analyses of black racial formation, the particular experiences of Black women, gender construction, and African American agency, in the context of constantly evolving political economies, governmental policies, and popular culture. This emphasis reflects both the strength of a large and diverse group of core and faculty affiliates, and the program's guiding principles. The African American Studies & Research Program at Illinois is committed to constructing a new paradigm for Black Studies, one that explores the interconnections between African Americans transnational black populations, and other racialized communities in the United States and their relationship to other forms of social oppression. Intrinsic to this new model is a revitalization of Black Studies' commitment to public engagement and social transformation.

Hours Requirements

- 4 AFRO 500, Core Probs African-Am Studies.
- 8 Graduate courses from an approved list of African American Studies courses, at least one of which must be at the 500-level.
- 12 TOTAL

Prerequisites:

None. AFRO 500, Core Probs African-Am Studies is the only required course and will be offered every fall semester.

Expected Enrollment in the Minor:

We anticipate that within three years the program will enroll approximately twenty minors.

Admission to the minor:

Applicants must be in good standing in a graduate program at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, preferably in the social sciences or humanities, and demonstrate an interest in African American Studies. Applicants must submit three letters of recommendation, a brief personal essay that includes a statement of purpose that describes their background, career plans, and explains how a minor in African American Studies enhances their primary program of study. A student's intent to pursue a graduate minor must be approved by the student's advisor and graduate program director. The student's major department will determine how many graduate hours of the minor may count toward the degree requirements in the student's program.

Minor adviser:

The program's director will function as graduate adviser for the minor.

Certification of successful completion:

Successful completion of the graduate minor will be monitored by AASRP.

Budgetary and staff implications:

1. The minor will not require additional staff or significant outlays of additional monies.
2. Because academic departments sponsor few graduate level courses on the subject of this minor, initially most courses will be offered by AASRP. This will require a commitment from AASRP to offer five to six graduate level courses a year. Given AASRP's growth in faculty, from 6 to 15 members, including two 100% and one 75% appointments, since AY 2000-01, this will not be a problem. The program will offer AFRO 500 each fall, and AFRO 597 and 598 at least once a year. In addition, AFRO will continue to offer three to four 400-level courses every year.
3. Letters of support have been solicited from History, Sociology, Political Science, Educational Policy Studies and Educational Psychology departments.
4. We have one of the strongest collections of African American materials, books, scholarly journals, microfilm and on-line collections in the country. There will be no impact on computer use and library use. We anticipate purchasing a digital microfilm reader to facilitate primary research opportunities. The reader will cost approximately \$5,000 dollars and will come from existing program funds.

Statement for the catalog:

The African American Studies and Research Program also offers a graduate minor in African American Studies. The minor is designed to complement graduate work in a variety of disciplines. Students wishing to take advantage of the minor must be in good standing, and must apply for acceptance into the minor. Those accepted are required to complete 12 hours of

coursework, including AFRO 500 and 8 hours of graduate courses selected from an approved list of African American Studies courses. For admission to the minor or for more information, please contact AASRP.

CLEARANCES:

Head/chair of the sponsoring department or unit Date

Dean of the college of the sponsoring department or unit Date

Dean of the Graduate College Date

Chair, Senate Educational Policy Committee Date