

African American Studies

Objectives

Learning Outcomes

Learning outcomes were specified in our last formal program review (1999) and were implemented at the inception of the B.A. in African American Studies degree track. It was agreed that our students be able to engage in effective discourse regarding the following questions:

How does the nation define and distinguish people of African descent biologically, socially, and culturally?

From where and when did African Americans come to this nation and become an integral part of its history?

What contributions have African Americans made to American culture?

How did stereotypes and myths about African Americans originate and why do they continue to perpetuate racism in everyday life?

What are the sociological dimensions of the African American experience?

Why are African Americans treated politically, economically, socially, and scholastically unequal to Americans of European descent?

Can these inequalities be reduced or eliminated?

What has been done to remedy racial inequality?

What does the future hold for African Americans and America?

SACS-

Subject Matter Objectives

1. Students should be able to write and speak coherently about their knowledge of the key concepts in African American Studies.

2. Students should be able to apply their knowledge and understanding of the key concepts in African American Studies to the analysis, and critique of prominent issues in the field.

3. Students should be able to use socio-scientific research methods and principles in their, written or spoken, analyses, and critiques of the significant issues in African American Studies.

4. Students should be able to estimate, or anticipate what the future holds for African Americans, and Americans, based on measurable sociological, and demographic trends.

Key Concepts in African American Studies
How the nation defines and distinguishes people of African descent biologically, socially, and culturally.

From where and when African Americans came to this nation and became an integral part of its history.

African American contributions to American culture.

The origins of stereotypes and myths about African Americans and why they continue to perpetuate racism in everyday life.

The sociological dimensions of the African American experience.

How African American and African perspectives foster political consciousness about the common bond uniting blacks in the Diaspora and the African continent.

How and why African Americans are still treated as politically, economically, socially, and scholastically inferior to Americans of European descent.

If racial inequalities can be reduced or eliminated.

What has been done to remedy racial inequality.

Mission
SACS-
The interdisciplinary nature of the African American Studies Program allows all enrolled students to employ and combine the methods of traditional disciplines (literature, history, music, the visual arts, art history, religion, economics, philosophy, political science, and sociology) to analyze issues central to the African American experience. Using the above stated learning goals, this approach requires students not only to understand the interconnectedness of the field but also the need for interdisciplinary study to comprehend it. In addition, the learning goals add a vital humanistic dimension by educating students of all racial and ethnic backgrounds about how blacks have exerted an indelible impact on American society.