

Minoring in African American Studies at IUSB

A minor in African American Studies provides students with a focused understanding of the vital role of African American culture and contributions in American life. The minor consists of a core introductory course (A150), an African American History course (A355 or A356) and three elective courses with an African American emphasis, forming a total of 15 credits. The approach is interdisciplinary, combining the social and behavioral sciences, the humanities, business, public affairs, and education. In addition to broadening students' awareness, this minor can enhance students' employability in all fields which serve African American populations and in all U.S. workplaces where their co-workers, employers, or employees might be African American.

African American Studies, as defined by one of its leading scholars is "the systematic study of the black experience, framed by the socio-economic, cultural and geographical boundaries of sub-Saharan Africa and the black diaspora."¹ All of the leading universities of the nation offer an African American Studies in some format, whether it be a major, a minor, a department or a program. Other branches of Indiana University, such as IU Bloomington, IU Northwest and IUPUI also offer African American Studies majors or minors.

Who will benefit from the Minor?

The African American Studies minor integrates easily with majors such as history, sociology, political science, and literature, as well as General Studies. Research in African American Studies is important to policy makers, and thus is essential to the public affairs portion of SPEA, the School of Public and Environmental Affairs. Student/citizens, as well as students who may become government workers and elected officials need knowledge of the history and status of African Americans. African American Studies will be of direct benefit to IUSB students studying and entering the professions of social work, education, law, criminal justice, public affairs, business, nursing and the medical and dental professions, all of which serve African American populations. IUSB students who become deeply interested in African American Studies will also be better prepared to enter graduate programs in this growing field. African American Studies is part of the greater work of education in improving our nation and the world. A strong program in African American studies can increase understanding and acceptance of all cultures in our multi-cultural society. It can reduce discrimination, misunderstanding, and inequality.

Course Requirements for a Minor in African American Studies

This minor consists of 15 hours of course work, including two core courses, A150 and

¹Manning Marable, "Black Studies, Multiculturalism and the Future of American Education" in *A Turbulent Voyage: Readings in African American Studies*, 3rd ed., ed. Floyd Hayes, III (San Diego: Collegiate Press, 2000), 24.

either A355 or A356 as well as three electives, at least one of which must be at the 300 level or above. A grade of C- or better will be required in each of the courses that count toward the minor. A cumulative GPA of at least 2.0 is required for the minor.

“With an African American Emphasis” means that the African American Studies Committee has reviewed the syllabus of the instructor and determined that it fits into the minor. It also means that the student will complete one major assignment or research paper on an African American topic when taking the course. Please inform the instructor of your intention to count the course for the minor. Electives eligible for the Minor will be listed in the published paper and electronic schedules under the heading Afro-American Studies. Departments or programs offering these courses will cross-list these courses with an AFRO number whenever possible.

Core Courses:

AFRO A150 – Survey of the Culture of Black Americans
HIST A355 -- African American History to 1890
or HIST A356 -- African American History After 1890

Electives:

CMLT C253 -- U.S. Black Filmmakers
EDUC H340 – Education in American Culture (with an African American emphasis)
ENG L379 – American Ethnic and Minority Literature (with an African American emphasis)
HIST H225/H425 – Freedom Summer Study Tour of the Civil Rights Movement in the South
HIST A355 – African American History to 1890 (if not used as a core course)
HIST A356 – African American History After 1890 (if not used as a core course)
MUS M375 – Survey of Ethnic and Pop Music of the World (with an African American emphasis)
POLS Y380 – Racial and Ethnic Politics in the United States (with an African American emphasis)
PSY P391 – Psychology of Gender and Ethnicity (with an African American emphasis)
SOC S335 – Race and Ethnic Relations (with an African American emphasis)
SOC S317-- Inequality (with an African American emphasis)

(Please note that these courses are not offered every academic year so students minoring in African American Studies should make every effort to take them as soon as they appear on a course schedule. Other courses in African American Studies will be added as soon as it is possible.)