



WAKE FOREST
UNIVERSITY

African American Studies

Spring 2027 Course Offerings

African American and African Studies Major and Minor

African American and African Studies at Wake Forest University is a signature academic program that:

- Leverages the University's distinctive commitment "to the pursuit of excellence in the liberal arts" while educating a new generation of scholars and citizens committed to serving humanity
- Employs a broad humanistic framework in providing a novel intellectual space for students and scholars to develop new knowledge in their attempt "to ask and answer the fundamental questions of human existence"
- Distinguishes its approach to the discipline by its unique focus on the cultures, knowledges, and expressions of African descended people in the southern United States and their global reverberations.

General inquiries may be directed to afam@wfu.edu.

FYS 100
Daniel Henry

Collective Imagination and Political Hope (3hr)
Monday/Wednesday/Friday, 1:00-1:50pm

From the struggle to abolish slavery to the global Movement for Black Lives, Black social movements have sought to imagine freer, more ethical worlds, and to foster an empowering hope in their possibility. This course centers on the lessons those social movements offer students and scholars. We will consider the question, "What is hope for?" in two senses. The first sense concerns the practice of hope: in apparently hopeless periods, what might hope do? How might it facilitate action, and when does it, as some critics maintain, stifle deeper, more transformative possibilities? The second sense concerns how Black intellectuals, activists, and artists have imagined, and contested prevailing imaginations of, the future. What does a community's (or communities') shared imagination say about its moral life and its political possibilities? What are some transformative narratives, concepts and principles, performances and so on, that contemporary Black social movements have put forward, and how might they shape the terms of political hope today? Finally, "Collective Imagination and Political Hope" will challenge students to interrogate their own ideals and imaginations in relation to Wake Forest's guiding ethic of Pro Humanitate, and what this has to do with their intellectual work on campus.

AAS 100-A **Introduction to African American and African Studies (3hr)**
Daniel Henry **Monday/Wednesday/Friday, 10:00-10:50am**

Introduces the history and evolution of the discipline, key scholars, ideas, and themes, and central disciplinary questions in African American and African Studies.

AAS 106-A/HST 110-A **Atlantic World Since 1500 (3hr)**
Guy Emerson Mount **Monday/Wednesday, 12:30-1:45pm**

Examines the major developments that have linked the civilizations bordering the Atlantic Ocean from 1500 to the present. Themes include exploration; commerce; European colonization and indigenous responses; disease; religious conversion and revivalism; mestizo and creole culture; imperial warfare; enlightenment; revolution; slavery and abolition; extractive economies; nationalism; 'scientific racism;' invented traditions; the black diaspora and negritude; decolonization; the Cold War; segregation and apartheid; dictatorship; neoliberalism; and globalization. Also listed as AAS 106. (CD, D)

AAS 106-B/HST 110-B **Atlantic World Since 1500 (3hr)**
Lesa Redmond **Tuesday/Thursday, 2:00-3:15pm**

Examines the major developments that have linked the civilizations bordering the Atlantic Ocean from 1500 to the present. Themes include exploration; commerce; European colonization and indigenous responses; disease; religious conversion and revivalism; mestizo and creole culture; imperial warfare; enlightenment; revolution; slavery and abolition; extractive economies; nationalism; 'scientific racism;' invented traditions; the black diaspora and negritude; decolonization; the Cold War; segregation and apartheid; dictatorship; neoliberalism; and globalization. Also listed as AAS 106. (CD, D)

AAS 200 **Theories and Methods in African American and African Studies (3hr)**
Shanna Greene Benjamin **Tuesday/Thursday, 9:30am-10:45am**

Examines the major analytical, conceptual, methodological, and theoretical frameworks in African American and African Studies and interdisciplinary approaches that inform the discipline.

AAS 235 **Black Cinema (3hr)**
Patrick Douthit **Thursday, 5:00-7:30pm**

Explores history, aesthetics, and politics by examining how Black filmmakers create new visual languages, aesthetic techniques, and engage questions of identity, representation, and power, situating Black film within broader cultural, social, and historical contexts.

AAS 320 **Philosophy and Race (3hr)**
Daniel Henry **Tuesday/Thursday, 2:00-3:15pm**

Examines how and in what ways race is interrogated by African American philosophers and philosophers of African descent with critical attention to issues of identity, ethics, and politics.

AAS 325/ANT 325 **Roots of Racism: Race & Ethnic Diversity in the U.S. (3hr)**
Sherri Lawson Clark **Tuesday/Thursday, 2:00-3:15pm**

Examines biological myths of race and race as a social construction; historical, economic, and political roots of inequalities; institutions and ideologies that buttress and challenge power relations; and implications of anthropological teaching and research for understanding social class and race discrimination in the U.S. Credit not allowed for both ANT 325 and AES 251/WGS 251, Cross-listed as AAS 325. (CD, POR)

AAS 380-A (co-located with POL 269-A)
Claire Crawford

Special Topics: Africana Political Thought (3hr)
Monday/Wednesday/Friday, 12:00-12:50pm

How have African thinkers imagined political life beyond the violence of colonization? In this course, we will explore how Western and Southern African thinkers theorize freedom, power, and justice beyond colonization, starting with the coloniality of the Self.

AAS 380-B (co-located with POL 269-B)
Claire Crawford

Special Topics: Black Southern Sound & Organizing (3hr)
Monday/Wednesday/Friday, 2:00-2:50pm

What does freedom sound like? This course explores what liberation sounded like from the Civil Rights Movement forward. We will ask how listening changes our understanding of democracy, movement life, and power building.

AAS 390-A
Lesa Redmond

Special Topics: History of WFU and Race in the South(3hr)
Tuesday/Thursday, 9:30-10:45am

This course explores Wake Forest University's historical connections to the institution of slavery and the broader history of racial formation in the U.S South. Students will investigate the slaveholding practices of early faculty, trustees, and students, and examine how the rise and fall of slavery influenced the university's distinct culture. Students will follow the history of Wake Forest and race through the Jim Crow and Civil Rights eras before concluding with a look at the legacies of these histories in the present day.

AAS 396
Terry Brock

Independent Study in African American and African Studies (1-3hr)
Varies

Independent research projects in African American and African Studies which extend study in a particular course or explores new areas of interest. A maximum of 3 hours may apply to the African American Studies major or minor. By prearrangement. May be repeated for credit.

Claire Crawford

Monday/Wednesday/Friday, 2:00-2:50pm

What does freedom sound like? This course explores what liberation sounded like from the Civil Rights Movement forward. We will ask how listening changes our understanding of democracy, movement life, and power building.

AAS 399
Shanna Greene Benjamin

African American and African Studies Atelier (3hr)
Tuesday/Thursday, 11:00-12:15pm

Capstone seminar for African American Studies majors to develop original research projects engaging key theoretical, methodological, and conceptual issues in the discipline.

AAS Electives

A list of AAS electives offered across other departments can be found [here](#).

All courses are subject to approval for the major and the minor. Special Topics courses must be in a relevant area. Additional elective courses may have been approved since publication of this bulletin. The chair of the department maintains a complete list of all official elective courses.

AES 387/ENG 387
Christopher Brown

African-American Fiction (3hr)
Tuesday/Thursday, 12:30-1:45pm

Selected topics in the development of fiction by American writers of African descent. Fulfills the American literature requirement. Also listed as AES 387. (CD, D)

ART 286-A
Endia Beal

Black Women in Art: Representation and Imagination (3hr)
Wednesday/Friday, 12:30-1:45pm

Variable topics in art and architectural history, such as historical periods, geographic regions, or specific media. Course can be repeated if topic differs. (D)

FRH 216-A
Elizabeth Anthony

Studies in French and Francophone Literature and Culture (3hr)
Monday/Wednesday/Friday, 11:00-11:50am

In this course, we will explore Francophone literatures and cultures of the Caribbean, West Africa and the Maghreb. We will analyze stories in which characters dream and daydream about a life free of the burden of the colonial past, persecution, intolerance, and economic struggles. We will encounter characters who are drawn to America or Europe and the promise of prosperity and personal fulfillment only to discover the travails of migration and the illusion of a life free from hardship. We will also meet voices of resistance, characters who discover that education (both Western and knowledge passed down orally by elders) is a key to their personal growth and understanding of the world. As you deepen your understanding of the histories and effects of colonialism in several francophone regions, you will develop an awareness of varying cultural values and perspectives. Throughout the course, you will also hone your skills in reading comprehension, textual analysis, and oral and written expression in French.

HMN 200-A
Molly MacVeagh

Introduction to Humanities: Themes in Literature, Culture, and Film (3hr)
Tuesday/Thursday, 12:30-1:45pm

An introduction through literature and film to the history, principles, and concepts of the Humanities. (D)

HMN 200-B
Molly MacVeagh

Introduction to Humanities: Themes in Literature, Culture, and Film (3hr)
Tuesday/Thursday, 2:00-3:15pm

An introduction through literature and film to the history, principles, and concepts of the Humanities. (D)

MSC 101
Mitchell Greco

Introduction to the Music of World Cultures (3hr)
Monday/Wednesday/Friday, 10:00-10:50am

Survey of music, history, and culture from selected societies around the world. (CD, D, POR, SWC)

POL 274
Michaela Browsers

Arab and Islamic Political Thought (3hr)
Monday/Wednesday/Friday, 11:00-11:50am

Examines the history, basic concepts, central questions and preoccupations of political thought in the Arab region, while critically analyzing what it means to engage political theory comparatively. (CD, SWC)

REL 107-A
Simeon Ilesanmi

Introduction to African Religions (3hr)
Monday/Wednesday, 5:00-6:15pm

A study of the basic features of African religious systems and institutions, with focus on the cultural, economic and political factors that have informed global preservations of an African worldview. (CD, D)

REL 107-B
Simeon Ilesanmi

Introduction to African Religions (3hr)
Monday/Wednesday, 12:30-1:45pm

A study of the basic features of African religious systems and institutions, with focus on the cultural, economic and political factors that have informed global preservations of an African worldview. (CD, D)

REL 110-A
Antonia Van Doorn Harder

Introduction to Islamic Traditions (3hr)
Tuesday/Thursday, 8:00-9:15am

Examination of the origins and development of Islam. Attention is given to the formation of Islamic faith and practice. (CD, D)

REL 110-B
Kimberly Wortman

Introduction to Islamic Traditions (3hr)
Tuesday/Thursday, 11:00-12:15pm

Examination of the origins and development of Islam. Attention is given to the formation of Islamic faith and practice. (CD, D)

REL 246
Annalise Glauz-Todrank

Religion and Race (3hr)
Tuesday/Thursday, 11:00-12:15pm

Explores the relationship between religion and race, two categories that describe identity and that intersect in the lives of individuals and groups. Focus varies with instructor. (CD)