Rice University

Interdisciplinary Minor in African and African American Studies

Approved by the Faculty Senate

March 25, 2020
Proposal for an Interdisciplinary Minor in African and African American Studies

Housed in the Center for African and African American Studies

Proposed Faculty Directors
Anthony B. Pinn – Director of the Center for African and African American Studies
Daniel B. Domingues da Silva – Director of Undergraduate Studies

Steering Committee
Jennifer Bratter – Professor of Sociology
Alexander Byrd – Associate Professor of History
Jeffrey Fleisher – Associate Professor of Anthropology
Nicole Waligora-Davis – Associate Professor of English
Kerry Ward – Associate Professor of History

Student Representatives on the Steering Committee
Zubaidat Agboola
Taylor Crain
Rationale for African and African-American Studies

Socio-political changes in the United States and the dismantling of a colonial presence on the continent of Africa promoted the formation of African Studies and African American Studies programs and departments across the United States. Resulting from the intellectual interests of a growing percentage of students of African descent within US universities and colleges, as well as an increase in the number of faculty of African descent, institutions of higher learning were pushed to shift curricular and research agendas so as to better reflect the diversity of their population and the changing circumstances of peoples of African descent. Mindful of this, in 1968, San Francisco State University developed the first African American Studies Program. And, in 1970, the University of Kansas developed the first African Studies Department in the United States.

From that point forward universities and colleges throughout the United States developed programs, departments, and centers concerned with an interdisciplinary exploration of the intersections of race, gender, class, sexuality, colonialism and diaspora culture. Drawing from a range of disciplines and typically engaging both the humanities and social sciences, African and African American Studies has offered innovative theoretical, methodological and descriptive materials of long-lasting impact. For example, critical race theory and postcolonial theory – both associated with African and African American Studies – have had influence well beyond any strict disciplinary or departmental boundaries.

Now, over fifty-years old, courses of study related to African and African American Studies have informed and influenced generations of college students. Scholarship related to African and African American Studies have had impact both on and off university and college campus as they have shifted our thinking about the nature of important socio-political and economic developments related to race and colonialism. Many graduates have gone on to serve in high-ranking positions within the academy as well as community organizations and political offices.

With this proposal, we seek to integrate the existing minor in African Studies into a more expansive and robust minor in African and African American Studies

Why an African and African American Studies Minor at Rice?

From its beginning, African and African American Studies research and teaching has been directed towards issues, opportunities, and problems that bind the academy to its larger surroundings. The impetus toward addressing the scholarly world at hand and the larger world beyond is clear in the work of W. E. B Du Bois, Carolyn Bond Day, Sadie Tanner Mossell Alexander, C. L. R James, Melville Herskovits, and others. This foundational tendency has not faltered in the decades since these pioneers helped to shape the field. Further, this outward orientation explains a good deal about the importance of places like Chicago, New York,
Philadelphia, and Washington D.C. in shaping what is asked and thus what is known in African and African American Studies. Houston has offered a rich environment for the further development of the pressing extramural commitments and perspective common in African and African American Studies. On many fronts, Houston provides a context for informing and shaping African and African American Studies knowledge that promises to be enriching to the field as a whole: the city’s deep and important history in the slavery and post-emancipation eras; in classic civil rights struggles; the region’s suburban nature; its particular southern, coastal ecology; the outsized place of Texas in recent American politics; the second-to-none diversity of Houston’s black populations, as well as the productive exigencies provided by the city’s overall racial and ethnic diversity.

The proposed African and African American Studies minor offers opportunity to foster research, courses, and programming across the university. It has the potential to provide a unique hub for conversations on crucial topics: critical approaches to race and racism, the nature of diaspora histories and identities, and the complexity of Africa’s past, present, and future, to name a few. With respect to these vital areas of study, it responds to the evolving dynamics of the Rice community and the larger public by offering rich research, challenging courses, engaging programming, and a type of cultural literacy necessary in our diverse world. It does this by privileging broad engagement focused on themes and issues without the restrictive limits of isolated and disciplinary thinking. Finally, a minor allows for easy adjustments to structure in light of shifting needs.

This minor provides an important intervention with respect to the “Vision for the Second Century, Second Decade (V2C2)”, with respect to undergraduate education, diversity and inclusiveness, research achievement, global reach, and engaging with Houston). With the strategic investment in African and African American Studies, the university will foster new synergies in these research areas, and energize existing faculty on campus.

**Distinction from and Relationship to Other Academic Developments at Rice**

Rice faculty for several decades now have offered courses at Rice addressing various aspects of African and African American Studies, and from a variety of disciplinary perspectives. A wide range of students take these courses, offered across roughly seven departments in the Schools of Humanities and Social Sciences. Consistent with comparable institutions, these courses reflect interests cutting across the university curriculum, and draw from resources both on and off campus. However, unlike institutions within our comparison group, Rice has been slow to give institutional form and stability to this curricular and research interest in African and African American Studies.

Without a more structured and systematic approach to African and African American Studies, Rice has been limited in its ability to both maximize intellectual synergy across campus in ways that would: (1) foster a coherent curriculum for students; (2) foster faculty collaboration on shared research interests; and, (3) position Rice to engage in national and international conversations shaping these key areas of study. The development of the African Studies minor
in 2009 marks an important effort to correct for these shortcomings; while important, the minor addresses only one dimension of African and African American Studies.

The new Center for African and African American Studies, developed in 2019, entails the expansion of existing curriculum and research on campus to include a creative relationship between African and African American Studies. The curricular dimension of this new center is the proposed African and African American Studies minor, which will expand and replace the existing African Studies minor.

It is important to note that this proposed minor does not diminish attention to the continent of Africa already present on campus, and it does not reduce the significance of African Studies over against African American Studies. To the contrary, with increased depth and breadth of research on Africa, the new minor will create richer learning opportunities for students.

The critical scholarly inquiry, mentored research, outward-facing programming, communication skills, global perspective, and commitment to justice long associated with African and African American Studies both draws on and enriches (often through deeply engaged criticism) the best of the liberal arts tradition. The intellectual commitment and academic achievement of Rice undergraduates enrolled in the present spate of African and African American Studies-related classes make it clear that Rice students value courses in the field, desire greater curricular guidance and coherence, would benefit from additional public programming, and wish for significant internship and well-conceived study away opportunities related to these particular interests.

At this time, the magnitude of student interest cannot be known, so we propose to proceed incrementally with a minor. The African and African American Studies minor is an interdisciplinary course of study drawing on disciplines from the Humanities and Social Sciences. (See Appendix for proposed minor requirements and related courses.)

Institutional Home and Governance

The interdisciplinary nature of African and African American Studies means the minor cannot be housed in one department, in one division of the university. Mindful of this, the minor will be housed in the new African and African American Studies Center – which involves a partnership between the School of Humanities and the School of Social Sciences. The director of the Center reports to both Deans, and both Deans are responsible for making sure adequate resources are available for the Center. In turn, the Center will make certain the minor has resources necessary to operate in light of student needs and faculty interests. This includes funds for programming, a robust presence on the Center’s website, and staffing for courses.

While the Center’s director is responsible for the overall functioning of the Center, the minor is managed by the Director of Undergraduate Studies, who is appointed for a three-year
period (renewable) by the Director of the Center in consultation with the Center’s Steering Committee. The job description for the Director of Undergraduate Studies is as follows:

The Director of Undergraduate Studies, reporting to the Director and working in conjunction with the Steering Committee, is responsible for supervising the Center’s AAAS minor. This includes advising students, arranging and participating in events that might serve to enhance the visibility of the minor as well as the number of students participating in the minor, and managing the courses corresponding to the minor. Some of these activities will require after hours work.

The Steering Committee composed of 6 faculty members (including the Center’s Director and the Director of Undergraduate Studies), and approved by the Deans of Humanities and the Social Sciences, provides oversight for the minor. This includes reviewing any changes to the curriculum as well as more general issues related to the minor. In addition, the minor receives administrative support from a half-time administrative assistant for the Center for African and African American Studies (currently Terra Ousley).

Sustainability of the African and African American Studies Minor

In addition to student interests, faculty interests/expertise, the African and African American Studies minor has the commitment of senior administration. In fact, Dean Kathleen Canning (Humanities) with the support of former Provost Marie Lynn Miranda initiated the call for the development of a new infrastructure for African and African American Studies. The support of interim Dean of the Social Sciences, Susan McIntosh, provides a foundation for partnership between the Humanities and Social Sciences. Furthermore, as the attached letters attest, the minor also has the support of the departments reflected in the proposed curriculum.

While this initial, administrative support is important, of greater importance is the new Center for African and African American Studies that will house the minor. The Center’s budget is sufficient to meet the needs of the minor (including programming), and the four (4) faculty lines dedicated to the study of African and/or African American Studies; two searches (English and Art History) are currently underway. (There are additional faculty hires envisioned, with a goal of ten in total.) These faculty will be housed in their home academic departments, and the job descriptions and offer letters will note the obligation to participate in the minor’s curriculum and programming. These new hires, along with the courses offered by the existing 15-affiliated faculty, safeguard the minor’s course offerings.
Comparable Programs at Other Institutions

The systematic study of African and African American Studies dates back to 1968 with the Black Studies program at San Francisco State University. Two years later, in 1970, the University of Kansas developed a Department of African Studies. From this period moving forward, African and African American Studies programs, departments, and centers have emerged at universities and colleges across the country. Most of the institutions comparable to Rice have at least a minor in some formulation of African and African American Studies (e.g., Africana Studies, Black Studies, African Diaspora Studies). The only other tier-one research University in Houston, the University of Houston, has an Africana Studies Department that is several decades old.

Harvard University – African and African American Studies

Harvard offers both a major and a “Secondary Field” (i.e., minor) related to two tracks: “African Studies” and “African American Studies” both housed in the Department of African and African American Studies. The “Secondary Field” tracks require five courses (at least one at the 100-level) – one introductory course in that particular area (i.e., “African Studies” or “African American Studies”), and a related history course.

Vanderbilt University – African American and Diaspora Studies

The major and minor are housed in the Department of African American and Diaspora Studies. The minor requires 21 credit hours. This includes an introductory course, 3 hours in each of three areas (Gender and Sexuality; Literature, Theory, and Visual Culture; and, Social Sciences). The remaining 9 hours are fulfilled through electives. Students are allowed only 6 hours focused on either the Americas or Africa.

Duke University – African and African American Studies

The minor is housed in the Department of African and African American Studies. For the minor, students are required to take two required courses (AAAS 102 and AAAS 103). The must take three courses at the 200-level, and the courses must reflect both foci – Africa and the Americas. The final three courses are in the following areas: Arts, Literatures, and Performance; Civilizations; Social Sciences.

Northwestern University – African Studies and African American Studies

The various majors and minors are housed in the Department of African American Studies. The minor requires 8 courses – 4 of which are core and 4 are electives. There is also an adjunct
minor (and major) in African Studies, which requires the following: 6 courses from at least 2 departments. Only one of these courses can be counted toward the student’s major. Two of the courses are taken from a required sequence of courses, and there is a required course in “Contemporary African Worlds”. The student must have a B average in all the courses, and courses can’t be taken P/N.

*Emory University – African Studies and African American Studies*

The various options are housed in the African American Studies Department. The African American Studies minor, and the African Studies minor require courses across disciplines and university divisions. The African American Studies minor requires: 7 courses – including a required introductory course; a history core courses; a literature core courses; humanities area course; social sciences area course, an African or Diaspora Area requirement; and the Civil and Human Rights Area requirement. And, the African Studies minor requires: 5 courses, and 4 of these courses have to deal exclusively with African content. There are no set courses for this minor.

*Johns Hopkins University – Africana Studies*

The curricular options are housed in the Center for Africana Studies. For the Africana Studies minor, students are required to complete 18 credits, including two core courses. An additional 24 credit hours must involve courses offered by participating faculty, and 12 of the credit hours must be in courses at the 300-level.

*Rice University – African and African American Studies*

*Overview*

The critical scholarly inquiry, mentored research, outward-facing programming, communication skills, global perspective, and commitment to justice long associated with African and African American Studies both draws on and enriches (often through deeply engaged criticism) the best of the liberal arts tradition. The African and African-American Studies minor is an interdisciplinary course of study drawing on disciplines from the Humanities and Social Sciences.

The minor allows students to focus on issues of concern in this area of study across the university, including (but not limited to) histories of race and slavery, studies of African and African American culture, religion, philosophy, and race and racialization. Race as a general social-cultural category informs and influences the dynamics of our social world. From national politics and foreign policy, to economic developments, to community sustainability and environmental issues, to cultural clashes and claims and more, race and its implications are
evident. As a result, formal attention to studying race and racialization holds great value regardless of one’s chosen profession. That is to say, understanding the history and various dynamics of race/racialization as well as how it operates in the present enhances a Rice education, and helps to prepare students for life across a broad range of fields and forms of employment.

Requirements for the Interdisciplinary African and African American Studies Minor

Students must take at least six courses (18 credit hours).

1. Students must take the interdisciplinary core course – “Introduction to African and African American Studies”;
2. At least three courses must be at the 300 level or higher;
3. Students must take at least two List A courses from two different departments and two List B courses from two different departments. Courses selected must also reflect offerings from both the School of Humanities and the School of Social Sciences.
4. No more than two courses (6 credit hours) can apply from transfer credits;

A list of applicable courses is available from the Director of Undergraduate Studies. It is also available on the Center for African and African American Studies website, under the African and African American Studies minor tab.

Core Course

Title: “AAAS 200 Knowing Blackness: Introduction to African and African American Studies”

Description:

The western study of Africa and its diasporas represents a powerful case of the failure of Enlightenment systems of knowledge and of the university. For most of the modern era, neglect, ignorance, and bane colored what was known about Africa and about people who traced their immediate ancestry there.

This course, focused on the rise and articulation of African Studies, of African American Studies, and on their intersections explores the beginning and continuing work of undoing the violence and filling voids that have long characterized knowledge about black people in the western world. By exploring the origins and development of African Studies and African American Studies as interdisciplinary fields, and focusing on key debates and revisions that have marked their growth, the course introduces students to methodologies and practices that have led to and that continue to lead to knowing Africa and African-descendent people with earnest regard for the complexity and subtlety that the subjects require. Moreover, the course’s focus on method and praxis ventures beyond African and African American studies proper to consider the fields’ impacts beyond their borders. Ultimately, the course productively begs rather than
artificially settling the animating question at the heart of the class: Is it possible to move beyond the foundational, anti-black epistemologies on which the study of Africa and its peoples was founded?

The course is organized around ten areas that frame consideration of different aspects of African and African American studies research and knowledge. Black Beginnings considers the changing place of Africa in the story of human origins. A Black West interrogates the place of Africa in the formation of ideas about civilization and the classical west. The course and consequence of conditions that led to the creation of the black Americas is taken up in On Diaspora. Relatedly the promise and limits of freedom (especially in relationship to colonialism and post-coloniality) is taken up in Black Freedom. Black Minds grapples with key issues in pondering the very existence of such a thing, and surveys emerging issues in the psychology of blackness. On Womanism and African Feminisms mulls the impossibility of a robust African and African American studies in the absence of critical tools developed by scholars of gender, sexuality, and blackness...Rendering Blackness explores analytical and explanatory power of visual cultures in Africa and the black Americas. A unit on Black Gods troubles the waters arounds questions of modern black religiosity and emerging notions of black freedom. In the Americas, the city has become quintessentially tied to notions of blackness, and a number of African population centers are among the world’s true megacities. Contrasting urbanizations in Africa and the Americas, and the future of the city are the subjects of Black Metropolis. Africa Ascendent closes the course with a comparative study of black futures (past and present). The unit is also a scholarly meditation on the striking, contemporary cultural currency of Africans and African Americans alongside the persistence and growth of the very kinds of inequities, violences, and willful ignorance against which African Studies and African American studies rose in the first place. The course’s ten units are discrete foci but they are not sealed off from one another. For instance, because the slave ship and the plantation were urban spaces in ways that should not be discounted, the unit On Diaspora will point forward and be in conversation with the section of the course more particularly concerned with black cities (and vice versa). The same is true of nearly any other two units of the course.

Four monographs comprise the main readings for the class, and the primary foci of these books aligns with the unfolding concerns of the class (while representing the diversity of approach and position reflected in and required by the breadth of the course at large). For fall 2020, the main readings will be Homegoing (2016) by Ghanaian-American novelist Yaa Gyasi, The Wretched of the Earth by Martiniquan psychiatrist, theorist, and revolutionary Franz Fanon, So Long a Letter (1979) by the Senegalese, feminist author Miriama Bâ, and Dreams of My Father by Barack Obama. Each week students will also complete a supplemental reading (scholarly article, essay, video, et cetera) rooted in African Studies or in African American Studies and bearing directly on an issue related to the week’s unit.
Bi-weekly (and in some places in the course, more often), African Studies and African American Studies faculty from Rice and Houston who have a particular interest or expertise in the week’s subject matter will visit the class to offer a methodological provocation and to lead a conversation with students designed to deepen their grasp of the ideas at the heart of the week’s work (and to introduce them to AAAS scholars at Rice and beyond with whom they might want to pursue additional studies).

Elective Courses (Choice of at least two from list A from two different departments, and two from list B from two different departments)

LIST A

ANTH 312 AFRICAN PREHISTORY
ANTH 343 NEW RELIG MOVEMENTS IN AFRICA
ANTH 360 AFRICAN TOPICS
ANTH 364 AFRICAN ARCHAEOLOGY
ANTH 423 AFRICAN MYTHS AND RITUALS

HIST 204 THE IDEA OF AFRICA
HIST 222 HISTORY OF EARLY AFRICA
HIST 223 HISTORY OF MODERN AFRICA
HIST 229 HISTORY OF SOUTH AFRICA
HIST 323 ATLANTIC AFRICA
HIST 330 TRANSATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE AND THE ORIGINS OF AFRO AMERICA
HIST 343 HISTORY OF AFRICA IN THE MUSEUM

RELI 111 INTRO AFRICAN RELIGIONS
RELI 113 INTRO TO CHRISTIANITY AFRICA
RELI 338 THE CHURCH OF AFRICA
RELI 340 THEOLOGY IN AFRICA
RELI 342 NEW RELIGIOUS MOVEMENTS IN AFRICA
RELI 348 CHRISTIANITY & ISLAM IN AFRICA
RELI 423 AFRICAN MYTHS AND RITUALS
RELI 424 RELIGION & POLITICS IN AFRICA

LIST B

ANTH 443 RACE ETHNICITY & HEALTH
EDUC 304 RACE, CLASS, GENDER IN EDUCATION
ENGL 267 INTRO TO AFRICAN AMER LITERATURE
ENGL 370 AFRICAN AMERICAN LITERATURE/SWGS 370
ENGL 393 BLACK MANHATTAN: 1915-1940
SOCI 470    INEQUALITY AND URBAN LIFE
SOCI 485    RACIAL IDENTITIES
SWGS 374    FEM THEORY IN AFRICAN DIASPORA
SWGS 377    RACE, POWER, PLACE

The list of applicable electives will be reviewed annually by the steering committee, and will be adjusted as needed.

Student Learning Objectives

The goal of the African and African American Studies minor is to provide students with resources and opportunity to think about key issues and themes within African and African American Studies in ways that enhance their work and that provides key competencies that enhance their professional life. Mindful of this, upon completion of the minor, students will be able to:

- Understand and appreciate the complexity of African and African American history and culture.
- Compare and contrast the experiences of African peoples in different regions of the continent.
- Understand the role of Africa and African peoples in the diaspora in global histories and networks.
- Understand and employ key concepts and frameworks utilized in African and African American Studies.

Assessment

Student Learning Outcomes will be assessed through essays, exams, in-class presentations and projects during the semester. A subset of the African and African American Studies affiliated faculty will meet at the end of each school year, convened by the Director of Undergraduate Studies, to examine a selection of essays and exams from African and African American Studies courses. During the meeting, the group will determine whether student-learning outcomes are being achieved, and propose alterations to the curriculum or outcomes based on this assessment, and as needed.

Plan to Sunset the African Studies Minor

The African Studies Minor will be removed from the GA as of the 2020-2021 academic year. According to “Applicable Academic Graduation Requirements”: “Students enrolled in bachelor’s programs may choose to follow the graduation general and program requirements in effect for any academic year between their matriculation or graduation.” Mindful of this, a continuing student next Fall (2020) would have access to the African Studies Minor. However, the African and African American Studies director of undergraduate studies will encourage
continuing students to enroll in the African and African American Studies minor instead—highlighting the student’s ability to undertake work related to Africa through the new minor.

Faculty in the Minor

Faculty Directors
Anthony B. Pinn – Director of the Center for African and African American Studies
Daniel B. Domingues da Silva – Director of Undergraduate Studies

Steering Committee
Jenifer Bratter – Professor of Sociology
Alexander Byrd – Associate Professor of History
Jeffrey Fleisher – Associate Professor of Anthropology
Nicole Waligora-Davis – Associate Professor of English
Kerry Ward – Associate Professor of History

Core Faculty
Elias Bongmba – Professor of Religion
Tony Brown – Professor of Sociology
Jacqueline Couti – Associate professor of French Studies
Amy Dunham – Associate Professor of Biological Sciences
Matthew Hayes – Assistant Professor of Political Science
Chase Lesane-Brown – Lecturer in Psychology
Caleb McDaniel – Associate Professor of History
James Sidbury – Professor of History
Fay Yarbrough – Associate Professor of History
African and African American Studies

Overview | Undergraduate | Graduate | Faculty | Courses | Codes

The critical scholarly inquiry, mentored research, outward-facing programming, communication skills, global perspective, and commitment to justice long associated with African and African American Studies both draws on and enriches (often through deeply engaged criticism) the best of the liberal arts tradition. The African and African-American Studies minor is an interdisciplinary course of study drawing on disciplines from the Humanities and Social Sciences.

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Minor in African and African American Studies

Overview | Undergraduate | Graduate | Faculty | Courses | Codes

Minor
• Minor in African and African American Studies

Minor in African and African American Studies

Outcomes | Requirements | Policies | Opportunities

Program Learning Outcomes for the Minor in African and African American Studies

Upon completing the minor in African and African American Studies, students will be able to:

1. Understand and appreciate the complexity of African and African American History and culture.
2. Compare and contrast the experiences of African peoples in different regions of the continent.

Minor in African and African American Studies

Proposed DRAFT GA Text (Minor in African and African American Studies), as of 01/22/2020
Requirements for the Minor in African and African American Studies

Students pursuing the minor in African and African American Studies must complete:

- A minimum of 6 courses (18 credit hours) to satisfy minor requirements.
- A minimum of 3 courses (9 credit hours) taken at the 300-level or above.
- A maximum of 2 courses (6 credit hours) study abroad or from transfer credit. For additional program guidelines regarding transfer credit, see the Policies tab.

The courses listed below satisfy the requirements for this minor. In certain instances, courses not on this official list may be substituted upon approval of the minor’s academic advisor, or where applicable, the Program Director. (Course substitutions must be formally applied and entered into Degree Works by the minor’s Official Certifier.) Students and their academic advisors should identify and clearly document the courses to be taken.

Summary

| Total Credit Hours Required for the Minor in African and African American Studies | 18 |

Minor Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core Requirements</th>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AAAS 200 KNOWING BLACKNESS: INTRODUCTION TO AFRICAN AND AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES</td>
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<table>
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<th>Elective Requirements</th>
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<td>Select 5 courses from the following two categories below</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>At least 2 courses from List A (see course list below)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At least 2 courses from List B (see course list below)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Total Credit Hours 18
Appendix A: Proposed General Announcement Text [new interdisciplinary minor in AAAS]

Course Lists to Satisfy Requirements

Elective Requirements

To fulfill the remaining African and African American Studies minor requirements, students must complete a total of 5 elective courses (15 credit hours) from the following two categories as listed below. At least 2 courses (6 credit hours) must be completed from each of the two categories. Ultimately the coursework must be course offerings from at least 3 different academic departments.

List A

Select at least 2 courses (6 credit hours) from the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ANTH 312</td>
<td>AFRICAN PREHISTORY</td>
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<tr>
<td>ANTH 343</td>
<td>NEW RELIGIOUS MOVEMENTS IN AFRICA</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANTH 360</td>
<td>TOPICS IN AFRICAN CULTURE AND ETHNOGRAPHY</td>
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<td>ANTH 364</td>
<td>AFRICAN ARCHAEOLOGY FIELD TECHNIQUES</td>
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<td>ANTH 423</td>
<td>AFRICAN MYTHS AND RITUALS</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
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<td>HIST 204</td>
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<tr>
<td>RELI 424</td>
<td>RELIGION AND POLITICS IN AFRICA</td>
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Proposed DRAFT GA Text (Minor in African and African American Studies), as of 01/22/2020
### List B

Select at least 2 courses (6 credit hours) from the following:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ANTH 443</td>
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<tr>
<td>EDUC 304</td>
<td>RACE, CLASS, GENDER IN EDUCATION</td>
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<tr>
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<td>INTRODUCTION TO AFRICAN AMERICAN LITERATURE</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL 370 / SWGS 370</td>
<td>AFRICAN AMERICAN LITERATURE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 393</td>
<td>BLACK MANHATTAN: 1915 – 1940</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL 398</td>
<td>SLAVERY IN 20TH CENTURY FILM &amp; FICTION</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL 399</td>
<td>THE BLACK IMAGINARY: 1775 – PRESENT</td>
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<td>ENGL 470 / SWGS 453</td>
<td>STUDIES IN AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES</td>
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<tr>
<td>FREN 413</td>
<td>BLACK VENUS/VÉNUS NOIRE: REPRESENTATIONS OF BLACK WOMEN IN THE LONG 19TH CENTURY</td>
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<td>FREN 478 / ARCR 478</td>
<td>THE CARIBBEAN IN FRENCH</td>
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<td>HIST 111</td>
<td>RED, WHITE AND BLACK IN EARLY AMERICA CREATING RACIAL IDENTITIES IN THE ERA OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIST 188</td>
<td>THE ATLANTIC WORLD: ORIGINS TO THE AGE OF REVOLUTION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST 208</td>
<td>RACE AND MEDICINE IN AMERICA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST 209</td>
<td>AMERICAN URBAN HISTORY, 1609 TO TODAY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST 215</td>
<td>BLACKS IN THE AMERICAS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST 216</td>
<td>BLACK LIFE IN THE NINETEENTH-CENTURY UNITED STATES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST 295</td>
<td>THE AMERICAN SOUTH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST 301</td>
<td>FIGHTING THE ATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE</td>
</tr>
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<td>HIST 315</td>
<td>BLACKS IN THE AMERICA</td>
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<td>HIST 330</td>
<td>ATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE AND THE ORIGINS OF AFRO AMERICA</td>
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<td>HIST 347</td>
<td>BLACK AMERICA: FROM THE NADIR THROUGH THE GREAT DEPRESSION</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIST 407</td>
<td>THE RISE AND FALL OF SLAVERY IN THE ATLANTIC WORLD, 1791-1888</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIST 421</td>
<td>RACE, EDUCATION AND SOCIETY IN THE URBAN SOUTH</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIST 427</td>
<td>HISTORY OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT, 1954 TO THE PRESENT</td>
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Proposed DRAFT GA Text (Minor in African and African American Studies), as of 01/22/2020
Appendix A: Proposed General Announcement Text [new interdisciplinary minor in AAAS]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tr>
<td>HIST 484</td>
<td>THE BLACK CITY: AFRICAN AMERICAN URBAN LIFE IN THE UNITED STATES</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLI 325</td>
<td>AFRICAN AMERICAN POLITICS</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>POLI 330</td>
<td>MINORITY POLITICS</td>
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<td>POLI 350</td>
<td>URBAN LAB HOUSTON</td>
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<td>POLI 438</td>
<td>RACE AND PUBLIC POLICY</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>RELI 157</td>
<td>RELIGION AND HIPHOP CULTURE IN AMERICA</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RELI 216</td>
<td>RELIGION AND BLACK LIVES MATTER</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RELI 270</td>
<td>INTRODUCTION TO THE BLACK CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>RELI 312</td>
<td>THE RELIGIOUS THOUGHT OF MARTIN L. KING, JR. AND MALCOLM X</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>RELI 357</td>
<td>REPRESENTING THE DEVIL IN CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY AND ART</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RELI 426</td>
<td>RELIGION AND LITERATURE IN AFRICA</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCI 309</td>
<td>RACE &amp; ETHNIC RELATIONS</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCI 329</td>
<td>MULTIRACIAL AMERICA</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCI 343</td>
<td>RACE, SOCIETY &amp; POPULATION CHANGE</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCI 363</td>
<td>AFRICAN AMERICAN-JEWISH RELATIONS: RACE, RELIGION, POLITICS, AND POPULAR CULTURE</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOCI 374</td>
<td>SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY OF PREJUDICE</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCI 389</td>
<td>RACE, GENDER, CLASS ON FILM</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCI 402</td>
<td>RACE AND FAMILY SEMINAR</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOCI 424</td>
<td>RACE AND ETHNICITY SEMINAR</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCI 436</td>
<td>RESEARCH SEMINAR: THE HOUSTON AREA SURVEY</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCI 453</td>
<td>RACE, MIGRATION, AND HEALTH SEMINAR</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCI 470</td>
<td>INEQUALITY AND URBAN LIFE</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOCI 485</td>
<td>IDENTITIES IN A DIVERSE WORLD</td>
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<tr>
<td>SWGS 374 / LASR 374</td>
<td>FEMINIST AND QUEER THEORY IN THE AFRICAN DIASPORA</td>
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<tr>
<td>SWGS 377</td>
<td>RACE, POWER AND THE POLITICS OF PLACE</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Footnotes and Additional Information

1 Of the 6 required courses (18 credit hours), a total of 3 courses (9 credit hours) must be taken at the 300-level or above. Please note that not all courses listed above will be offered every academic year.

Proposed DRAFT GA Text (Minor in African and African American Studies), as of 01/22/2020
Appendix A: Proposed General Announcement Text [new interdisciplinary minor in AAAS]

2 Of the 5 required elective courses (15 credit hours), the courses must be taken from at least 3 different fields or academic departments.

Minor in African and African American Studies

Outcomes | Requirements | Policies | Opportunities

Policies for the Minor in African and African American Studies

Program Restrictions and Exclusions

Students pursuing the minor in African and African American Studies should be aware of the following program restrictions:

- As noted in Majors, Minors, and Certificates, i.) students may declare their intent to pursue a minor only after they have first declared a major, and ii.) students may not major and minor in the same subject.
- Students pursuing the minor in African Studies may not declare the minor in African and African American Studies.

Transfer Credit

For Rice University’s policy regarding transfer credit, see Transfer Credit. Some departments and programs have additional restrictions on transfer credit. The Office of Academic Advising maintains the university’s official list of transfer credit advisors on their website: https://oaa.rice.edu. Students are encouraged to meet with their academic program’s transfer credit advisor when considering transfer credit possibilities.

Departmental Transfer Credit Guidelines

Students pursuing the minor in African and African American Studies should be aware of the following program-specific transfer credit guidelines:

- No more than 2 courses (6 credit hours) of transfer credit from U.S. or international universities of similar standing as Rice may apply towards the minor.
- Requests for transfer credit will be considered by the program director (and/or the program’s official transfer credit advisor) on an individual case-by-case basis.

Distribution Credit Information

The determination of distribution eligibility is done as part of the new course creation process. As part of an annual roll call coordinated each Spring by the Office of the Registrar, course distribution eligibility is reviewed and reaffirmed by the Dean’s Offices of each of the academic schools.

Faculty and leadership in the academic schools are responsible for ensuring that the courses identified as distribution-eligible meet the criteria as set in the General Announcements. Students are responsible for ensuring that they meet graduation requirements by completing coursework designated as distribution at the time of course registration.

Proposed DRAFT GA Text (Minor in African and African American Studies), as of 01/22/2020
Appendix A: Proposed General Announcement Text [new interdisciplinary minor in AAAS]

Additional Information

For additional information, please see the Center for African and African American Studies website: https://caaas.rice.edu/.

Minor in African and African American Studies

Outcomes | Requirements | Policies | Opportunities

Opportunities for the Minor in African and African American Studies

Academic Honors

The University recognizes academic excellence achieved over an undergraduate’s academic history at Rice. For information on university honors, please see Latin Honors (summa cum laude, magna cum laude, and cum laude) and Distinction in Research and Creative Work. Some departments have department-specific Honors awards or designations.

Additional Information

For additional information, please see the Center for African and African American Studies website: https://caaas.rice.edu/.

See https://humanities.rice.edu/student-life for tables of fellowships, prizes, and internships/practica that may be relevant to this minor.

______________________________________________________________
Letters of Support
Interdivisional Agreement for the African and African-American Studies Minor

January 15, 2020

We write in support of the proposed African and African American Studies minor, and to express a commitment to administrative and financial support from both Schools.

The African and African-American Studies (AAAS) minor will be administratively housed in the School of Humanities. Administrative support for the minor will be provided by the Center for African and African-American Studies coordinator. Both Schools are committed to working with the Center to make certain that resources are available to meet the needs of the minor.

The AAAS steering Committee will oversee the curricular content of the minor. It will consist of the Director of the CAAS, the DUS, and two faculty members from social Sciences and two from Humanities, named by the Center Director in consultation and with the approval of the Dean of Social Sciences and the Dean of Humanities. Changes to course requirements or the curriculum for the minor will not be made without appropriate consultation with the relevant departments and the AAAS Steering Committee. The Deans of Humanities and Social Sciences are jointly responsible for adjudicating any issues associated with such changes and for notifying Faculty Senate, as appropriate.

This Interdivisional agreement commits the School of Humanities and the School of Social Sciences to the continued support of the minor until and unless the program is formally discontinued through Faculty Senate action.

Kathleen Canning, Ph.D.
Dean, School of Humanities
Andrew W. Mellon Professor of History

Susan Keech McIntosh
Dean, School of Social Sciences (Interim)
Herbert S. Autrey Professor of Anthropology
November 29, 2019

Professor Anthony B. Pinn,
Inaugural Director
African and African American Studies Center
Rice University

Dear Professor Pinn,

I have received the information on the courses of instruction that would constitute the curriculum of the Center for African and African American Studies (CAAAS). I have reviewed the course list from all the participating departments and I am convinced that the Center begins with strong course offerings that would attract both undergraduate and graduate student participation and I know students will pursue the minor. I am convinced that the design of the minor is intellectually stimulating and adds depth to the academic mission and research of the Center. The course offerings reflect the specializations and diversity of research undertaken by our faculty and will certainly increase our standing nationally and internationally as we seek to attract prospective graduate students in different disciplines who would like specialized training and do research in African and African American Studies.

I am delighted to confirm that the Department of Religion Courses that address African and African American studies, research, social and cultural productions will be part of the African and African American Studies Minor. I can also confirm that graduate and undergraduate students taking classes with Professors Pinn, Cook, and Bongmba can designate those classes for the minor and other courses relevant to the academic vision of the African and African American Studies Minor.

Elias K. Bongmba, Ph.D., DTheo hc.
Harry and Hazel Chair in Christian Theology
Professor of Religion
President of the African Association for the Study of Religion
Department of Religion MS 15
Rice University, PO Box 1892
Houston, TX 77251-1892
To: Anthony Pinn, Director, Center for African and African American Studies

From: Carl Caldwell, Chair, History

Re: Proposal for a new minor in African and African American Studies

Date: November 5, 2019

I wholeheartedly support the proposal for a new minor in African and African American Studies at Rice, which offers new and exciting opportunities for undergraduates at Rice. This proposal will in no way interfere with our department's curriculum, since we already offer many courses in the area on a regular basis. Furthermore, the minor will not harm but rather enhance our curriculum if it leads students to explore courses in other disciplines.

Thank you and your team for putting this proposal together!
November 6, 2019

Dr. Anthony B. Pinn
Agnes Cullen Arnold Professor of Humanities
Professor of Religion
Rice University

Re: New Minor in African and African American Studies

Dear Tony:

I write on behalf of the Sociology Department to offer unequivocal support for the creation of a new minor in African and African American Studies (AAAS) here at Rice University.

It is our assessment that this new minor will offer a vital intellectual contribution not just to students but also to those who teach and support them. Our concern is only that it has taken this long to happen. Moving ahead, we look forward not only to making our current sociology courses available to new AAAS minors but also to continuing to strategize together on how best to continue encouraging and supporting the initiative. One way may involve setting up a special Sociology Major – AAAS Minor pathway for interested students. Another might involve strategizing new courses of appropriate content to add to those already listed in the formal proposal for the minor.

We look forward to those ongoing conversations and efforts to elevate this initiative to become the best it can be.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

James R. Elliott
Chair and Professor of Sociology
Letter of Support
Minor in African and African American Studies

November 7, 2019

I am delighted to write this letter of support for the minor in African and African American Studies to be offered by the new Center for African and American Studies.

The department of Classical and European Studies is strongly in favor of this minor, since it directly reflects some of the current and future priorities of the department's French Studies program, speaks to the interests of many of our students, and finally addresses a serious gap in the curricular offerings of the School of Humanities.

The two courses offered by French Studies for the minor—FREN 413, Black Venus, and FREN 478, The Caribbean in French—are taught by Jacqueline Couti, the Favrot Associate Professor of French Studies, and the next tenure-line hire in French Studies, hopefully by 2021, is projected to have a specialization in the culture and politics of French-speaking sub-Saharan Africa from 1900 to the present. The department will offer theses courses regularly.

The department is strongly committed to the minor and to the Center for African and African American Studies, and a number of department faculty, from different perspectives, have a profound interest in furthering the study and teaching of topics related to Africa, broadly speaking. Among them are Philip Wood, whose film courses often include French African material, and Julie Fette, whose courses on citizenship in France also address issues of migration and immigration vis-à-vis France's colonial past in Africa, but also myself with a interest in South African politics. In addition to student and faculty interest, the department is currently considering whether it is possible to create a study-abroad program in a French-speaking African country, and some of our students have already spent time in Senegal.

Let me end this letter by noting that it is an embarrassing anomaly that a university of Rice's global standing and reputation thus far has not been able to pool its existing resources to offer any consolidated program of study in African and African American Studies. Our peer institutions have done so sometimes for decades and always with great success. It is high time that Rice makes a direct and proper contribution to addressing the often stunning lack of knowledge about central political and cultural issues pertaining to Africa that marks the American public sphere.
In short, the minor in African and African American Studies is long overdue, and the department of Classical and European Studies is fully committed to making this minor a success.

Christian J. Bender
(Chair, Classical and European Studies)
MEMO

To: AAAS Steering Committee members
From: Rosemary Hennessy, chair, Department of English
Re: Support for AAAS minor
Date: November 20, 2019

I am pleased to lend the English department’s support for the proposed minor in African and African American Studies, which will expand and replace the existing African Studies minor.

I expect that our current search for an African American literature and culture scholar, if successful, will increase the course offerings in English that will contribute to the AAAS curriculum.

As the list of comparable institutions that have programs in African and African American studies attests, this programming at Rice is well overdue. The new minor indeed promises to create richer learning opportunities for students.

I applaud the efforts of the Steering Committee.