

# African and African American Studies (AAST)

## Faculty

**Caree A. Banton**, Assistant Professor  
**Todd Cleveland**, Assistant Professor  
**JoAnn D'Alisera**, Associate Professor  
**Pearl Karen Dowe**, Associate Professor  
**Jim Gigantino II**, Associate Professor  
**Brandon Jackson**, Assistant Professor  
**Yvette Murphy-Erby**, Professor  
**Charles F. Robinson II**, Professor  
**Valandra**, Assistant Professor  
**Calvin White Jr.**, Associate Professor

Dr. Valandra  
 Director  
 230 Memorial Hall  
 479-575-3001  
 aast.uark.edu

The African and African American Studies (AAST) program promotes an interdisciplinary approach to the study of the history, culture, and identity of Africans and African Americans. Students may pursue African and African American Studies as a second major alongside a primary major in Fulbright College. Students in any college may declare a minor. Advice on suitable primary majors to be taken with an AAST second major may be obtained from the AAST Program Director.

## Requirements for a Second Major in African and African American Studies:

A total of 21 hours in African and African American Studies courses in addition to the requirements for the departmental major including the following:

### Requirement 1

AAST 1003 Introduction to African and African American Studies (Sp, Fa) 3  
 or AAST 2023 The African American Experience (Sp, Su, Fa)

### Requirement 2

Select one of the following: 3  
 AAST 3233/HIST 3233 African American History to 1877  
 AAST 3243/HIST 3243 African American History Since 1877  
 AAST 3253/HIST 3253 The History of Sub-Saharan Africa  
 AAST 3293/PLSC 3293 African American Politics  
 AAST 3853/ENGL 3853 Topics in African American Literature and Culture  
 AAST 4153/SOCI 4153 Race and Society

### Requirement 3

Fifteen hours from the following courses under the following conditions: 15  
 a. A maximum of nine of the fifteen hours may come from courses taken in any one department  
 b. At least six hours must be at the 4000 level or above

AAST 3023	African Americans in Sport (Sp, Su, Fa)
AAST 3123	African American Students in Higher Education (Irregular)
AAST 3923H	Honors Colloquium (Irregular)
AAST 399VH	Honors African & African American Studies Thesis (Sp, Su, Fa)
AAST 4003	African & African American Studies Study Abroad (Even years, Su)
AAST 4003H	Honors African & African American Studies Study Abroad (Even years, Su)
AAST 489V	African & African American Independent Study (Irregular)
AAST 499V	African and African American Studies Seminar (Sp, Su, Fa)
ANTH/AAST 4063	Women in Africa (Irregular)
ANTH/AAST/WLLC 4073	African Sociolinguistics (Irregular)
ANTH/AAST 4083	African Popular Culture (Irregular)
ANTH 4513	African Religions: Gods, Witches, Ancestors (Irregular)
ANTH 4583	Peoples and Cultures of Sub-Saharan Africa (Fa)
ENGL/AAST 3853	Topics in African-American Literature and Culture (Irregular)
ENGL/AAST 4853	Studies in African American Literature and Culture (Irregular)
JOUR/AAST/COMM/ENGL 3263	African Americans in Film (Irregular)
JOUR/AAST 4923	History of the Black Press (Even years, Sp)
HIST/AAST 3183	Popular Culture in the Caribbean (Irregular)
HIST/AAST 3193	The Making of the Modern Caribbean (Fa)
HIST/AAST 3233	African American History to 1877 (Sp, Fa)
HIST/AAST 3243	African American History Since 1877 (Sp, Fa)
HIST/AAST 3253	The History of Sub-Saharan Africa (Fa)
HIST/AAST 4093	The History of African Americans and Social Justice (Irregular)
HIST/AAST 4123	Africa and the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade (Irregular)
HIST/AAST 4263	Independence and Africa Today (Sp)
HIST/AAST 4273	Comparative Slavery (Irregular)
HIST/AAST 4383	The American Civil Rights Movement (Irregular)
HIST/AAST 4483	African American Biographies (Irregular)
HIST/AAST 4563	The Old South, 1607-1865 (Odd years, Fa)

HIST/AAST 4573	The New South, 1860 to the Present (Even years, Fa)
HIST/AAST 4823	Black Freedom in the Age of Emancipation (Sp)
HIST/AAST 4953	The History of Sub-Saharan African Women (Irregular)
HIST/AAST 4963	Third World Underdevelopment and Modernization (Irregular)
PLSC/AAST 3283	Civil Rights Policy and Politics (Sp)
PLSC/AAST 3293	African American Politics (Fa)
PLSC/AAST 4323	Racial Identity, Politics, and Public Policy (Even years, Sp)
PLSC/AAST 4933	African American Political Ideology (Odd years, Sp)
SCWK/AAST 4163	African American Perspectives of Trauma, Loss, and Recovery (Fa)
SCWK/AAST 4173	Social Work with African American Families (Irregular)
SOCI/AAST 4153	Race and Society (Fa)
SWAH 1003	Elementary Swahili I (Irregular)
SWAH 1013	Elementary Swahili II (Irregular)
SWAH 1116	Intensive Swahili I (Irregular)
SWAH 2003	Intermediate Swahili I (Irregular)
SWAH 2013	Intermediate Swahili II (Irregular)
SWAH 2116	Intensive Swahili II (Irregular)
THTR/AAST 4463	African American Theatre History -- 1950 to Present (Sp)
WCOB 3033	The African American Experience in Business (Irregular)

ENGL 3853/AAST 3853, HIST 3233/AAST 3233, HIST 3243/AAST 3243, HIST 3253/AAST 3253, PLSC 3293/AAST 3293, or SOCI 4153/AAST 4153 may be used to satisfy Requirement 3 if not already used to satisfy Requirement 2.

Additional Special Topics and Independent Study courses may be used to satisfy this requirement if the courses have been approved by the AAST Director. Check the program website for a list of these approved courses.

Interested students or those wanting further information should consult with the African and African American Studies Director for selection of appropriate classes and for information on other courses that can apply to the major and/or minor.

### Requirements for a Minor in African and African American Studies:

A total of 15 hours in African and African American Studies courses in addition to the requirements for the departmental major including the following:

AAST 1003	Introduction to African and African American Studies (Sp, Fa)	3
or AAST 2023	The African American Experience (Sp, Su, Fa)	
Select one of the following		3
AAST 3233/HIST 3233 or		

AAST 3243/HIST 3243 or	
AAST 3253/HIST 3253 or	
AAST 3293/PLSC 3293 or	
AAST 3853/ENGL 3853 or	
AAST 4153/SOCI 4153	

The remaining nine hours shall be selected from the courses listed in Requirement 3 of the Requirements for a Second Major in African American Studies. A maximum of six of the nine hours may be submitted from courses taken in any one department.

Total Hours	15
-------------	----

Interested students or those wanting further information should consult with the African and African American Studies Director for selection of appropriate classes and for information on other courses that can apply to the major and/or minor.

**Requirements for Honors in African and African American Studies:**  
 The Honors Program in African and African American Studies gives junior and senior students of high ability the opportunity to enroll in enriched courses and conduct independent research culminating in an honors thesis. In addition to satisfying the general Fulbright College requirements for graduation and the basic eligibility requirements for honors as established by the Honors Council, candidates for honors in African and African American Studies must complete 12 hours of honors credit in partial satisfaction of requirements for the co-major. One to six of these may be thesis hours (AAST 399VH). The remaining six hours must be relevant honors colloquia or graduate courses (with permission) in one of the departments contributing to this interdisciplinary area of study. The 12 hours of honors credit will satisfy elective requirements in co-major requirement three above. The thesis committee shall include at least two faculty members affiliated with African and African American Studies. Successful completion of these requirements will be recognized by the award of the distinction "African and African American Studies Scholar Cum Laude" at graduation. Higher degree distinctions are recommended only in exceptional cases and are based upon the whole of the candidate's program of honors studies.

### Courses

**AAST 1003. Introduction to African and African American Studies (Sp, Fa). 3 Hours.**

This course is an introduction to the interdisciplinary study of Africa and African Americans and their impact on the world order and society with an emphasis on that impact's manifestations in the United States of America.

**AAST 2023. The African American Experience (Sp, Su, Fa). 3 Hours.**

Examines various facets of African American culture that collectively construct the African American experience including art, literature, drama, migration, film, and education. Covers issues facing African Americans through a cultural and socio-political context to understand and appreciate African American impacts on the United States.

**AAST 3023. African Americans in Sport (Sp, Su, Fa). 3 Hours.**

Historical, sociological, and political issues and debate surrounding African Americans in sport. Contemporary issues facing African American athletes and sports figures.

**AAST 3033. The African American Experience in Business (Irregular). 3 Hours.**

This course is designed to provide the student with a comprehensive and critical analysis of the history of the African American experience as a member of the business sector of the United States economics. The course will review information that includes and demonstrates activities prior to slavery, during, and after slavery. This course is cross-listed with WCOB 3033.

**AAST 3123. African American Students in Higher Education (Irregular). 3 Hours.**

Examines the impact of college environments on African American students. Focuses on the following topics regarding African American students: retention, student demographics, student characteristics, current trends, issues and problems, student success, sub-populations, student values, and implications for higher education.

**AAST 3133. History of Sports in Africa (Irregular). 3 Hours.**

This course considers the ways that Africans have strategically employed sports to confront and overcome both domestic and external challenges and how these approaches and the range of constituent strategies have changed over time. This course is cross-listed with HIST 3133.

**AAST 3183. Popular Culture in the Caribbean (Irregular). 3 Hours.**

History of the Caribbean through a historically-situated analysis of popular culture production, including literature, dance, music, cuisine, film, carnival, television, and sexuality. This course is cross-listed with HIST 3183.

**AAST 3193. The Making of the Modern Caribbean (Fa). 3 Hours.**

History of the Caribbean from pre-Columbian to present times focusing in particular on indigenous origins, colonialism, slavery, rebellion, independence, nationalism, and political integration in the making of the modern Caribbean region. This course is cross-listed with HIST 3193.

**AAST 3233. African American History to 1877 (Sp, Fa). 3 Hours.**

History of the African American experience in North America emphasizing economic, social, and cultural perspectives. Topics include the African slave trade, the creation of race and racism, the institution of slavery, free community formation in North, and the impact of the Civil War and Reconstruction on African Americans. This course is cross-listed with HIST 3233.

**AAST 3243. African American History Since 1877 (Sp, Fa). 3 Hours.**

The course will study the major social, political, and economical issues relating to the African American experience beginning with the late post-Reconstruction period and will include all of the major personalities and influences in the Civil Rights Movement, from 1877 to the present.

This course is cross-listed with HIST 3243.

**AAST 3253. The History of Sub-Saharan Africa (Fa). 3 Hours.**

Sub-Saharan African history from the 18th century to the present, with emphasis on the impact of the slave trade, colonization, Independence, and contemporary issues of the post-colonial period. Examination of the ways Africans experienced change in terms of culture, society, economics, gender, religion, politics, and labor.

**AAST 3263. African Americans in Film (Irregular). 3 Hours.**

A survey of the history of images of African Americans in film, especially as these images are examined in the context of stereotypical renditions and/or realistic representations of African American experiences. Issues of African American history, culture, and socio-political context will be addressed in the analyses of these films. Prerequisite: ENGL 1023 and junior or senior standing.

This course is cross-listed with ENGL 3263, JOUR 3263, COMM 3263.

**AAST 3273. African Americans in Documentary Film (Sp). 3 Hours.**

Exploration of the African-American image and experience in the context of time, historical record and varying production viewpoints from diverse documentarians. African-American history, culture and socio-political context are addressed in the analyses of these documentary films from the perspectives of mainstream media, independent filmmakers and minority documentarians. Prerequisite: Junior or senior standing.

This course is cross-listed with JOUR 3273, COMM 3273.

**AAST 3283. Civil Rights Policy and Politics (Sp). 3 Hours.**

This course will draw from linkages between the protest phase of the civil rights and American political institutions. The course explores the institutional impact of the civil rights movement on the presidency, congress, the courts, administrative regulatory agencies, and civil rights advisory organizations.

This course is cross-listed with PLSC 3283.

**AAST 3293. African American Politics (Irregular). 3 Hours.**

This is a survey course designed to provide students with a comprehensive overview of African American political participation in the United States. In addition to analyzing important events in African American Politics, the course attempts to explain evolving patterns of political participation in Black America.

This course is cross-listed with PLSC 3293.

**AAST 3853. Topics in African-American Literature and Culture (Irregular). 3 Hours.**

The study of works of African-American literature, with attention to particular themes, genres, authors, literary movements, historical moments, or other organizing principles. Content varies. May be repeated for up to 9 hours of degree credit.

This course is cross-listed with ENGL 3853.

**AAST 3923H. Honors Colloquium (Irregular). 3 Hours.**

Treats a special topic or issue, offered as part of the honors program. Prerequisite: Honors candidacy (not restricted to candidacy in AAST). May be repeated for degree credit.

**AAST 399VH. Honors African & African American Studies Thesis (Sp, Su, Fa). 1-6 Hour.**

Independent thesis research and writing under the direction of an AAST faculty member. Prerequisite: Junior standing. May be repeated for up to 6 hours of degree credit.

**AAST 4003. African & African American Studies Study Abroad (Even years, Su). 3 Hours.**

Examination of selected topics in conjunction with student participation in the bi-annual African & African American Studies Study Abroad program to Ghana. Topic variable, chosen by instructor. May be repeated for up to 6 hours of degree credit.

**AAST 4003H. Honors African & African American Studies Study Abroad (Even years, Su). 3 Hours.**

Examination of selected topics in conjunction with student participation in the bi-annual African & African American Studies Study Abroad program to Ghana. Topic variable, chosen by instructor. May be repeated for up to 6 hours of degree credit.

**AAST 4063. Women in Africa (Irregular). 3 Hours.**

Diversity of women's life experiences throughout sub-Saharan Africa will be examined. The class will investigate a range of topics, from marriage and motherhood to prostitution and popular culture. A historical dimension will be present throughout the course, and perspectives from literature and film will also be incorporated.

This course is cross-listed with ANTH 4063.

**AAST 4073. African Sociolinguistics (Irregular). 3 Hours.**

Explores how language use intersects, constructs, and reflects social life in Africa. Covers key topics in sociolinguistics as they apply to current sociolinguistic issues on the African continent today.

This course is cross-listed with ANTH 4073, WLLC 4073.

**AAST 4083. African Popular Culture (Irregular). 3 Hours.**

This class explores popular cultural expression across Africa. Topics range from hip hop and film, to second-hand clothing fashions and the media. We will consider how popular culture, while often inspired by global trends, is rooted in local circumstances and often reflects attempts to grapple with important issues.

This course is cross-listed with ANTH 4083.

**AAST 4093. The History of African Americans and Social Justice (Irregular). 3 Hours.**

Explores how the United States has extended social justice to African Americans during the nation's history. Examines social justice for blacks and the impact of historic policies and practices on black life today. This course is cross-listed with HIST 4093.

**AAST 4123. Africa and the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade (Irregular). 3 Hours.**

Examines the trans-Atlantic slave trade with a primary focus on the role of Africa and Africans in creating the unique economy and culture of the trans-Atlantic world. This course is cross-listed with HIST 4123.

**AAST 4153. Race and Society (Fa). 3 Hours.**

Introduction to the sociological study of race and ethnicity within the United States, with emphasis on understanding how race and ethnicity operate within contemporary social institutions. Prerequisite: SOCI 2013 or AAST 1003 or AAST 2023. This course is cross-listed with SOCI 4153.

**AAST 4163. African American Perspectives of Trauma, Loss, and Recovery (Fa). 3 Hours.**

Explores dimensions of trauma, loss, and recovery within the lived experiences of African American individuals, families, and communities in the United States. Prerequisite: Junior standing or instructor consent.

**AAST 4173. Social Work with African American Families (Sp, Fa). 3 Hours.**

An overview of historical and contemporary issues of African American families using culturally competent and strengths based frameworks. Focuses on the Black family as a social institution. Covers current trends affecting Black families, historical influences, evaluation of social policies, and programs of today. Prerequisite: Junior standing or instructor consent. This course is cross-listed with SCWK 4173.

**AAST 4263. Independence and Africa Today (Sp). 3 Hours.**

Examines the last half-century of Africa's history, focusing on the last few decades. Introduction of Africa's colonial past, revolutions and struggles for independence. Review of African development in the post-colonial and contemporary era, successes and failures of independent Africa, and the challenges the continent faces today. This course is cross-listed with HIST 4263.

**AAST 4273. Comparative Slavery (Irregular). 3 Hours.**

Explores the meaning of slavery around the world, both in ancient and modern times. This examination of how slavery differed in various cultures over time will allow students to explore the complexity of this labor relationship and gain a better understanding of how slavery was an integral part of world history. This course is cross-listed with HIST 4273.

**AAST 4323. Racial Identity, Politics, and Public Policy (Even years, Sp). 3 Hours.**

Examines how race and perceived racial differences affect political discourse, mobilization, representation, and political outcomes. Prerequisite: PLSC 4293 or AAST 1003 or Junior standing. This course is cross-listed with PLSC 4323.

**AAST 4383. The American Civil Rights Movement (Irregular). 3 Hours.**

Introduction to the history and development of the civil rights movement in the United States. This course is cross-listed with HIST 4383.

**AAST 4463. African American Theatre History - 1950 to Present (Sp). 3 Hours.**

A chronological examination of African-American theatre history from 1950 to the present through the study of African-American plays and political/social conditions. Upon completion of this course, the student should be familiar with the major works of African-American theatre and have a deeper understanding of American history.

**AAST 4483. African American Biographies (Irregular). 3 Hours.**

Introduction to the history and intellectual development of famous and not-so-famous African Americans. This course is cross-listed with HIST 4483.

**AAST 4563. The Old South, 1607-1865 (Odd years, Fall). 3 Hours.**

Survey of the political, social, and economic development of the antebellum South. This course is equivalent to HIST 4563.

**AAST 4573. The New South, 1860 to the Present (Even years, Fa). 3 Hours.**

Survey of the development of the Civil War and postwar South to the present. This course is cross-listed with HIST 4573.

**AAST 4583. Peoples and Cultures of Sub-Saharan Africa (Fa). 3 Hours.**

An exploration of the people and places of Africa from a variety of anthropological perspectives. Classic and contemporary works will be studied in order to underscore the unity and diversity of African cultures, as well as the importance African societies have played in helping us understand culture/society throughout the world. This course is cross-listed with ANTH 4583.

**AAST 4813. Africans and Slavery in Colonial Latin America (Irregular). 3 Hours.**

Explores the diverse experiences of slaves and free Blacks in colonial Spanish and Portuguese America from 1500 to around 1888, demonstrating that bondage and the practice of African slavery was a pillar of political authority in colonial Latin America. This course is cross-listed with HIST 4813.

**AAST 4823. Black Freedom in the Age of Emancipation (Sp). 3 Hours.**

Comparative study of Atlantic World freedom movements from the perspective of the African Diaspora. Focuses on the histories, meanings, and legacies of the various types of black emancipation in the Atlantic World and the cultural technologies that enabled them.

**AAST 4853. Studies in African American Literature and Culture (Irregular). 3 Hours.**

The study of works of African American literature, with attention to particular themes, genres, authors, literary movements, historical moments, or other organizing principles. Content varies. At least one major research paper will be required. May be repeated for up to 9 hours of degree credit. This course is cross-listed with ENGL 4853.

**AAST 489V. African & African American Independent Study (Irregular). 1-6 Hour.**

An exploration of African & African American Studies topics independently with a faculty member. Topic variable with permission of faculty member. May be repeated for up to 6 hours of degree credit.

**AAST 4923. History of the Black Press (Even years, Sp). 3 Hours.**

Covers the historic context of contributions and innovations to U.S. newspapers by African Americans. Also investigates the role of the black press from its beginnings in 1827 through the civil rights movement. Prerequisite: Junior standing. This course is cross-listed with JOUR 4923.

**AAST 4933. African American Political Ideology (Odd years, Fa). 3 Hours.**

A survey course designed to identify and examine characteristics and functions of several variants of black political ideology/thought. This course is cross-listed with PLSC 4933.

**AAST 4953. The History of Sub-Saharan African Women (Irregular). 3 Hours.**

Introduction to the history of women in Sub-Saharan Africa, starting in the early 18th century through the 20th century. Focus on women and the transatlantic slave trade, women's influence in pre-colonial religious, political, and cultural institutions, and women's experiences under colonial rule and in post-colonial Africa. This course is cross-listed with HIST 4953.

**AAST 4963. Third World Underdevelopment and Modernization (Irregular). 3**

**Hours.**

Examines key issues related to societal change in the Third World, including various views and theories of international development and modernization. Other major issues explored include social inequalities, food and hunger, population, environment, trade and globalization, international aid, and the roles of state, market, and civil society.

This course is cross-listed with HIST 4963.

**AAST 499V. African and African American Studies Seminar (Sp, Su, Fa). 1-12**

**Hour.**

Explores the various aspects of the African & African American experience as it relates to the development of relationships in American society and the world at large. Variable topic each semester. May be repeated for up to 12 hours of degree credit.