

School of Arts and Sciences

AFRICANA STUDIES AND ENGLISH JOINT MAJOR

www.pitt.edu/~bjgrier/afrieng.htm

The joint major in Africana Studies and English offers students opportunities for intensive study of the interactions among the literatures of Africa and the African diaspora (Black literature written in the United States, Africa, Canada, Great Britain, and the Caribbean). It is designed to encourage a comparative study of different literary traditions and practices, and to stimulate dialogue, among students and faculty alike, across several areas of study (e.g. Film Studies, Cultural Studies, and Children's Literature). It should be especially useful for students preparing for careers in elementary and secondary education who would be interested in developing and teaching a curriculum that includes the literature of the African diaspora in conventional English and American Studies courses. Most of the School of Education's undergraduate requirements for its certification program in the teaching of English will be completed by students who complete the joint major in Africana Studies and English.

All Africana Studies/English joint majors must fulfill a 45-credit requirement: four core courses, four Africana literature courses, three English literature courses, and four electives. No more than two upper division courses can count toward a major before the student enrolls in the introductory courses. Three of the courses in each of the four required areas must be completed before the student enrolls in the senior seminar. Most importantly, students are advised to take the introductory courses as early as possible.

Requirements

Core courses (12 credits)

AFRCNA	0031	Introduction to Africana Studies
ENGLIT	0500	Introduction to Critical Reading
ENGLIT	1900	Junior Seminar
	and	
AFRCNA	1768	Africana Senior Research Seminar
	or	
ENGLIT	1909/10	Senior Seminar

Required Africana courses: four of the following seven courses (12 credits)

AFRCNA	0316	African American Theatre
AFRCNA	0522	African Literature
AFRCNA	0150	African American Literature
AFRCNA	1704	Africana World Literature
AFRCNA	1620	African American Literary Criticism
AFRCNA	1644	African Novel
AFRCNA	1349	Contemporary Caribbean Literature

Required English courses: three of the following seven courses (9 credits)

ENGLIT	1125	Renaissance in England
ENGLIT	1150	Enlightenment to Revolution
ENGLIT	1175	Nineteenth Century British Literature
ENGLIT	1200	American Literature to 1860
ENGLIT	1220	Emergence of Modern America
ENGLIT	1325	Modernist Tradition
ENGLIT	1380	World Literature in English



Electives (12 credits)

Students can elect any four courses from the regular English or Africana Studies literature course offerings.

One of the elective courses from Africana Studies ought to be from its history offerings. The history course is meant both to prepare students for and to accompany their reading of literary texts by providing social, cultural, and political contexts.

Students might also use electives to pursue more extensive work in particular areas of literary study in African, African American, American, British, or Caribbean literature, drawing on regularly scheduled courses from both departments.

Students interested in careers in education should pay particular attention to courses required for various School of Education certification programs, such as *Introduction to the Study of the English Language, Children and Culture, Adolescent Literature, and Advanced Composition*.

In light of the interdisciplinary and international character of this joint major, it would also be appropriate for students to petition to have a closely related course taught in a foreign language (e.g., a course on Francophone Caribbean literature in the French and Italian Department) count as one of the electives toward the joint major.

Specially Designated Sections

Each semester, the English Department will designate one or two sections of these (required) courses as fulfilling the English requirement of the Africana Studies/English major. These sections will retain their usual concentrations on specific literary periods, but they will also explicitly address issues and texts of special relevance to the joint major.

For more information, contact:

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