

California State University, Long Beach 2025-2026 Undergraduate and Graduate Catalog

Courses

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Africana Studies

Note: General Education Category A must be completed prior to taking any upper-division course except upper-division language courses where students meet formal prerequisites and/or competency equivalent for advanced study.

AFRS 100A - Composition I

(3 units)

Prerequisite: CSU General Education Written Communication Placement. Directed Self-Placement must be completed prior to enrollment.

Composition I does not count toward meeting the major requirements but does count toward graduation. Must have a "credit" to qualify for enrollment in a GE English Composition course. First half of a one-year composition course that offers intensive writing practice, ranging from generating ideas to final proofreading, with a focus on developing critical reading comprehension for specific writing tasks.

Credit/No Credit grading only. Same course as [AIS 100A](#)

, [CHLS 104A](#)

, [ENGL 100A](#)

. Not open for credit to students with credit in: [AIS 100A](#)

, [CHLS 104A](#)

, or [ENGL 100A](#)

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AFRS 100B - Composition II

(3 units)

Prerequisite(s): CSU General Education Written Communication Placement; credit in [ENGL 100A](#)

, [CHLS 104A](#)

, [AFRS 100A](#)

, [ASAM 100A](#)

, [AIS 100A](#)

, or [ALI 150](#)

; or equivalent transfer course. Directed Self-Placement must be completed prior to enrollment.

Expository writing course designed for first-year students. Satisfies one of the writing requirements for general education at CSULB. Emphasizes academic discourse, focusing on analytical reading,

thesis-driven writing, and rhetorical strategies.

Both grading options Same course as [AIS 100B](#)
, [ASAM 100B](#)
, [CHLS 104B](#)
, and [ENGL 100B](#)
. Not open for students with credit in [AIS 100B](#)
, [ASAM 100B](#)
, [CHLS 104B](#)
, or [ENGL 100B](#)
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AFRS 110 - Introduction to Africana Studies

(3 units)

Prerequisite/Corequisite: One GE Foundation course.

A critical survey of the major themes, issues, concepts, current research, schools of thought, theorists and scholars in the discipline of Africana Studies, as well as its historical evolution and academic rationale.

Both grading options.

AFRS 119 - Introduction to Racial and Ethnic Studies

(3 units)

Prerequisite/corequisite: One GE Foundation course.

Survey of race and ethnic relations in the U.S. with focus on four racialized groups: American Indians, African Americans, Asian Americans, and Chicanas/os/xs and Latinas/os/xs. Special attention is given to the formation and transformation of each racialized ethnic group and their particular and collective roles in the shaping and development of the United States.

Both Options: Letter Grade (A-F) and CR/NC. Same course as [AIS 119](#)

, [ASAM 119](#)

, and [CHLS 119](#)

. Students may earn a maximum of 3 total units from all of these courses: AFRS 119, AFRS 215, [AIS 119](#)

, AIS 215, [ASAM 119](#)

, ASAM 215, [CHLS 119](#)

, or CHLS 215.

AFRS 120 - African American History to 1865

(3 units)

Prerequisite/Corequisite: One GE Foundation course.

Survey course on African American history with origins in African culture and civilization. Focus on the role, impact and significance of African Americans in the U.S. from the colonial period through the American Revolution, enslavement and the Civil War.

Both grading options.

AFRS 121 - African American History Since 1865-Present

(3 units)

Prerequisite/Corequisite: One GE Foundation course.

Impact of social, economic and political change on African Americans after the Reconstruction period. Issues of migration, education, cultural development and business enterprises will be examined.

Both grading options.

AFRS 140 - Introduction to African American Literature

(3 units)

Prerequisite/Corequisite: One GE Foundation course.

A study of selected or representative literature of the African American writer. Special attention will be given to style, content, methodology and thematic approach.

Both grading options.

AFRS 150 - Critical Thinking in Africana Studies

(3 units)

Introduction to the nature and process of critical thinking. Extensive practice in critical reasoning directed toward developing cognitive skills and dispositions central to its application in academic work and in the analysis and advocacy of personal perspectives and social issues.

Both grading options.

AFRS 154 - Introduction to Africana Women's Studies

(3 units)

Prerequisite/Corequisite: One GE Foundation course.

Critical introduction to basic concepts, perspectives and methodology in Africana women studies, focusing on historical and contemporary continental and diasporan African women's experience,

initiatives, issues, and intersections of race/class/gender within the context of their oppression, resistance and internal creative capacity.

Both grading options.

AFRS 155 - African American Music

(3 units)

Prerequisite/Corequisite: One GE Foundation course.

Nontechnical survey of African American music. Some attention is given to the impact of social movements on the musician and the music produced. Gospel, jazz and well-known derivatives will be highlighted.

Both grading options.

AFRS 160 - Introduction to Africana Arts

(3 units)

Prerequisite/Corequisite: One GE Foundation course.

A presentation of prevailing themes, methodology, concepts and meaning in African American art. Equal time will be given to early and contemporary art. The work of some Continental African artists will be introduced as appropriate.

Both grading options.

AFRS 170A - Elementary Swahili

(4 units)

Prerequisites/Corequisite: Any Foundation course.

Introduction to grammar, syntax, comprehension, reading, writing and conversation in the language. Attention will be given to cultural context throughout the course.

Letter grade only (A-F).

AFRS 201 - History of Slavery

(3 units)

Historical examination of trans-Atlantic slave trade and its impact on Africa and the Western Hemisphere. Nature of slavery in Africa, Greece, Italy, the Caribbean, the Middle East, South America, and the United States. Legacy of slavery.

Both grading options.

AFRS 255 - Introduction to Hip Hop

(3 units)

A critical exploration of Hip Hop's history and culture, which includes analysis of its impact and influence on contemporary aesthetic culture, race relations, gender politics and struggles for social justice.

Both grading options.

AFRS 310 - African American Male and Female Relationships

(3 units)

A comprehensive study of male/female patterns of interaction in the African American community. Some attention is given to institutional impact, role changes and projected images of relationships.

Both grading options.

AFRS 319 - Racial and Ethnic Experience in the United States

(3 units)

Prerequisite: Completion of at least 60 units, completion of the entire Foundation, and completion of at least one GE Course from the Explorations stage.

Critical examination race and ethnic relations in U.S. society with focus on the four racialized groups: American Indians, African Americans, Asian Americans, and Chicana/o | Latina/o Americans, engaging their histories, cultures, intellectual traditions, lived-experiences and racial and social justice struggles. Special attention is given to the formation and transformation of each racialized ethnic group and their particular and collective roles in the shaping and development of the United States.

Both grading options. Same course as [AIS 319](#)

, [ASAM 319](#)

, and [CHLS 319](#)

. Not open for credit to students with credit in AIS 319, ASAM 319, CHLS 319, or WGSS 319.

AFRS 325 - Africana Psychology

(3 units)

Prerequisite: [AFRS 110](#)

or [PSY 100](#)

Develops the concept of Africana Psychology. Using comparative techniques, the course introduces

students to common consequences in the experience of being a person of African descent, or a person of color.

Both grading options.

AFRS 330 - Politics of the African American Community

(3 units)

Prerequisites: [AFRS 110](#)
and [AFRS 121](#)

Study of the perspectives, styles, problems and dynamics of political activity in the African American Community.

Both grading options.

AFRS 332 - Civil Rights and the Law

(3 units)

Prerequisite: GE Foundation requirements.

Designed to provide the student with a basic understanding of the interaction between the American legal system and civil rights of African Americans, other minorities, women and the general citizenry.

Both grading options.

AFRS 335 - Economic Development in the African American Community

(3 units)

Prerequisites: [AFRS 110](#)
and [AFRS 121](#)

Development of business and banking institutions in the African American community. Some attention is given to the impact of external factors on development.

Letter grade only (A-F).

AFRS 343A - African Literature

(3 units)

Prerequisites: GE Foundation requirements and one or more Exploration courses.

A general survey of traditional and contemporary African Literature within the context of the historical, political, social, economic, and cultural movements. Also, a comparison of Pan-African literature and Western literature.

Both grading options.

AFRS 346 - Africana Theatre

(3 units)

Prerequisites: GE Foundation requirements.

Introductory survey course of Africana theatre as a historic medium, profoundly revealing in its humanistic, literary, social and cultural heritage as it relates to Africa, America and the Caribbean.

Both grading options (Letter grade and Credit/No Credit). Not repeatable for credit.

AFRS 353 - Religions of African Peoples

(3 units)

Prerequisites: GE Foundation requirements, one or more Exploration courses and upper division standing.

Critical examination of selected spiritual and ethical traditions of the world African community with emphasis on Maat, Ifa, Christianity and Islam, their sacred texts and commentaries, major themes, representative figures, and comparative analyses of their continental and diaspora expressions.

Both grading options.

AFRS 354 - African American Women and the Civil Rights Movement

(3 units)

Prerequisite: GE Foundation requirements.

A critical examination of vital and multiple roles African American women played in the modern civil rights movement. Emphasis on African American women's agency, activism and shared vision, and role as an essential political force in reconceiving and reshaping U.S. history.

Both grading options.

AFRS 400 - African American Social Thought

(3 units)

Prerequisite: GE Foundation requirements, one or more Exploration courses, and upper division standing.

Survey of African American intellectual history, with emphasis on social theories and opposing schools of intellectual thought.

Both grading options.

AFRS 410 - The African American Family

(3 units)

Prerequisites: GE Foundation requirements. [AFRS 325](#) or consent of instructor.

Systematic study and social-historical analysis of the structure and function of the African American Family in the United States. Sociological/ theoretical analysis of the models of family units, roles and interpersonal relations in society. Comparison with other family units in America.

Both grading options.

AFRS 415 - International Africana Children's Literature

(3 units)

A survey of literature for and/or about African and African American children by authors from Africa, the U.S. the Caribbean and the rest of the Diaspora.

Both grading options.

AFRS 420 - African American Children in Public Schools

(3 units)

Theories, concepts and principles relating to the intellectual growth, development and learning of African American children.

Both grading options.

AFRS 440 - Black Los Angeles

(3 units)

Prerequisite: Completion of at least 60 units.

This course examines the history and experience of Black people in Los Angeles, CA. The course examines migratory patterns, housing and labor discrimination, the struggle for political influence and community organizations. Topics include the Central Avenue Jazz scene, Watts Rebellion, and more.

Both grading options. Not repeatable for credit.

AFRS 445 - Africana Women's Literary Tradition: Toni Morrison

(3 units)

Prerequisite(s): GE Foundation Requirements.

A critical examination of selected works by Toni Morrison using her theories of Black culture, aesthetics, language and distinct forms of expression. Special emphasis will be given to socio-cultural and socio-historical themes and settings. (Offered in the Spring).

Letter grade only (A-F). Not repeatable for credit.

AFRS 454 - Africana Womanism: An Intellectual History

(3 units)

Prerequisites: GE Foundation requirements, one or more exploration courses and upper division standing.

Historical and critical study of the major schools of thought in Africana womanism, including continental and diasporan sources, historical evolution, cultural grounding, methodology, discourse on and with feminism, enduring and current issues and its relevance and relation to social change.

Both grading options.

AFRS 475 - Racism and Sexism: An Analytical Approach

(3 units)

Prerequisite: [AFRS 332](#)

Examination of institutions and a study of legislation which has been written and implemented in consequence of racism and sexism in American society. Social theories used to support and reject concepts of racism and sexism will also be presented.

Both grading options.

AFRS 490 - Selected Topics in Africana Studies

(3 units)

Prerequisite: Consent of instructor.

Topics of current interest in Africana Studies selected for intensive development.

Both grading options. May be repeated to a maximum of 6 units with different topics in the same semester. Topics announced in the *Schedule of Classes*.

AFRS 495 - Research Methods in Africana Studies

(3 units)

Prerequisites: [AFRS 110](#)

and 6 units upper-division work in Africana Studies. For Department majors.

Presents information on use of scientific methods in Africana Studies, research theory, research design, sampling, measurement and science techniques. Focuses on instrument construction as well as testing reliability and validity.

Letter grade only (A-F).

AFRS 498 - Ancient Egyptian Ethical Thought

(3 units)

Prerequisites: GE Foundation requirements, one or more Exploration courses, and upper division standing.

Critical study of ethical thought of ancient Egypt with due attention to theological, literary and socio-historical context in which it was developed and evolved, including examination of its major ethical texts and comparative analysis with surrounding traditions.

Both grading options.

AFRS 499 - Directed Studies

(1 -3 units)

Prerequisite: Consent of instructor.

Permits individual students to pursue topics of special research interest.

Both grading options. May be repeated to a maximum of 6 units.

AFRS 521 - Critical Perspectives in Africana Studies

(3 units)

Examines the specific histories, cultures, intellectual traditions, lived experiences, and racial and social justice struggles of Africana communities from the perspective of Africana Studies, critically analyzing the particular and collective roles of these groups in the shaping and development of the United States.

Both grading options. Not repeatable for credit.

AFRS 525 - Black Student Movements

(3 units)

This course examines the Black Students Movements from the mid1960s to the present. It explores the role and contribution of Black student activists in reshaping American Higher Education across generations.

Letter grade only (A-F). Not repeatable for credit.

AFRS 545 - Africana Women's Literary Tradition: Zora Neale Hurston

(3 units)

Proseminar and critical examination of selected works by Zora Neale Hurston using her theories of Black culture, aesthetics, language and distinct forms of expression. Special emphasis will be given to socio-cultural and socio-historical themes and settings.

Letter grade only (A-F). Not repeatable for credit.

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