INTRODUCTION TO:
THE DESIGNATED EMPHASIS IN
AFRICAN AMERICAN & AFRICAN STUDIES (DEAAAS)

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Mission
The mission of the Designated Emphasis in African American and African Studies (DEAAAS) is to provide doctoral students in Anthropology, Cultural Studies, English, French, History, Sociology, and other Ph.D. programs with training in African American or African Studies. The Designated Emphasis serves the students who identify African American and/or African Studies subject matter as the focus of their proposed dissertations by helping them increase their understanding of the breadth of past and present research in African American and African Studies. Graduate students who have completed the DEAAAS will be more competitive candidates for positions in academic units of their primary disciplines as well as in African American and/or African Studies academic units

2008-09 Affiliated Departments/Programs & Participating Faculty
(Chairs' Names in Parentheses)
Core Faculty: African American & African Studies Program (Milmon F. Harrison)

Christine Acham, Ph.D., Critical Studies & Cinema-Television (Associate Professor).
Fields of Interest: African American Film, Television with a special interest in Seventies Black Popular Culture, Film and Television History and Criticism, Cultural Criticism.

Wale Adebanwi, Ph.D., Social Anthropology/Political Science (Assistant Professor)
Fields of Interest: African Politics, cultural anthropology, ethnicity and nationalism and the media.

Moradewun A. Adejunmobi, Ph.D., French (Professor).

Milmon F. Harrison, Ph.D., Sociology (Associate Professor).
Fields of Interest: Sociology of Religion, emphasis on the Black Church in America; Race/Ethnic Relations in the U.S., Popular Culture, Sociology of Culture, Gospel Music.

Bettina Ng'weno, Ph.D., Cultural Anthropology (Associate Professor).
Fields of Interest: Cultural anthropology, states, property, race and ethnicity, rural societies, politics, social justice, equality, Latin America, and Africa.
Halifu Osumare, Ph.D., American Studies (Associate Professor).

Patricia A. Turner, Ph.D., Rhetoric/Folklore (Professor).

Affiliated Departments/Programs
Anthropology (Bruce Winterhalder)
Monique Borgerhoff Mulder

Cultural Studies (Caren Kaplan)

English (Margie Ferguson)

French (Julia Simon)
Eric Russell

History (Eric Rauchway)
Cynthia Brantley
Benjamin Lawrance

Sociology (Vickie Smith)
Carl Jorgensen

Women and Gender Studies: Designated Emphasis in Feminist Research & Theory (Anna Kuhn)
Wendy Ho
Susan Kaiser
Caren Kaplan
Kimberly Nettles
Luz Mena

requirements for the designated emphasis

Admission
All students in good academic standing, who have been admitted to participating Ph.D. programs, are eligible for admission. The candidate should apply to the Designated Emphasis in African American and African Studies through the Executive Committee. Interested students should send their applications, consisting of a letter of intent and a letter of support from their home program/department chair verifying their standing to: Chair, Executive Committee, Designated Emphasis in African American & African Studies, 2201 Hart Hall.
Course Requirements
To complete a DEAAAS, three (3) courses for a total of 12 units are required as stipulated below:

Students will select two (2) from the following courses, for a total of 8 units. Courses are not sequential and may be taken in any order (instructors’ names in parentheses):

- AAS 201: Critical Foundations in African-American Studies (Acham, Harrison)
- AAS 203: Critical Foundations in African Diaspora Studies (Ng’weno, Osumare)
- AAS 204: Methodologies in African American & African Studies (Ng’weno, Harrison)
- AAS 298A: Directed Group Study in African American and African Diaspora Studies (Staff)
- AAS 298B: Directed Group Study in African Studies (Staff)

Required independent study (4 units) leading to a research paper on a topic relevant to student’s dissertation and within the discipline of African American and/or African Studies:

- AAS 299: Directed Research (Independent Study).

Electives: No required elective courses required.

Normative Time Impact on Progress to Doctorate
The time to finishing will be only modestly affected. While twelve units will obviously require an additional time commitment for students, the concentrated focus on African American and African Studies will serve them well as they develop their dissertations, prepare for exams and embark on the job market.

Qualifying Examination Requirements
The Ph.D. qualifying examination shall include examination of knowledge within the Designated Emphasis and the Ph.D. program after all course requirements for both programs have been satisfied. At least one faculty member of the DEAS will be selected to serve on the Qualifying Examination Committee of each student, upon recommendation of the DEAS Executive Committee, in consultation with the student. The DE faculty member(s) will be responsible for the DE portion of the examination. Satisfactory performance on the Qualifying Examination toward the Ph.D. in student’s primary discipline will be judged independently from performance on the examination for the DE. The Qualifying Examination Committee membership is recommended by the Ph.D. program to the Dean of Graduate Studies who will for approval.

Dissertation Requirements, Degree Conferral & Student Advising
The Chair (or one member) of the student’s dissertation committee will be a member of the DEAAAS. The dissertation topic must be relevant to the field of African American and/or African Studies. The designated
emphasis will be awarded solely in conjunction with the Ph.D. and will be signified by the degree designation “Ph.D. in X with Emphasis in African American and African Studies” where X is one of the affiliated Ph.D. programs listed above. Students will be placed with faculty, based on the fit between the professor’s area of specialization and/or expertise and the student’s interests. A current list of faculty teaching the 200-series courses, and their respective topics, will be provided to students to help them plan their program relative to the DE course offerings to ensure normative degree process.