

**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, African Diaspora, or African Studies. The Designated Emphasis serves the students who identify African American, African Diaspora, 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, African Diaspora and African Studies.

CORE FACULTY: African American and African Studies Department

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

Fields of Interest: African literature, West African popular culture and film, Francophone studies, multilingualism.

Milmon F. Harrison, Ph.D., Sociology (Associate Professor)

Fields of Interest: African Americans in the US, Black Christianity, Prosperity Gospel, Black Religion in Popular Culture, Black Migration to California, Digital Storytelling and Qualitative Methodologies

Bettina Ng'weno, Ph.D., Cultural Anthropology (Associate Professor)

Fields of Interest: Citizenship, Territory, Property, Race, Ethnicity, Social Justice, Cities, Place-making and Space in Latin America, Africa and the Indian Ocean, Methodology.

Elisa Joy White, Ph. D., African Diaspora Studies (Associate Professor)

Fields of Interest: African Diaspora studies, Black Europe, cosmopolitan and new Diaspora communities

Benjamin Weber, Ph.D., History (Assistant Professor)

Fields of Interest: African American History, African Diaspora Studies, Black social and political thought, Policing, Prisons, Carceral State, Racial Capitalism, Place making, New Media.

Shingirai Taodzera, Ph.D., Political Science (Assistant Professor)

Fields of Interest: Political economy, development, natural resources extraction, governance and ownership, oil, minerals, indigeneity, post-colonial state formation in east and southern Africa.

AFFILIATED FACULTY AND DEPARTMENTS/PROGRAMS

- Bettina Ng'weno, African American & African Studies, Geography Graduate Group
- Jonathan K. London, Human Ecology / Community and Regional Development, Geography Graduate Group
- Beth Rose Middleton, Native American Studies. Geography Graduate Group
- Toby Warner, Comparative Literature
- Moradewun Adejunmobi, African American & African Studies, Department of Comparative Literature, Graduate Group in Performance Studies
- Lynette Hunter, Graduate Group in Performance Studies
- Bruce Haynes, Sociology

- Maxine Craig, Sociology
- Eric Russell, French and Francophone Studies
- Kimberly Nettles Barcelón, Gender, Sexuality and Women Studies
- Wendy Ho, Gender, Sexuality and Women Studies and Cultural Studies Graduate Group
- James Smith, Anthropology
- Margaret Laurena Kemp, Theater and Dance and Performance Studies Graduate Group member
- Mark Jerng, English and Asian American Studies
- Erin Gray, English
- Justin Leroy, History
- Corrie Decker, History
- Rachel Jean-Baptiste, History

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 Chair of the Designated Emphasis. 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, The Chair, 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:

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 (Webber, White, Harrison)

AAS 202: Critical Foundations in African Studies (Adejunmobi, Taodzera)

AAS 203: Critical Foundations in African Diaspora Studies (Ng'weno, White, Weber)

AAS 204: Methodologies in African American & African Studies (Ng'weno, Harrison, Weber)

AAS 298A: Directed Group Study in African American and African Diaspora Studies

AAS 298B: Directed Group Study in African Studies

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 elective courses required.

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 DEAAAS will be selected to serve on the Qualifying Examination Committee of each student, upon recommendation of the DEAAAS 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.

Dissertation Requirements, Degree Conferral & Student Advising

A member of the DEAAAS will be a member of the student's dissertation committee. 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.

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.