The Department of Africana Studies announces the new

Graduate Certificate in Africana Studies

The Graduate Certificate in Africana Studies is a 9-credit program for students currently enrolled in degree programs at the School of Graduate Studies. Focusing on comparative diasporic frameworks and interdisciplinary study, the Certificate will offer students training in the key literature and debates within Africana Studies, and the opportunity to do advanced study with award-winning Rutgers scholars in complementary disciplines. The Certificate is designed to help students prepare for theses and dissertations engaging Africana scholarship, and expand career options by certifying credentials for teaching and professional activity relating to Africana Studies.

Eligibility: Current M.A. and Ph.D. students in the School of Graduate Studies

Requirements: One core course (Graduate Seminar in Africana Studies)
Two elective courses from university-wide approved offerings

Inquiries for Interested Faculty and Graduate Students:

Dr. Kim D. Butler, Director
Graduate Certificate in Africana Studies
kbutler@africana.rutgers.edu

As an interdisciplinary field of study, Africana Studies allows scholars to interrogate research questions from diverse perspectives. Its interdisciplinary approach is especially relevant for Africana research because much of the history, experience, and philosophy of peoples of African descent is inscribed in such archives as expressive arts, literature, cultural practice, material culture, and the digital universe – all of which constitute a vital complement to archival and documentary research. Because of the history of the production of knowledge by and about people of African descent, it has been especially important for scholars to utilize the full breadth of scholarship and methodologies across disparate, though interconnected, disciplines. It is a valuable asset for scholars in the field to have competency in multiple disciplines and multiple geographic areas.

Africana Studies also provides a framework for the comparative analysis of the experiences of African descended peoples across national and regional borders. An increasingly important mandate of professionals in the field is the ability to contextualize across the African diaspora, and to be increasingly knowledgeable about a more nuanced understanding of the history, culture and politics of the African continent. Additionally, communities of African and Caribbean immigrants, as well as Afro-Latinos, are changing the contours of the African-American population, thus making it important for specialists in the U.S. to understand those histories and their interconnections with American experience. These are new frontiers of scholarship at the forefront of Africana Studies in the 21st century that we explore through the participation of the University’s award-winning faculty working on Africana scholarship in many disciplines.

We welcome all faculty and students interested in Africana Studies to join us in this exciting new initiative.