

Curriculum and Requirements

A. Pro-seminar

As part of meeting the minimum of fifteen hours required for a Certificate, all students would take the pro-seminar AAS 600, “Interdisciplinary Approaches to African & African American Studies.” This course introduces students to a cluster of traditional and current topical questions commonly treated in the fields of African and African American Studies and explores the various interdisciplinary approaches that can be used to address them. To provide a strong interdisciplinary foundation as well as familiarizing students with a wide-range of methodological approaches, the course will be based on a program-approved syllabus that will be reviewed annually by the CAAS curriculum committee. It will be taught and graded by one professor who may draw on colleagues for a revolving co-teaching structure with up to ten visiting weeks over the course of the semester. (Appendix D.) Visiting professors will participate not to represent their own work per se, but in order to contribute their particular strengths in cross-disciplinary methods and conversations.

B. Capstone Research Course: AAS 890

Each student will carry out a culminating research project reflecting an interdisciplinary or cross-regional perspective. The project, which can be a dissertation chapter, a prelude, or a master’s thesis, is subject to approval by the student’s CAAS advisor and by the Graduate Curriculum Committee. As part of AAS 890, the student will present the work in at least one public forum, such as a lecture or a brown-bag.

C. Breadth Requirement

All credit hours beyond the pro-seminar and AAS 890 must include approved graduate-level courses. In addition to the pro-seminar and the Capstone, at least one course must be in a field outside of the student’s primary department. Up to six of the fifteen credit hours may include courses that are required for the student’s graduate or professional degree.

Admissions

- A. Requirements: Any student with a bachelor’s degree who has been admitted or is currently enrolled in a graduate program at the University of Michigan will be eligible to apply for a Graduate Certificate in CAAS. To be considered, students should be in good standing.
- B. Process: Admissions will take place once a year. Students interested in pursuing a CAAS graduate program certificate should complete the appropriate declaration form and return it to the CAAS Associate Director at least two terms before the anticipated graduate degree is to be received. The form requires the student to map out a course of study for the certificate, with a list of CAAS courses already taken and those to be taken, as well as a page explaining how the CAAS component will be integrated in the overall course of study (see sample form in Appendix A.) Applicants will be

assessed and admitted by the CAAS Graduate Committee, a sub-set of the Curriculum Committee.

C. The Application will include:

- 1) A letter of application that explains the student's interest in the program and his or her background in African or African diasporic studies.
- 2) A plan for types of courses that would fulfill certificate requirements. (E.g. I plan to take African History, African Literature, and Caribbean literature.)
- 3) A current transcript.
- 4) A letter of support from the student's advisor.

Advising

All certificate candidates will be assigned to a CAAS faculty member who may or may not be in the student's primary field, depending on the goals set out by the student in the admissions statement. The role of the advisor is informal but is intended to facilitate ongoing dialogue about choosing courses for the certificate appropriate to the student's goals.

Appendix A

APPLICATION FORM:

**Graduate Certificate in African American,
African and Black Transnational Studies**

Application Deadline: February 1

Date: _____

Student ID _____

Name: _____

Phone # _____

Mailing Address _____

Campus Address _____

Email Address: _____

I am _____ **currently enrolled in** or _____ **applying to** a graduate program at the University of Michigan

Name of Program: _____

Undergraduate Academic Degree:

Degree (for example, B.A.): _____

Date received: _____

Where taken: _____

Major field: _____

Minor field _____

Other Academic Degrees:

Degree (for example, M.A.): _____

Date received: _____

Where taken: _____

Field: _____

Current Rackham students, attach the following:

- D. A letter of application (300-600 words) explaining your interest in the Certificate Program and your background in African and African American Studies.
- E. A photocopy of your latest UM transcript
- F. A letter of support from your advisor
- G. A list of proposed courses that will fulfill the Program requirements.
- H. Submit application for Modification of Status to Rackham

New and non-Rackham applicants, attach the following:

- 1) A letter of application (300-600 words) explaining your interest in the Certificate Program and your background in African and African American Studies.
- 2) A photocopy of your UM or undergraduate transcripts.
- 3) A letter of recommendation from your advisor or reference.
- 4) 4) A list of proposed courses that will fulfill the Program requirements.

Return to: Center for African American and African Studies, Haven Hall, The University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI 48109