

african american studies degree

The Power of Perspective: Exploring the African American Studies Degree

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Introduction:

An African American Studies degree offers a rigorous and rewarding exploration of the history, culture, and experiences of African Americans in the United States and the diaspora. It's more than just a chronological recounting of events; it's a deep dive into the complexities of race, identity, power, and social justice. This interdisciplinary field utilizes a variety of methodologies and approaches to critically analyze the past and present, ultimately empowering students to engage in meaningful social change. This article will delve into the core components of an African American Studies degree, highlighting the diverse perspectives and methodologies employed within the field.

H1: Methodologies and Approaches in African American Studies:

The study of African American experience transcends traditional disciplinary boundaries. An African American Studies degree embraces interdisciplinarity, drawing upon history, sociology, political science, literature, anthropology, and other fields to provide a holistic understanding. Key methodologies include:

H2: Historical Analysis:

This foundational approach involves meticulously examining primary and secondary sources – letters, diaries, photographs, oral histories, government documents, and scholarly works – to reconstruct the past. This often entails challenging dominant narratives and recovering marginalized voices, offering counter-narratives to traditionally Eurocentric historical accounts. Students learn to critically evaluate sources, identify biases, and construct nuanced historical interpretations.

H2: Sociological Inquiry:

Sociological approaches utilize quantitative and qualitative methods to understand the social structures, institutions, and processes that shape the lives of African Americans. This may involve analyzing census data, conducting interviews, and participating in ethnographic studies to investigate topics such as racial inequality, social mobility, and the impact of systemic racism.

H2: Literary and Cultural Criticism:

Analyzing literature, art, music, and other cultural expressions reveals the diverse ways in which African Americans have expressed their identities, experiences, and struggles. This involves engaging with literary theory and critical methodologies to interpret meaning, explore themes, and understand the cultural significance of various artistic creations. This often includes studying the evolution of Black literary movements, like the Harlem Renaissance and the Black Arts Movement.

H2: Critical Race Theory (CRT):

CRT provides a powerful framework for analyzing how race and racism operate within legal systems, social institutions, and everyday life. It exposes the ways in which racial inequality is not simply a matter of individual prejudice but is embedded in social structures and power dynamics. An understanding of CRT is crucial to understanding many contemporary issues surrounding racial justice and social change.

H2: Black Feminist Thought:

Black feminist thought centers the experiences of Black women, highlighting the intersections of race, gender, and class. It challenges both sexism and racism, recognizing that the experiences of Black women are unique and require specific analysis. This methodology emphasizes the agency and resilience of Black women in the face of systemic oppression.

H2: Pan-Africanism and the Diaspora:

An African American Studies degree often extends beyond the borders of the United States, exploring the connections between African Americans and the African diaspora. This involves examining the transatlantic slave trade, the legacies of colonialism, and the diverse experiences of Black people around the globe. It fosters a sense of global interconnectedness and shared identity among people of African descent.

H2: Afrocentricity:

This approach prioritizes African perspectives and experiences as central to understanding the lives and cultures of people of African descent. It challenges Eurocentric viewpoints and emphasizes the richness and complexity of African cultures and histories.

H3: Career Paths with an African American Studies Degree:

A degree in African American Studies provides a strong foundation for a variety of careers. Graduates often pursue careers in academia, journalism, law, social work, government, museum studies, and the non-profit sector. The critical thinking, research skills, and analytical abilities developed through the program are highly valued in diverse professional settings.

Conclusion:

An African American Studies degree provides an invaluable opportunity to engage with the rich and complex history, culture, and experiences of African Americans. By employing diverse methodologies and approaches, the field empowers students to critically analyze social issues, challenge dominant narratives, and contribute to meaningful social change. The interdisciplinary nature of the field equips graduates with transferable skills, preparing them for a wide range of career paths that impact communities and promote justice.

FAQs:

1. What is the difference between African American Studies and Black Studies? While often used interchangeably, Black Studies generally encompasses a broader range of experiences, including those of people of African descent globally, while African American Studies focuses specifically on the United States context.
1. Is an African American Studies degree suitable for non-Black students? Absolutely! An African American Studies degree benefits anyone seeking to understand the complexities of race, racism, and social justice. The field offers a crucial perspective on American history and society as a whole.
1. What kind of jobs can I get with an African American Studies degree? Numerous careers are possible, including teaching, research, social work, law, journalism, museum curation, and work in non-profit organizations focusing on racial justice.
1. What are the admission requirements for an African American Studies degree? Requirements vary by institution but generally involve a bachelor's degree and a strong academic record. Some programs may require specific coursework in related fields.
1. Are there online African American Studies degree programs? Yes, many universities offer online programs in African American Studies or related fields, offering flexibility for students.

1. How much does an African American Studies degree cost? The cost varies greatly depending on the institution and program type. Tuition, fees, and living expenses should be considered.
1. What are the career prospects after an African American Studies degree? Career prospects are promising in fields requiring critical thinking, research, and understanding of social justice issues.
1. What are some famous African American Studies scholars? Notable scholars include W.E.B. Du Bois, Ida B. Wells-Barnett, Angela Davis, bell hooks, and Cornel West.
1. What is the best way to choose an African American Studies program? Consider the program's faculty, research focus, curriculum, and overall reputation. Visit campuses if possible and speak to current students and faculty.

Related Articles:

1. The Evolution of Black Feminist Thought: Explores the development and key figures within Black feminist thought and its impact on social justice movements.
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1. The Role of African American Studies in Higher Education: Discusses the significance of African American Studies programs in higher education and their contribution to fostering diversity and inclusion.

african american studies degree: The Women of Brewster Place Gloria Naylor, 2021-05-11
The National Book Award-winning novel—and contemporary classic—that launched the brilliant career of Gloria Naylor, now with a foreword by Tayari Jones “[A] shrewd and lyrical portrayal of many of the realities of black life . . . Naylor bravely risks sentimentality and melodrama to write her compassion and outrage large, and she pulls it off triumphantly.” —The New York Times Book Review “Brims with inventiveness—and relevance.” —NPR's Fresh Air In her heralded first novel, Gloria Naylor weaves together the stories of seven women living in Brewster Place, a bleak-inner city sanctuary, creating a powerful, moving portrait of the strengths, struggles, and hopes of black women in America. Vulnerable and resilient, openhanded and openhearted, these women forge their lives in a place that in turn threatens and protects—a common prison and a shared home. Naylor renders both loving and painful human experiences with simple eloquence and uncommon intuition in this touching and unforgettable read.

african american studies degree: The Legend of the Black Mecca Maurice J. Hobson, 2017-10-03 For more than a century, the city of Atlanta has been associated with black achievement in education, business, politics, media, and music, earning it the nickname the black Mecca. Atlanta's long tradition of black education dates back to Reconstruction, and produced an elite that flourished in spite of Jim Crow, rose to leadership during the civil rights movement, and then took power in the 1970s by building a coalition between white progressives, business interests, and black Atlantans. But as Maurice J. Hobson demonstrates, Atlanta's political leadership—from the election of Maynard Jackson, Atlanta's first black mayor, through the city's hosting of the 1996 Olympic

Games--has consistently mishandled the black poor. Drawn from vivid primary sources and unnerving oral histories of working-class city-dwellers and hip-hop artists from Atlanta's underbelly, Hobson argues that Atlanta's political leadership has governed by bargaining with white business interests to the detriment of ordinary black Atlantans. In telling this history through the prism of the black New South and Atlanta politics, policy, and pop culture, Hobson portrays a striking schism between the black political elite and poor city-dwellers, complicating the long-held view of Atlanta as a mecca for black people.

african american studies degree: *From Black Power to Black Studies* Fabio Rojas, 2010-09-01
The black power movement helped redefine African Americans' identity and establish a new racial consciousness in the 1960s. As an influential political force, this movement in turn spawned the academic discipline known as Black Studies. Today there are more than a hundred Black Studies degree programs in the United States, many of them located in America's elite research institutions. In *From Black Power to Black Studies*, Fabio Rojas explores how this radical social movement evolved into a recognized academic discipline. Rojas traces the evolution of Black Studies over more than three decades, beginning with its origins in black nationalist politics. His account includes the 1968 Third World Strike at San Francisco State College, the Ford Foundation's attempts to shape the field, and a description of Black Studies programs at various American universities. His statistical analyses of protest data illuminate how violent and nonviolent protests influenced the establishment of Black Studies programs. Integrating personal interviews and newly discovered archival material, Rojas documents how social activism can bring about organizational change. Shedding light on the black power movement, Black Studies programs, and American higher education, this historical analysis reveals how radical politics are assimilated into the university system.

african american studies degree: *African Intellectual Heritage* Abu Sharrow Abarry, 1996
Organized by major themes—such as creation stories, and resistance to oppression—this collection gathers works of imagination, politics and history, religion, and culture from many societies and across recorded time. Asante and Abarry marshal together ancient, anonymous writers whose texts were originally written on stone and papyrus and the well-known public figures of more recent times whose spoken and written words have shaped the intellectual history of the diaspora. Within this remarkably wide-ranging volume are such sources as prayers and praise songs from ancient Kemet and Ethiopia along with African American spirituals; political commentary from C.L.R. James, Malcolm X, Mary McLeod Bethune, and Joseph Nyerere; stirring calls for social justice from David Walker, Abdias Nascimento, Frantz Fanon, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Featuring newly translated texts and documents published for the first time, the volume also includes an African chronology, a glossary, and an extensive bibliography. With this landmark book, Asante and Abarry offer a major contribution to the ongoing debates on defining the African canon. Author note: Molefi Kete Asante is Professor and Chair of African American Studies at Temple University and author of several books, including *The Afrocentric Idea* (Temple) and *The Historical and Cultural Atlas of African Americans*. Abu S. Abarry is Assistant Chair of African American Studies at Temple University.

african american studies degree: *Afro-Latin American Studies* Alejandro de la Fuente, George Reid Andrews, 2018-04-26
Alejandro de la Fuente and George Reid Andrews offer the first systematic, book-length survey of humanities and social science scholarship on the exciting field of Afro-Latin American studies. Organized by topic, these essays synthesize and present the current state of knowledge on a broad variety of topics, including Afro-Latin American music, religions, literature, art history, political thought, social movements, legal history, environmental history, and ideologies of racial inclusion. This volume connects the region's long history of slavery to the major political, social, cultural, and economic developments of the last two centuries. Written by leading scholars in each of those topics, the volume provides an introduction to the field of Afro-Latin American studies that is not available from any other source and reflects the disciplinary and thematic richness of this emerging field.

african american studies degree: *Blackness in Britain* Kehinde Andrews, Lisa Amanda

Palmer, 2016-04-28 Black Studies is a hugely important, and yet undervalued, academic field of enquiry that is marked by its disciplinary absence and omission from academic curricula in Britain. There is a long and rich history of research on Blackness and Black populations in Britain. However Blackness in Britain has too often been framed through the lens of racialised deficits, constructed as both marginal and pathological. Blackness in Britain attends to and grapples with the absence of Black Studies in Britain and the parallel crisis of Black marginality in British society. It begins to map the field of Black Studies scholarship from a British context, by collating new and established voices from scholars writing about Blackness in Britain. Split into five parts, it examines: Black studies and the challenge of the Black British intellectual; Revolution, resistance and state violence; Blackness and belonging; exclusion and inequality in education; experiences of Black women and the gendering of Blackness in Britain. This interdisciplinary collection represents a landmark in building Black Studies in British academia, presenting key debates about Black experiences in relation to Britain, Black Europe and the wider Black diaspora. With contributions from across various disciplines including sociology, human geography, medical sociology, cultural studies, education studies, post-colonial English literature, history, and criminology, the book will be essential reading for scholars and students of the multi- and inter-disciplinary area of Black Studies.

african american studies degree: *Crossing the Color Line* Carina E. Ray, 2015-10-15 Interracial sex mattered to the British colonial state in West Africa. In *Crossing the Color Line*, Carina E. Ray goes beyond this fact to reveal how Ghanaians shaped and defined these powerfully charged relations. The interplay between African and European perspectives and practices, argues Ray, transformed these relationships into key sites for consolidating colonial rule and for contesting its hierarchies of power. With rigorous methodology and innovative analyses, Ray brings Ghana and Britain into a single analytic frame to show how intimate relations between black men and white women in the metropole became deeply entangled with those between black women and white men in the colony in ways that were profoundly consequential. Based on rich archival evidence and original interviews, the book moves across different registers, shifting from the micropolitics of individual disciplinary cases brought against colonial officers who “kept” local women to transatlantic networks of family, empire, and anticolonial resistance. In this way, Ray cuts to the heart of how interracial sex became a source of colonial anxiety and nationalist agitation during the first half of the twentieth century.

african american studies degree: *Introduction to Black Studies* Karenga (Maulana.), 1993

african american studies degree: *Encyclopedia of Black Studies* Molefi Kete Asante, Ama Mazama, 2005 In the 1960s Black Studies emerged as both an academic field and a radical new ideological paradigm. Editors Molefi Kete Asante and Ama Mazama (Black Studies, Temple U.), both influential and renowned scholars, have compiled an encyclopedia for students, high school and beyond, and general readers. It presents analysis of key individuals, events, a

african american studies degree: *The Black Studies Reader* Jacqueline Bobo, Cynthia Hudley, Claudine Michel, 2004-05-15 First published in 2004. Routledge is an imprint of Taylor & Francis, an informa company.

african american studies degree: *Black Campus Life* Antar A. Tichavakunda, 2021-12-01 An in-depth ethnography of Black engineering students at a historically White institution, *Black Campus Life* examines the intersection of two crises, up close: the limited number of college graduates in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields, and the state of race relations in higher education. Antar Tichavakunda takes readers across campus, from study groups to parties and beyond as these students work hard, have fun, skip class, fundraise, and, at times, find themselves in tense racialized encounters. By consistently centering their perspectives and demonstrating how different campus communities, or social worlds, shape their experiences, Tichavakunda challenges assumptions about not only Black STEM majors but also Black students and the “racial climate” on college campuses more generally. Most fundamentally, *Black Campus Life* argues that Black collegians are more than the racism they endure. By studying and appreciating the everyday richness and complexity of their experiences, we all—faculty, administrators, parents, policymakers,

and the broader public—might learn how to better support them. This book is freely available in an open access edition thanks to TOME (Toward an Open Monograph Ecosystem)—a collaboration of the Association of American Universities, the Association of University Presses, and the Association of Research Libraries. Learn more at the TOME website, available at: openmonographs.org, and access the book online through the SUNY Open Access Repository at <http://hdl.handle.net/20.500.12648/7009>

african american studies degree: African American Studies Jeanette R Davidson, 2010-10-19 This book presents the diverse, expansive nature of African American Studies and its characteristic interdisciplinarity. It is intended for use with undergraduate/ beginning graduate students in African American Studies, American Studies and Ethnic Studie

african american studies degree: South Africa-China Relations Phiwokuhle Mnyandu, 2021-10-19 In *South Africa-China Relations: Between Aspiration and Reality in a New Global Order*, Phiwokuhle Mnyandu analyzes South Africa-China relations in the context of South Africa's quest to reduce unemployment and transform its economy to ensure lasting social stability. Mnyandu uses trade patterns, analyses of governmental organizations and initiatives, and other socio-economic data to determine the extent to which developmental change or stasis has taken place as relations between South Africa and China have deepened. Tracing South Africa's changing attitudes and policies towards China's involvement, the impact of programs involving commodities trades on unemployment, and the prospective outcomes of an endogenous developmental policy, Mnyandu concludes by proposing a quadri-linear model as a tool for more comprehensive analyses of China's relations not only with South Africa, but other African countries as well to avoid disinformation on Africa-China issues.

african american studies degree: Keywords for African American Studies Erica R. Edwards, Roderick A. Ferguson, Jeffrey O.G. Ogbar, 2018-11-27 Introduces key terms, interdisciplinary research, debates, and histories for African American Studies As the longest-standing interdisciplinary field, African American Studies has laid the foundation for critically analyzing issues of race, ethnicity, and culture within the academy and beyond. This volume assembles the keywords of this field for the first time, exploring not only the history of those categories but their continued relevance in the contemporary moment. Taking up a vast array of issues such as slavery, colonialism, prison expansion, sexuality, gender, feminism, war, and popular culture, *Keywords for African American Studies* showcases the startling breadth that characterizes the field. Featuring an august group of contributors across the social sciences and the humanities, the keywords assembled within the pages of this volume exemplify the depth and range of scholarly inquiry into Black life in the United States. Connecting lineages of Black knowledge production to contemporary considerations of race, gender, class, and sexuality, *Keywords for African American Studies* provides a model for how the scholarship of the field can meet the challenges of our social world.

african american studies degree: Black Intellectual Thought in Modern America Brian D. Behnken, Gregory D. Smithers, Simon Wendt, 2017-09-07 Contributions by Tunde Adeleke, Brian D. Behnken, Minkah Makalani, Benita Roth, Gregory D. Smithers, Simon Wendt, and Danielle L. Wiggins Black intellectualism has been misunderstood by the American public and by scholars for generations. Historically maligned by their peers and by the lay public as inauthentic or illegitimate, black intellectuals have found their work misused, ignored, or discarded. Black intellectuals have also been reductively placed into one or two main categories: they are usually deemed liberal or, less frequently, as conservative. The contributors to this volume explore several prominent intellectuals, from left-leaning leaders such as W. E. B. Du Bois to conservative intellectuals like Thomas Sowell, from well-known black feminists such as Patricia Hill Collins to Marxists like Claudia Jones, to underscore the variety of black intellectual thought in the United States. Contributors also situate the development of the lines of black intellectual thought within the broader history from which these trends emerged. The result gathers essays that offer entry into a host of rich intellectual traditions.

african american studies degree: Letter from Birmingham Jail Martin Luther King, 2025-01-14 A beautiful commemorative edition of Dr. Martin Luther King's essay Letter from Birmingham Jail, part of Dr. King's archives published exclusively by HarperCollins. With an afterword by Reginald Dwayne Betts On April 16, 1923, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., responded to an open letter written and published by eight white clergymen admonishing the civil rights demonstrations happening in Birmingham, Alabama. Dr. King drafted his seminal response on scraps of paper smuggled into jail. King criticizes his detractors for caring more about order than justice, defends nonviolent protests, and argues for the moral responsibility to obey just laws while disobeying unjust ones. Letter from Birmingham Jail proclaims a message - confronting any injustice is an acceptable and righteous reason for civil disobedience. This beautifully designed edition presents Dr. King's speech in its entirety, paying tribute to this extraordinary leader and his immeasurable contribution, and inspiring a new generation of activists dedicated to carrying on the fight for justice and equality.

african american studies degree: Introduction to African American Studies Talmadge Anderson, 1993

african american studies degree: Mama's Gun Marlo D. David, 2016 In *Mama's Gun: Black Maternal Figures and the Politics of Transgression*, Marlo D. David identifies five bold, new archetypes of black motherhood for the post-civil rights generation in order to imagine new ways of thinking about pervasive maternal stereotypes of black women. Rather than avoiding negative images of black motherhood, such as welfare queens, teen mothers, and baby mamas, *Mama's Gun* centralizes these dispossessed figures and renames them as the Young Mother, the Blues Mama, the Surrogate, Big Mama, and the Mothership. Taking inspiration from African American fiction, historical accounts of black life, Afrofuturism, and black popular culture in music and on screen, David turns her attention to Sapphire's *Push*, Octavia Butler's *Dawn*, and Suzan-Lori Parks's *Getting Mother's Body* as well as the performance art of Erykah Badu and the films of Tyler Perry. She draws out the implications of black maternal figures in these texts who balk at tradition and are far from ideal. David's study shows how representations of blackness are deeply embedded in the neoliberal language of contemporary American politics and how black writers and performers resist such mainstream ideologies with their own transgressive black maternal figures.

african american studies degree: Phenomenology and Psychiatry André J. J. Koning, André J. J. de Koning, Frederick Alexander Jenner, 1982

african american studies degree: Remembrances in Black Charles F. Robinson II, Lonnie R. Williams, 2010-12-01 With the admittance in 1948 of Silas Hunt to the University of Arkansas Law School, the university became the first southern public institution of higher education to officially desegregate without being required to do so by court order. The process was difficult, but an important first step had been taken. Other students would follow in Silas Hunt's footsteps, and they along with the university would have to grapple with the situation. *Remembrances in Black* is an oral history that gathers the personal stories of African Americans who worked as faculty and staff and of students who studied at the state's flagship institution. These stories illustrate the anguish, struggle, and triumph of individuals who had their lives indelibly marked by their experiences at the school. Organized chronologically over sixty years, this book illustrates how people of color navigated both the evolving campus environment and that of the city of Fayetteville in their attempt to fulfill personal aspirations. Their stories demonstrate that the process of desegregation proved painfully slow to those who chose to challenge the forces of exclusion. Also, the remembrances question the extent to which desegregation has been fully realized.

african american studies degree: Undergraduate Announcement University of Michigan--Dearborn, 1987

african american studies degree: Critical Perspectives on Afro-Latin American Literature Antonio D. Tillis, 2012-04-23 After generations of being rendered virtually invisible by the US academy in critical anthologies and literary histories, writing by Latin Americans of African ancestry has become represented by a booming corpus of intellectual and critical investigation. This

volume aims to provide an introduction to the literary worlds and perceptions of national culture and identity of authors from Spanish-America, Brazil, and uniquely, Equatorial Guinea, thus contextually connecting Africa to the history of Spanish colonization. The importance of Latin America literature to the discipline of African Diaspora studies is immeasurable, and this edited collection provides a ripe cultural context for critical comparative analysis among the vast geographies that encompass African and African Diaspora studies. Scholars in the area of African Diaspora Studies, Black Studies, Latin American Studies, and American literature will be able to utilize the eleven essays in this edition to enhance classroom instruction and further academic research.

african american studies degree: Time, Labor, and Social Domination Moishe Postone, Louis Galambos, 1996-07-13 Moishe Postone undertakes a fundamental reinterpretation of Karl Marx's mature critical theory. He calls into question many of the presuppositions of traditional Marxist analyses and offers new interpretations of Marx's central arguments. He does so by developing concepts aimed at grasping the essential character and historical development of modern society, and also at overcoming the familiar dichotomies of structure and action, meaning and material life. These concepts lead him to an original analysis of the nature and problems of capitalism and provide the basis for a critique of 'actually existing socialism'. According to this new interpretation, Marx identifies the core of the capitalist system with an impersonal form of social domination generated by labor and the industrial production process are characterized as expressions of domination generated by labor itself and not simply with market mechanisms and private property. Proletarian labor and the industrial production process are characterized as expressions of domination rather than as means of human emancipation. This reinterpretation entails the form of economic growth and the structure of social labor in modern society to the alienation and domination at the heart of capitalism. This reformulation, Postone argues, provides the foundation for a critical social theory that is more adequate to late twentieth-century capitalism.

african american studies degree: The Afrocentric Paradigm Ama Mazama, 2003

african american studies degree: White Money/Black Power Noliwe Rooks, 2007-02-15 The history of African American studies is often told as a heroic tale, with compelling images of black power and passionate African American students who refused to take no for an answer. Noliwe M. Rooks argues for the recognition of another story, which proves that many of the programs that survived actually began as a result of white philanthropy. With unflinching honesty, Rooks shows that the only way to create a stable future for African American studies is by confronting its complex past.

african american studies degree: Critical Black Studies Reader Rochelle Brock, Dara Nix-Stevenson, Paul Chamness Miller, 2017 The Critical Black Studies Reader is a ground-breaking volume whose aim is to criticalize and reenvision Black Studies through a critical lens. The book not only stretches the boundaries of knowledge and understanding of issues critical to the Black experience, it creates a theoretical grounding that is intersectional in its approach. Our notion of Black Studies is neither singularly grounded in African American Studies nor on traditional notions of the Black experience. Though situated work in this field has historically grappled with the question of «where are we?» in Black Studies, this volume offers the reader a type of criticalization that has not occurred to this point. While the volume includes seminal works by authors in the field, as a critical endeavor, the editors have also included pieces that address the political issues that intersect with - among others - power, race, class, gender, sexuality, religion, place, and economics.

african american studies degree: Harlem Nocturne Farah Jasmine Griffin, 2013-09-10 As World War II raged overseas, Harlem witnessed a battle of its own. Brimming with creative and political energy, the neighborhood's diverse array of artists and activists took advantage of a brief period of progressivism during the war years to launch a bold cultural offensive aimed at winning democracy for all Americans, regardless of race or gender. Ardent believers in America's promise, these men and women helped to lay the groundwork for the Civil Rights Movement before Cold War politics and anti-Communist fervor temporarily froze their dreams at the dawn of the postwar era. In *Harlem Nocturne*, esteemed scholar Farah Jasmine Griffin tells the stories of three black female

artists whose creative and political efforts fueled this historic movement for change: choreographer and dancer Pearl Primus, composer and pianist Mary Lou Williams, and novelist Ann Petry. Like many African Americans in the city at the time, these women weren't native New Yorkers, but the metropolis and its vibrant cultural scene gave them the space to flourish and the freedom to express their political concerns. Pearl Primus performed nightly at the legendary Cafe Society, the first racially integrated club in New York, where she debuted dances of social protest that drew on long-buried African traditions and the dances of former slaves in the South. Williams, meanwhile, was a major figure in the emergence of bebop, collaborating with Dizzy Gillespie, Thelonious Monk, and Bud Powell and premiering her groundbreaking *Zodiac Suite* at the legendary performance space Town Hall. And Ann Petry conveyed the struggles of working-class black women to a national audience with her acclaimed novel *The Street*, which sold over a million copies -- a first for a female African American author. A rich biography of three artists and the city that inspired them, *Harlem Nocturne* captures a period of unprecedented vitality and progress for African Americans and women, revealing a cultural movement and a historical moment whose influence endures today.

african american studies degree: African American Studies Nathaniel Norment, 2019 *African American Studies: The Discipline and Its Dimensions* is a comprehensive resource book that recounts the development of the discipline and provides a basic reference source for sixteen areas of knowledge.

african american studies degree: The Ghana Reader Kwasi Konadu, Clifford C. Campbell, 2016-02-04 Covering 500 years of Ghana's history, *The Ghana Reader* provides a multitude of historical, political, and cultural perspectives on this iconic African nation. Whether discussing the Asante kingdom and the Gold Coast's importance to European commerce and transatlantic slaving, Ghana's brief period under British colonial rule, or the emergence of its modern democracy, the volume's eighty selections emphasize Ghana's enormous symbolic and pragmatic value to global relations. They also demonstrate that the path to fully understanding Ghana requires acknowledging its ethnic and cultural diversity and listening to its population's varied voices. Readers will encounter selections written by everyone from farmers, traders, and the clergy to intellectuals, politicians, musicians, and foreign travelers. With sources including historical documents, poems, treaties, articles, and fiction, *The Ghana Reader* conveys the multiple and intersecting histories of Ghana's development as a nation, its key contribution to the formation of the African diaspora, and its increasingly important role in the economy and politics of the twenty-first century.

african american studies degree: Space Unveiled Carla Jackson Bell, 2014-08-01 Since the early 1800s, African Americans have designed signature buildings; however, in the mainstream marketplace, African American architects, especially women, have remained invisible in architecture history, theory and practice. Traditional architecture design studio education has been based on the historical models of the Beaux-Arts and the Bauhaus, with a split between design and production teaching. As the result of current teaching models, African American architects tend to work on the production or technical side of building rather than in the design studio. It is essential to understand the centrality of culture, gender, space and knowledge in design studios. *Space Unveiled* is a significant contribution to the study of architecture education, and the extent to which it has been sensitive to an inclusive cultural perspective. The research shows that this has not been the case in American education because part of the culture remains hidden.

african american studies degree: Post-Bellum, Pre-Harlem Barbara McCaskill, Caroline Gebhard, 2006 The years between the collapse of Reconstruction and the end of World War I mark a pivotal moment in African American cultural production. Christened the "Post-Bellum-Pre-Harlem" era by the novelist Charles Chesnutt, these years look back to the antislavery movement and forward to the artistic flowering and racial self-consciousness of the Harlem Renaissance. *Post-Bellum, Pre-Harlem* offers fresh perspectives on the literary and cultural achievements of African American men and women during this critically neglected, though vitally important, period of our nation's past. Using a wide range of disciplinary approaches, the sixteen scholars gathered here offer both a reappraisal and celebration of African American cultural production during these influential

decades. Alongside discussions of political and artistic icons such as Booker T. Washington, W.E.B. Du Bois, Henry Ossawa Tanner, and James Weldon Johnson are essays revaluing figures such as the writers Paul and Alice Dunbar-Nelson, the New England painter Edward Mitchell Bannister, and Georgia-based activists Lucy Craft Laney and Emmanuel King Love. Contributors explore an array of forms from fine art to anti-lynching drama, from sermons to ragtime and blues, and from dialect pieces and early black musical theater to serious fiction. Contributors include: Frances Smith Foster, Carla L. Peterson, Gwendolyn DuBois Shaw, Audrey Thomas McCluskey, Barbara Ryan, Robert M. Dowling, Barbara A. Baker, Paula Bernat Bennett, Philip J. Kowalski, Nikki L. Brown, Koritha A. Mitchell, Margaret Crumpton Winter, Rhonda Reymond, and Andrew J. Scheiber.

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