PROPOSAL

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE

AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES

SUBMITTED BY THE SCHOOL OF INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

PURDUE UNIVERSITY

WEST LAFAYETTE

Final revision received
3/10/16
A. African American Studies Graduate Certificate Program
   Submitted By
   Ronald J. Stephens, Director
   African American Studies and Research Center
   School of Interdisciplinary Studies
   College of Liberal Arts
   West Lafayette, Indiana
B. Overview of the Program

1. Provide an overview of the certificate program proposal.

African American Studies is an interdisciplinary program replete with theories, methods, and approaches particular to its multifaceted areas-cum-loci of interest, as well as applied practice. These primary loci are Africa and the African Diaspora. Taught only by the faculty of African American Studies, classes and seminars focus on the United States, Latin America, the Caribbean, and Europe.

2. Briefly describe the purpose of the program, why it is needed, the target audience, the number of students expected to participate in the program, and the relation to relevant existing certificate programs, if any.

In order to provide coherent, rigorous, and meaningful preparation for graduate students in African American Studies, we wish to create a graduate certificate program. The purpose of the graduate certificate program is to introduce new and existing students to methods, theories, and approaches to the study of African American life that are, by consensus, efficacious and ethical. A total of four courses (12 credit hours) will be required to complete the African American Studies Graduate Certificate Program. Two courses (6 credit hours) must include the following core courses, AAS 574, Research Methods in African American Studies and AAS 575, Theories of African and African American Studies. Targets for certification include graduate students wishing to conduct research on African American subjects with specific interests in gaining expertise in African American Studies theory, methods, and applied practice. Graduate students who are currently admitted to a degree program are eligible to earn a certificate in the program.

3. How does the program fit into the department’s/school’s strategic and/or academic plan?

For nearly fifteen years, graduate students majoring in American Studies, and other fields of study in the College of Liberal Arts, have expressed ongoing interests in race relations, especially (a) the relationship between African Americans and European Americans, (b) relations between African Americans and groups not of European descent, e.g., Asians and Native Americans, (c) varied constructions of race, and (d) more particularly the sociopolitical and sociocultural experiences of African Americans spatially and temporally, i.e., across places and centuries. African American experiences represent important dimensions in the local, national, regional, and global context of cross-cultural and cross-temporal emphases.

Consistently large numbers of graduate students remain eager to participate in the program and to embrace it as a concentration in their studies as this interdisciplinary graduate certificate program will introduce them to the field of African American Studies in a systematic way. In addition, this certification program fits neatly into the African American Studies and Research Center’s strategic plans to increase
student enrollments by attracting graduate students who currently work in such areas of concentration as American Studies, Anthropology, History, Languages and Cultures, Linguistics, Literatures, Political Science, Sociology, or Women’s Studies. Finally, this certificate program will be reviewed in 4 years for parsimony. Although we are anticipating approximately 5 graduate students per year, we are not limiting the numbers to 5 per year.

4. Briefly describe the nature of the certificate and any contractual or cooperative agreements with this certificate program. If you have partnered or contracted with a non-accredited entity, either institution or corporation, to offer courses (content or platform), identify the information or services provided by the entity and the percentage or portion of the educational program the entity is providing.

This graduate certificate is not in partnership or contractual agreement with any non-accredited entity, institution, or corporation. The creation of this interdisciplinary area of concentration is designed to provide students with graduate training in African American Studies.

5. A completed Purdue University Gainful Employment (GE) Certificate Worksheet is attached.

6. Describe any specific licenses or certifications which graduates of the program will be eligible to pursue, including the agency that issues the license or grants the certification. Indicate whether the license or certification is required for entry into the profession, and the extent to which it will help graduates find jobs or earn higher salaries.

Thus far, prospective employers of our graduated students have not required licenses or certificates. Exceptions are those who become teachers—K through 12—especially in public school systems, most of which require the National Teachers Examination. However, in other areas of the employment arena, a certificate in African American Studies will serve as a significant boon—resulting in higher entry-level salaries, for example—given that it indicates specific training in theory, methods, and diversity-cum-inclusion in intellectual engagement, along with applied practicum. Furthermore, certification will point to training in any combination of the following thematic and geo-political areas: Women’s Studies (including gender and sexuality), the Black Family, African Studies, African Diaspora Studies (including the U.S., Afro-Latin American Studies, and Caribbean Studies), Migration Studies, Literature, and Comparative Literature. Other than graduate standing, there are no specific requirements for the completion of the certificate. Note: Historically the majority of graduate students that have expressed an interest in the program come from American Studies, English, History, Political Science, and the College of Education.

C. Admission Requirements

1. All schools and departments within the College of Liberal Arts offer courses and direct the research leading to advanced degrees. Admission to the Graduate School may be granted to graduates of Purdue University or of any other accredited institution. Those who are qualified for original research and scholarly careers may follow the usual work for the master’s and doctorate degrees in various fields. Others may wish to increase professional competence without looking ultimately to the Ph.D. and may follow other programs leading to the M.S., M.F.A., or M.A. In any case the minimum GPA for all graduate students is a 3.0. However, the total number of credit hours required to complete this certificate program is 12 credit hours.
2. Proposal must specify whether or not students who are currently admitted to a degree program are eligible to earn a certificate. Proposal must state whether such students may: a. complete the certificate if it is in their major; or b. complete the certificate if it is not in their major. If the certificate program involves more than one major, items a) and b) above must be specified for students admitted to a degree program in each major, i.e., Is a degree-seeking student in major A, eligible to complete a certificate in major A? Is this student eligible to complete a certificate in major B? etc. D. Completion Requirements based on the Graduate School policies described in this document (III. Completion requirements) provide the following information: 1. Total number of credit hours required. 2. Total number of credit hours that must be taken for a letter grade. (It is assumed that any additional for–credit courses may be taken pass/fail.)

New graduate students and continuing graduate students are eligible to earn a graduate certificate in African American Studies. The certificate is open to any major, and graduate students from the following departments have already expressed an interest in the program. This includes graduate students majoring in American Studies, Anthropology, History, Languages and Cultures, Political Science, Sociology, and Literature. The total number of credit hours that must be taken is 12 credit hours.

3. Specific course requirements, including any not-for-credit courses. (For any not-for credit courses, the method of determining and signifying satisfactory completion of course requirements should be stated, e.g., pass/fail, or other, such as “excellent”, “very good”, or “good”, but not “fair”.) a. Include course numbers, titles, and a brief description of each. b. Identify any courses that were developed specifically for this certificate.

Course requirements will be taken for a letter grade:

a. Include course numbers, titles, and a brief description.

AAS 574, Research Methods in African American Studies

This course covers research techniques used by researchers to observe and to interpret scholarly investigation on race, class and gender from an African American perspective. It is envisioned as one of three required courses for students studying African American Studies at the graduate level. In investigating topics involving race, class, and gender from an African American perspective, students will gain some experience utilizing African American Studies research methods. The course is taught in a seminar format.

AAS 575, Theories of African and African American Studies

This course addresses the development of an African American intellectual tradition. The course will span disciplines and swathes of time in order to understand how scholars not only created new ideas but developed theories that shaped and changed academic inquiry. The objective of the course is to provide a history of the black intellectual tradition, which will then provide an important perspective for use in other course work. Upon its completion, students will gain understanding of major theories, theorists, and intellectual debates surrounding the field of African American Studies. Taught in a seminar format the course, students will be expected to read deeply, prepare seriously for class, and write a final paper of near publication quality.
Students must also complete 6 credit hours from the list of graduate courses offered through any of the following academic units:

**AAS 590: Directed Reading in African American Studies**

**HIST 594: Afro-American Thought & Ideology**

**HIST 65100: Reading Seminar in American History [when the focus is Race and Civil Rights in the US]**

**ENGL 55700: 19th Century African American Narrative**

**ENGL 58300: US Ethnic/Multicultural Literature [when the focus is African American Literature]**

**ENGL 59700: Contemporary Black Feminist Literature**

**ENGL 67200: Seminar in Women’s Literature and Feminist Theory [when offered as African American Women Writers]**

**LC 60100: Seminar in Latin America and the African Diaspora**

**PHIL 54200: Rationality and Relativism: African American Perspectives**

**SOC 51500: Black Americans**

**SOC 61100 - Social Inequality: Class, Race, and Gender**

**WGSS 68100: Black Sexuality**

b. Identify any courses that were developed specifically for this certificate.

The two core AAS courses were developed specifically for this certificate program.

4. GPA Requirements

a. The minimum overall GPA for courses that are to be used to fulfill the certificate requirements is: 3.0. Only courses taken for a letter grade are to be included in this computation.

b. The minimum grade for any course to be applied toward the certificate is: B

5. Maximum number of credits that may be transferred from another institution

The maximum number of credits that may be transferred from another institution is: 0

6. Maximum number of credits from undergraduate-level courses that may be used toward the certificate.

The maximum number of credits for undergraduate-level courses used toward the certificate is: 0

7. The maximum time allowed for completion of the certificate is typically: 3-4 semesters

8. The Graduate School considers a certificate to signify competence in a particular area of study, and recognizes that such areas may overlap. Graduate courses appropriate for application toward the African American Studies Graduate Certification include: American Studies, English Literature, Cultural
Anthropology, History, Philosophy, Political Science, Sociology, Languages and Cultures, and Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies.

9. Number of credit hours taken prior to admission to the certificate program that may be counted toward completion of the certificate is: 6

D. Student Learning and Assessment Outcomes:

AAS 574 Learning Outcomes and Method of Evaluation or Assessment:
- Course objectives—Critically Analyze & Synthesize Theoretical Paradigms of the African American Experience
- Course objectives—Apply research methods associated with African American Studies
- Course objectives—Enhance interpretive skills
- Course objectives—Conduct ethical research
- Course objectives—Enhance critical thinking
- Method of Assessment—Reflection Papers will assess the ability to critically analyze and synthesize the course readings
- Method of Assessment—AA Papers will assess the ability to apply research methods
- Method of Assessment—Assessment of interpretive skills will be done via reflection papers, AA papers, and the theme paper
- Method of Assessment—Assessment of ethical research will be done via the AA papers and the theme paper
- Method of Assessment—Assessment of critical thinking will take place via all written work as well as through an assessment of contributions to class discussion

AAS 575 Learning Outcomes and Method of Evaluation or Assessment:
- Course Objectives—Critically Analyze & Synthesize Theoretical Paradigms of the African American Experience
- Course Objectives—Present material clearly and facilitate discussion
- Course Objectives—Enhance interpretive skills
- Course Objectives—Conduct ethical research
- Method of Assessment—Short papers to assess synthesis of course readings
- Method of Assessment—Midterm Exam
- Method of Assessment—Lead Discussion and provided discussion questions
- Method of Assessment—Final Paper
- Method of Assessment—Research Question, Annotated Bibliography, & Research Paper
- Grading Criteria—Two Short papers (20%), Class Leadership (15%), Midterm Exam (25%), Research Question & Annotated Bibliography (10%), & Final Paper (30%)

Administration

1. Based on Graduate School policies described in this document (IV. Administration) describe how the responsible graduate program(s) will administer the certificate. Pay particular attention to IV. Administration numbers 3, 6, 7, and 8. [See Attached]

2. Proposals must be approved by the following: a. Head(s) of graduate program(s) and academic dean(s) of the department(s) or program(s) that will offer the certificate. b. Graduate Council-The appropriate area committee will review requests for certificate programs and make a recommendation
to the Council. When an area committee is not accessible, the dean of the Graduate School may appoint and ad hoc committee to review the proposal. c. The dean of the Graduate School reviews and forwards recommendation to the Provost. d. The provost reviews and forwards proposal to the Indiana Commission for Higher Education (ICHE). e. ICHE may approve through routine staff action. f. ICHE notifies the Office of the Provost.
# Appendix O

(To Accompany Appendix E for Graduate Certifications Proposal)

**Gainful Employment (GE) Certificate**

TO BE COMPLETED BY DEPARTMENT HEAD

Application for Review for Title IV Federal Student Aid Eligibility

**NAME OF PROGRAM:** African American Studies Graduate Certificate Program

**DEPARTMENT:** School of Interdisciplinary Studies  **SCHOOL/COLLEGE:** Liberal Arts

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A program eligible to participate in Title IV federal student aid would be considered a Gainful Employment Program if it is a standalone certificate program and prepares students for "gainful employment in a recognized occupation." A review and documentation of these criteria is essential prior to program implementation. Failure to meet these criteria may jeopardize Purdue University's eligibility to award federal student financial aid or take part in other programs under the Higher Education Act. Final approval for eligibility is determined by the U.S. Department of Education.

### QUESTION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>QUESTION</th>
<th>ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA</th>
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| 1. Is this a standalone certificate program? | 1. X Yes  
2. X Yes  
3. Yes  
4. Yes  
X No |
| 2. Is the student required to be enrolled in a degree-seeking program while pursuing this certificate? |  
X Yes  
X Yes  
X No  
X No |
| 3. Would this certificate alone prepare a student for gainful employment in a recognized occupation? |  
Yes  
No  
No  
No |
| 4. Is the program a one-year minimum training program that leads to a degree (or other recognized educational credential) and prepares students for gainful employment in a recognized occupation? |  
Yes  
No  
No  
No |

If YES, describe how this program prepares the student for gainful employment:

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***If you answered NO to all of the above – STOP HERE. Certificate is not eligible for Gainful Employment***
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<tr>
<th>AREA OF REVIEW</th>
<th>ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA</th>
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<tr>
<td>Academic Year Definition Requirements</td>
<td>Number of weeks of instructional time per academic year for this program: _____ In an academic year, a full-time student must complete at least _____ semester hours.</td>
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<td>(NOTE: Federal regulations define academic year as a period of a minimum of 30 weeks of instructional time. In an academic year, a week of instructional time is any week in which at least one day of regularly scheduled instruction or examination occurs, or at least one day of study for exams for final exams if it occurs after the last scheduled day of classes for the semester. Instructional time does not include periods of orientation, counseling, vacation, or any other activity not related to class preparation or examinations. Internships, cooperative education, and independent study are forms of instruction that may be included in the definition of academic year. For an undergraduate educational program, an academic year is a period a full-time student must complete at least 24 semester hours.)</td>
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<td>The length of the program is _____ academic years. (Federal regulations require that the program length is at least two academic years and provides an associate, bachelor, graduate, or professional degree or a one-year training program that leads to a degree or certificate (or other recognized educational credential) and prepares students for gainful employment in a recognized occupation.)</td>
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<td>Department Head (please attach a Program of Study documenting the following):</td>
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<tr>
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<td>• Each course within the program is acceptable for full credit toward Purdue University's associate, bachelor, graduate, or professional degree.</td>
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<td>• OR</td>
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<td>• This program is a minimum of 8 credit hours and no more than 12 credit hours maximum and prepares students for gainful employment in the same or related recognized occupation as an educational program that has previously been designated as an eligible program at Purdue University, West Lafayette.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Document(s) Required</td>
<td>Attach a copy of the program of study, the program certificate approval by the Faculty Senate and Provost’s Office, and the approval from the Indiana Commission for Higher Education (ICHE) and/or Higher Learning Commission (HLC), if applicable. (Approvals on file in the Office of the Provost)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Signature: Department Head
Date: 3/1/15

When Completed Return to: Executive Director
Division of Financial Aid, Purdue University
475 Stadium Mall Drive, Schmami Hall 305
West Lafayette, IN 47907-2050

Office Use: This program is

☐ Eligible — Based on submitted documentation, the Division of Financial Aid has determined that this certificate IS ELIGIBLE for Title IV federal student aid.

☐ Ineligible — Based on submitted documentation, the Division of Financial Aid has determined that this certificate IS INELIGIBLE for Title IV federal student aid.

Signature: Executive Director of Financial Aid
Date: 3/11/15