

APPROVED APR 20 2011

UC 11311 11S  
Approved CLASS U.S.C.  
3/25/11

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

RECEIVED MAR 24 2011

**TO:** UNDERGRADUATE COUNCIL—DEGREE PROGRAMS COMMITTEE  
**FROM:** MALACHI D. CRAWFORD, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES  
**RE:** CHANGES TO THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MINOR IN AAS  
**DATE:** 3/25/2011

**Current requirements** (from the current Undergraduate Catalogue, p. 188):

Minor in African American Studies

A minor in African American Studies requires a minimum of 18 semester hours, including AAS 2320: Introduction to African American Studies; a minimum of six additional hours from humanities, fine arts, and communication fields of study; and a minimum of nine hours from social sciences field of study. Twelve of the 18 hours must be in residence. Twelve hours must be advanced, at least six of which must be in residence. A minimum 2.00 grade point average for all courses applied to the minor is required.

Students may obtain a complete list of courses approved for this minor in the office of the African American Studies Program, 629 Agnes Arnold Hall. Briefly, students may fulfill the humanities, fine arts, and communication portion of this minor with approved courses in African American Studies, art history, English, history, journalism, music, and theatre (including appropriate selected topics courses). Students may fulfill the social sciences portion of this minor with approved courses in African American Studies, anthropology, economics, political science, psychology, and sociology.

**Proposed changes:**

Minor in African American Studies

A minor in African American Studies requires a minimum of 18 semester hours, including AAS 2320: Introduction to African American Studies, and AAS 4370: Seminar in African American Studies; Six additional hours in AAS and the humanities, fine arts, or communication courses; and Six hours in AAS and social science fields of study. Twelve of the 18 hours must be in residence. Twelve of the 18 hours must be in AAS courses. Twelve hours must be advanced, at least six of which must be in residence. A minimum 2.00 grade point average for all courses applied to the minor is required.

Students may obtain a complete list of courses approved for this minor in the office of the African American Studies Program, 629 Agnes Arnold Hall. Briefly, students may fulfill

the humanities, fine arts, and communication portion of this minor with approved courses in African American Studies, art history, English, history, journalism, music, and theatre (including appropriate selected topics courses). Students may fulfill the social sciences portion of this minor with approved courses in African American Studies, anthropology, economics, political science, psychology, and sociology.

**Justification:**

- A required senior seminar course in African American Studies (AAS 4370) certifies that minors are able to demonstrate proficiency in using the major historical, intellectual and professional theories and methods that shape the field of African American Studies. In addition, the course provides African American Studies (AAS) minors with a research experience that would give them the necessary skills to pursue advanced study in the discipline. The proposed changes guarantee that all AAS minors take a senior seminar.
- Requiring AAS minors to complete 12 of the 18 hours in AAS guarantees that students are exposed to the complex issues and various experiences that inform the world and worldview of Africana peoples.
- Reducing the required number of social science cognate hours to six hours in AAS and social science courses, instead of nine, takes into consideration the request for making the senior seminar course in African American Studies (AAS 4370) a required course.

