

African Studies Program 2018-19 Yearly Assessment Report

Type of Program: Minor

Division: College of Arts and Sciences

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There were no changes made to the curriculum, PLOs, or mission statement.

Mission Statement

USF's African Studies Program is an interdisciplinary minor program that seeks to deepen students' knowledge and understanding of the history and culture of African peoples in Africa and the African Diaspora. Through African-focused courses and events in history, politics, theology and religious studies, art, music, and literature, students are introduced to the diversity of African experiences and African contributions to global history and culture.

African Studies Program Learning Outcomes

Students will:

1. Understand and critically analyze the complex historical, political, social and economic processes—on the local, regional, and global levels—that have shaped the lives of Africans in Africa and the African Diaspora
2. Understand the diversity of Africa and its peoples from at least two perspectives (e.g., historical, cultural, social, religious)
3. Demonstrate some familiarity with the methodologies of a variety of disciplines (e.g., political, historical, economic, literary) to analyze Africa's experiences
4. Demonstrate some familiarity with the region's artistic and literary production and its contributions to global culture

Brief Summary of Most Recent Program Assessment Plan

The African Studies Program assessment plan does the following:

- Identify how each course satisfies the Program Learning Outcomes for the minor
- Assess whether each graduating minor has satisfied these outcomes
- Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the minor, and implement new ways of strengthening the programming and curriculum

Academic Program Review

The African Studies Program has mapped out its curriculum and identified how each course satisfies the Program Learning Outcomes for the minor. The minor has developed an “exit survey” to each graduating student with a minor in African studies to assess whether these students have satisfied the minor.

Methods

The Curriculum Map outlines how each Full Coverage African Studies course satisfies the Program Learning Outcomes:

Course Name	Course Number	PLO	Type of Diversity	Methodology
Modern African History	HIST 150	1,2,4	Historical and Social	Historical
African Politics and Development	POLS 348	1,2,3	Political and Economic	Political and Economic
Africa Films Africa	FREN 250	2,4	Cultural and Social	Cultural
History of South Africa	HIST 340	1,3	Historical and Political	Historical
Survey of African Music	MUS 212	2,4	Cultural and Social	Cultural
African Theologies	THRS 270	1,2	Cultural and Religious	Cultural
FYS: A Season in the Congo	FREN 195	1,2,4	Cultural and Social	Cultural
a.k.a. Africa	FREN 260	1,4	Cultural and Social	Cultural
Rencontres: L’Afrique francophone	FREN 330	1	Cultural	Linguistic
Theology in HIV/AIDS Contexts	THRS 306	1,2	Cultural and Religious	Historical and Cultural

* Political, Economic, and Social diversities and methodologies are supplemented with numerous partial coverage course offerings including the following courses: Intro to International Politics; Colonialism and Empire; Food Security and Global Justice; The Global Economy; Global Inequalities and Social Justice; Introduction to Sacred Scripture; Economic Development; Francophone Literature and Culture; Introduction to Globalization; Foreign Aid and International Development.

The African Studies Program deals with two major challenges:

1. Lack of African language offering at USF
2. Limited study abroad options in Africa

We will continue working with the African Studies program at UC-Berkeley to brainstorm ways to provide African language training at USF. In addition, we are working with the Internationalization committee to improve study abroad options on the African continent. Currently, students attend programs in Tunisia, Morocco, and South Africa.

The Programming Map outlines how each Programming Contribution satisfies the Program Learning Outcomes:

Program	Type	PLO
Africa Movie Night	Film Series	1,2,4
Frontiers in the Politics of Development	Speaker Series	1,3
Critical Dialogue on Peaceful African Elections	Speaker/Discussion Series	1
Human Rights Film Festival	Film Festival	1,4
Forum for Transnational Collaboration in the Arts	Conference	1,3
a.k.a Africa Speakers	Speaker Series	1,2,4
This Week in Africa	Weekly Email Bulletin	1,2,3,4

Results

We now more about whether graduating seniors have satisfied the requirements of the minor after analyzing the results from the students’ “exit survey.” We have developed the survey in line with the Program Learning Outcomes. We will use the results of the survey to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the minor, and implement new ways of strengthening the programming and curriculum.

Three graduating seniors completed the exit survey, and all were very pleased with the minor. Students noted that they liked it because it challenged them “to do something different” and now have “a clear understanding of what is going on there, beyond the stale stereotypes.” One noted, “It is really special.” Students note that the speakers were excellent and did a good job of “explaining what is going on in Africa.” All three students mentioned how great the core classes in African studies are.

Students noted a few potential improvements. One student mentioned that she would have liked to take an African art course. This same student would also have appreciated taking an African language course, as well as an immersion trip to Africa. Another student would have appreciated

another semester of Arabic being offered. She also expressed the desire for more research assistantships. One student expressed interest in an African economy class.

For direct assessment, the advisory board will meet to finalize a rubric wherein student scores on the assignment correspond to their level of attainment of the PLO. We plan to evaluate the final grade scores of African Studies minors; a piece of written work for each student; and the overall course of study minors have put together. We assessed students in December 2018 and May 2019.

Closing the Loop

In last year's assessment, the program outlined three immediate goals. Here is the progress we made:

1. Devise an "exit survey" to all graduate minors, analyze the data, and use the results to improve curriculum and programming.

We finalized the exit survey, and distributed it to graduating minors in December 2018 and May 2019.

2. Boost the number of students in the minor program from 13 (2017) to 25 (2018) and 30 (2019).

The program has seen an increase from 17 to 18 students.

3. Expand language and study abroad opportunities for African Studies minors.

Students now have study abroad opportunities in Morocco and South Africa. Other students have done work in Kenya. Students are also now eligible for a FLAS language scholarship to study an African language at UC Berkeley during the summer (UC-Berkeley received Title VI funding this year, and USF is working with the African Studies program there to find opportunities for USF students in language courses).

In addition, the program has greatly expanded its programming. To inform the African Studies community, the program sends out a newsletter with a list of events on campus and in the Bay Area approximately every three weeks. The programming includes:

African Studies Programming, 2018-19

Africa Movie Night

April 16, 2019: *Life is Fare* (Eritrea)

February 12, 2019: *Inxeba (The Wound)*

November 7: *Burkinabe Rising*

African Studies Social gatherings

September 22: African Studies Kick Off Party

African Studies Lectures

October 31, 4:45-6:30 pm: Christianity and Traditional African Religions, Rev. Isaac Kalonji

October 25, 3:00-5:00 pm: Women's Leadership in Africa and Beyond, Yvette Chesson-Wureh

October 22, 4:45-6:30 pm: Child Labor and Human Rights in the Congo, Justine Kasa-Vubu

Frontiers in the Politics of Development

April 11, 2018: Daniel Masterson and Vasil Yassenov (US, refugees)

Critical Dialogue on Peaceful African Elections

October 3, 2018: The Case of Cameroon

Affiliated events

April 25, 2019: Bettina Ng'weno, "Demolition Dispatches: Environment, Policy, and Development in New Nairobi" (Urban and Public Affairs Colloquium Series).

April 30, 7-9 pm: African Cultural Night (African Students Association).

March 28, 3:00-4:30 pm: Economics Department Research Seminar, Kweku Opoku-Agyemang

March 21, 5 pm: Human Rights Film Festival, *Rafiki*

March 7, 7-9 pm: Global Women's Rights Forum, Kasiva Mutua, "Women's Rights and Drumming"

February 13, 5:30-7:30 pm: Education for Social Change: Lessons from South Africa

February 11, 3:30-4:30 pm: Politics Research Colloquium, Kathleen Klaus, "Land and Election Violence in Kenya"

February 7-9: Black Theologies of Liberation and Racial Justice Conference