

PAN-AMERICAN STUDIES



Meet Your Kent Core and Diversity Requirements With Courses From the Department of Pan-African Studies

What does “Pan-African Studies” Mean?

Pan-African Studies is the study of communities of people of African descent both on the continent of Africa and in various countries throughout the world. Many courses in the Pan-African Studies Department focus on the sociopolitical experience, culture and history of people of African descent in North America, primarily the United States. We also offer courses which cover the cultures of African-descended people of Canada, the Caribbean, South America (including Brazil, Peru and Honduras), as well as the Arabian peninsula, Iran, India and the former Ottoman Empire (covering contemporary Turkey, Romania and other countries near the Black Sea). Pan-African studies thus covers any place in the world where there are significant numbers of African-descended people, whether they arrived as voluntary or involuntary immigrants.

Kent Core - (general education requirements)

The Kent Core is the foundation of the university’s mission to prepare students to live in today’s complex, global society. It broadens intellectual perspectives, fosters ethical and humanitarian values and prepares students for responsible citizenship and productive careers. Through this learning experience, students develop the intellectual flexibility they need to adapt to an ever-changing world. Although not every Kent Core course will address all these goals, learning within the Kent Core as a whole enables students to acquire the tools for living rich and meaningful lives in our diverse society.

Diversity Requirement

All students must complete a two-course diversity requirement, consisting of one with a domestic focus and one with a global focus. At least one course must be taken from the Kent Core, marked as “G” (global) or “D” (domestic/U.S.). This course may count both for the diversity requirement and for the Kent Core category in which it is listed. Visit the diversity requirement page in the Undergraduate Catalog for a complete course listing.



“My academic experience at Kent State has been largely shaped and impacted by the Department of Pan-African Studies. All of the classes I have taken in that department have greatly influenced and developed my perception of the world, of African cultures and of myself.”

Robin Wright
KSU-NAACP President
Sigma Alpha Lambda, National Leadership and Honors Organization
Student Advisory Council

Pan-African Studies (PAS)

G	TM	23001	Black Experience I: Beginnings to 1865 (3)
D	TM	23002	Black Experience II: 1865 to Present (3)



EXCELLENCE in Action

Why study people of African descent?

- As globalization brings countries and peoples ever closer together through new technologies such as improved air transport and digital sound and imaging, it is beneficial to learn about the commonalities and differences of the people who all share this planet.
- From the pyramids of Egypt to the samba of Brazil, students learn about the diverse and dynamic ways that black people have contributed to the development of many cultures.
- DPAS courses such as **Black Experience I**, **Black Experience II**, Ancient African Civilizations and Pan African Women's Literature open new worlds that make our past and ideas about our possible future more accessible.

Are courses different in DPAS? Do I need special preparation? Will I get the same credits as in other programs?

An important characteristic of all courses in DPAS is that our faculty members are committed to a teaching style that embraces a holistic view of learning. Music, visual images and experiential activities characterize the Pan-African studies approach. Similarly, a course in political and economic trends in the American black community or in Africa may include exposure to literary or artistic events, while study on the Caribbean may include films, reading poems or a visit by a guest lecturer.



We encourage and help develop critical thinking and good analytical skills among our students. On the other hand, no special preparation — except for good study habits and a lively curiosity about the world we live in! — is needed to be successful in our courses and to join our program as a major or minor.

For more information, contact:

Department of Pan-African Studies

Ph: 330-672-2300

<http://www.kent.edu/catalog/2009/CollegesPrograms/AS/PAS.cfm>



"The professors in the Department of Pan-African Studies are like my family who gave me the opportunity to learn more about myself as a man of African descent and what that really means."

Dylan L. Sellers
Senior
President Black United Students
Hometown, Cleveland, Ohio
Major Pan-African Studies



"Kent State was my choice because it's close to home. Not to mention that it is one of few colleges that offer a Pan-African studies minor."

Christopher Devon Thompson
Sophomore
Home town, Cleveland, Ohio
Major, Nursing