Loyola University New Orleans 2013 African + African-American Studies Annual Report

1 Executive Summary

The minor in African and African American Studies at Loyola invites students to study the peoples, histories, and cultures of Africa and people of African descent in the United States, the Caribbean, Latin America, and anywhere there is an African diaspora presence. The program provides a stimulating combination of intellectual engagement and cultural experience through its course offerings and events.

AAAS offers approximately 6-8 courses per semester, but we are hoping to increase our offerings in the coming years. We currently have 17 minors, up from 7 at the beginning of this year, indicating that we are growing as a program and that our reputation is expanding, in large part as a result of greater advertising, recruitment, and more events.

AAAS promotes diversity and social justice pedagogy and scholarship, in line with the university mission and strategic plan. AAAS works closely with the English and History departments and relies on them for administrative support. We often co-sponsor events with Middle East Peace Studies and Women’s Studies, as well as the Center for Intercultural Understanding.

AAAS has undergone a major transition in the last few years. For the last year and a half, the directorship has been in flux. However, in the spring of 2013, the committee elected a new director and committed itself to reinvigorating the program. The enthusiastic participation of the committee members has made this transition successful.

2.0 Unit Profile Summary

Director for previous three years
Spring 2013 -- : Laura Murphy, Department of English
Fall 2012: Angel Parham, Department of Sociology
2011-2012: Katherine Fidler, Department of History
2010-2011: Angel Parham, Department of Sociology

Advisory Board
Trimiko Melancon, English
Barbara Ewell, English
Laura Murphy, English
Judith Hunt, HUNS
Kathleen Fitzgerald, Sociology
Anthony Ladd, Sociology
Angel Parham, Sociology
Ashley Howard, History
Charles Corprew, Psychology
Laura Hope, Theater
Lisa Martin, Center for Intercultural Understanding
Andre Perry, Social Sciences

2.1 Faculty Staff Profile

Advisory Board
Trimiko Melancon, English
Barbara Ewell, English
3.0 Goals for Current Academic Year

With new leadership in place in the Spring of 2013, the AAAS program set new goals including:
- Increase number of affiliated faculty
- Increase number of minors
- Increase number of course offerings
- Increase number of events and participation
- Update faculty biographies on website
- Update the protocols of the program
- Update the course evaluation procedure
- Create procedures for course credit exceptions
- Review curriculum and make tracking sheet revisions
- Revise bulletin materials
- Review new course offerings
- Submit all AAAS designated courses to Rachal by deadline and advertise on campus
- Submit all courses for Diversity RAC evaluation
- Review and revise website and other program advertising

We have achieved all of our goals except for the revision of the website in the course of this semester.

Growth: We added two new faculty members to the committee and omitted those faculty who have remained inactive. Even with the exit of several faculty, we have grown from ten to twelve affiliated faculty members. We increased our minors from seven to seventeen in the course of a month, and we expect even more new registrants during advising. There were only five minors when the 2010-2011 report was made. We will graduate five minors this year.

Programming: In terms of programming, we held several events, including co-sponsoring the Uwem Akpan visit, the “There is Much to Love About Mali” event, and the Michael Hughey event. All of these events and many other relevant ones were posted to our new blackboard page, which includes all students enrolled in all AAAS courses. This increased attendance at all of these events and kept students aware of our program. We had an AAAS mixer in the middle of the semester, where we sought feedback from our minors on recruitment.

Administration: Faculty bios have all been updated. A list of student learning outcomes, which defines the procedure for reviewing courses to be offered as AAAS, has been created and approved by the committee, as well as a procedure for students who seek exceptions for fulfilling AAAS requirements. We reviewed the curriculum and decided to maintain the current requirements, but we changed some of the course offerings and submitted those for both the bulletin and the tracking sheet. The protocol has been reviewed and revised as necessary. We reviewed new courses as they were designed. We also submitted all AAAS designated courses as a single packet for approval by the Diversity RAC to smooth the process for both the Diversity committee and the AAAS faculty. All AAAS courses were approved by the committee and will count toward the Diversity RAC beginning next year. We submitted a list of all courses to
Mike Rachal for Fall 2013 and have advertised the courses through handouts and flyers and the blackboard site. The latter two strategies have helped us significantly in the advising process.

Over the summer, we hope to revise the materials on the website. We hope to maintain the increases in our student minors into next year. We are adding two student liaisons to our committee to help guide our recruitment efforts, and we plan to work more closely with the Black Student Union to co-program. The goal is to make the AAAS program more visible on campus and more appealing to students looking for a minor.

4.0 Budget for Current Academic Year

Operating Budget and Expenditures for 2012-2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Uwem Akpan event</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hughey event</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Power Mixtape</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catering for AAAS Mixer</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crystal Williams</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mali talk</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gift for Senior Award</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Printing of posters</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total AY 2012-2013: 1350

Allocation for AY 2012-2013: 1350

5.0 Assessment Report

Assessment Report/Program Outcomes

Student Learning Outcomes: We produced a new document, linked to at the end of this document, outlining our student learning outcomes for the AAAS minor. This was created in a discussion with the entire committee and was revised several times before being finally approved. The SLOs are assessed through evaluation of the course materials, assignments, and syllabi.

The goals for reinvigorating the program and attracting more minors were established by the committee at the beginning of Spring Semester and were assessed at the end of the semester as having been achieved. Increase in faculty and student involvement was a major marker of our success and will continue to be a measure.

All students who graduate with a AAAS designation have to be finally approved by the associate dean or the director of AAAS to determine that they have in fact completed all of their required course work. We keep a current list of all graduating seniors and assess their completion status. We hope to be more proactive in minor tracking and advising in the coming years.

We hope to increase the number of courses offered in the program in the coming years, but staffing is short. The Diversity RAC may provide some support for offering more AAAS courses in the majors.

6.0 Summary of Achievements
Summary of Achievements

Students:

- Rachel Sayers has been accepted to graduate school in political science at Duke.
- Shan'tra Henry has been accepted to graduate school in public health at Tulane.
- Lauren Imwold won a spot in the Institute for Interns: Pedagogies of Art for Social Change, for her work with black social justice theater.
- Kelle Ory won the Dawson Gaillard Expository Writing Award for a paper written in ENGL H295, an AAAS designated course.
- Eli Green and Libby Lawson, after reading Michelle Alexander's *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Era of Colorblindness* in Dr. Howard's African American History and Culture course, have chartered a Students Again Mass Incarceration (SAMI) chapter at Loyola University. The group is organized under LUCAP.
- Lauren Imwold wrote her senior thesis under the direction of Laura Hope on black social justice theater in New Orleans.
- Raynesha Williams wrote on The Effect of Hip-hop on Black Males' Attitudes towards Women for her senior capstone in sociology.

Faculty

- Ashley Howard presented papers at two national African American studies conferences, serves on the Academic Programming Committee for ASALH, and was chosen as the history co-editor for *The Black Scholar* journal.
- Trimiko Melancon won the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation Foundation Career Enhancement Fellowship and was a visiting fellow at the Anna Julia Cooper Project at Tulane, where she presented a paper in the AJC seminar. She presented at a roundtable and on a panel at the MLA on black female sexualities, and she was elected as a delegate to the MLA delegate assembly as ethnic studies representative. She presented at two workshops on the professoriate, and she presented at Princeton and Xavier on her research in African American women's literature.
- Laura Murphy presented papers at three national conferences on African literature/human trafficking, gave the keynote address for the African Literature Association conference, gave two invited lectures at universities, had an article accepted for publication in *Genre*, submitted another journal article on the subject, won the Marquette grant for summer research in African literatures, and submitted the final manuscript for a book on slave narratives that will be published in 2014 by Columbia University Press.
- Angel Parham presented papers on African American Studies at two conferences and acted as the Coordinator for People and Stories (http://www.peopleandstories.net/) using literature to discuss complex issues of race, class, and cultural difference with GED students enrolled in the Village Program of the Youth Empowerment Project.

7 Supporting Documents
Supporting Documents


Course Approval/SLOs: http://interdisciplinary.loyno.edu/system/files/aaas-course-criteria-feb-2013.pdf


No 2011-2012 report was submitted, so this report acts as a two year report.


Courses offered each semester can be found in LORA.

African + African-American Studies Supporting Documents