

Department of Africology and African American Studies: Temple University

Temple University's Department of Africology and African American Studies provides students with a textured intellectual experience through the systematic Afrocentric study of the thought, behavior and practices of African people globally. The faculty and students in the unit pursue knowledge from the perspective of African people as both agents and subjects of experience, as they also remain open to plural understandings emanating from the multicultural society in, and the rapidly shrinking world beyond. Students engage in critical discourse about issues of race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, class and culture across a great expanse of time and geographical space. Their classes interrogate African frames of reference, from the classical to the contemporary periods, tracing continuities and transformations from Africa to numerous diasporic communities worldwide.

Department of Africology and African American Studies at Temple is committed to the shaping and evolution of our discipline, and to positive change in our communities. Through enhanced mentoring and cooperative pedagogy, they cultivate the academic excellence, social responsibility and political engagement necessary for subsequent generations of scholars to carry this work into the future.

The curriculum stresses the skills necessary to think critically, write clearly, argue persuasively, and solve problems effectively. Students are exposed to theory and research in a variety of subject areas and are encouraged to engage in active research and service beyond the classroom. The Department of Africology and African American Studies at Temple alumni have entered careers in primary and secondary education and administration, social work and administration, research design, law enforcement, city government, and have also worked with museums and other cultural and artistic institutions. Several alumni are active in local and national entertainment in roles that include music production, film making, acting, and script writing. Many others have earned graduate degrees in a variety of areas, including law, the health-related professions such as medicine and nursing, public administration, and the social sciences, including political science, history, psychology, sociology, and anthropology.

The department offers three internal awards for graduating seniors—two privately-sponsored awards for outstanding academic performance and one departmental award for outstanding service. The Department of Africology and African American Studies also supervises the Temple in Ghana program, which allows students to study for six weeks during the summer at the University of Ghana in Accra.