

FIU

FLORIDA
INTERNATIONAL
UNIVERSITY

African & African Diaspora Studies

School of International and Public Affairs | *College of Arts and Sciences*



2009-2010

Graduate
Student
Handbook

African & African Diaspora Studies

University Park, LC 304 | 305-348-6860 | <http://africana.fiu.edu>

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Dear Students,

We warmly welcome you to FIU's M.A. program in African & African Diaspora Studies, previously known as African-New World Studies. The new name reflects a more global approach to African diasporic communities in all their transnational richness. It suggests a less teleological and bounded approach to the development of diasporic cultures in the Western hemisphere, which have repeatedly renewed their ties to Africa's "Old World", itself constantly in flux. Furthermore, the program is now part of FIU's School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA).

The name change also reflects some programmatic transformation. Students entering the program prior to fall 2009 chose one of three tracks of study: pedagogy, policy analysis, or cultural studies. The revised program allows students enhanced flexibility in their course of study, merely requiring a balance of AADS course electives from broadly defined areas of the Humanities and the Social Sciences.

The rest of the program—the core course in African & African Diaspora Studies theory, a methods course chosen from another discipline, and the 3-semester graduate colloquium—will be familiar to returning students, as will the choice between a Thesis Option and the Research Paper/Proposal Option, both described in this handbook.

In the AADS office, Cheryl Johnson is in charge of all issues pertaining to academic affairs while Rosa Henriquez is in charge of everything financial and contractual, as well as the programming of events. AADS faculty, both core and affiliate, are drawn from an array of disciplines and fields of inquiry and are engaged in a great variety of research. The AADS community is engaged in the rich stew of cultural and intellectual life of one of the most global cities in the Americas: Miami is a crucial urban node of the African diaspora. And, as anyone will tell you, the faculty, staff, and students of AADS, despite the change in name, still know how to have a good time at a party. So come along and join us!

Sincerely,



Dr. Jean Rahier, Director
African & African Diaspora Studies Program



Dr. Alex Lichtenstein, Graduate Program Director
African & African Diaspora Studies



African & African Diaspora Studies Faculty

Core Faculty:

Jean Muteba Rahier, Associate Professor of Anthropology in the Dept. of Global & Sociocultural Studies and Director, African & African Diaspora Studies (AADS)

Jean-Robert Cadely, Associate Professor, Modern Languages and AADS

Véronique Helenon, Assistant Professor, History and AADS

Alexandra Cornelius-Diallo, Assistant Professor, History and AADS

Dionne Stephens, Assistant Professor, Psychology and AADS

Andrea Queeley, Assistant Professor of Anthropology in the Dept. of Global & Sociocultural Studies and AADS

Affiliated Faculty:

Kingsley Banya, Professor, College of Education

Pascale Becel, Associate Professor and Chair, Modern Languages

Steven R. Blevins, Assistant Professor, English

Ginette Curry, Adjunct Instructor, English

John Clark, Professor, Politics & International Relations

Lisa Delpit, Professor, College of Education and Director, Center for Urban Education and Innovation

Mohamed Farouk, Associate Professor, College of Education

Jenna Gibbs, Assistant Professor, History

Tometro Hopkins, Associate Professor, English

Alex Lichtenstein, Associate Professor, History and Director of AADS Graduate Programs

Andrea Mantell-Seidel, Associate Professor, Dance and Senior Director of Academic Programs, Latin American and Caribbean Center

Assefa Melesse, Associate Professor, Environmental Studies

Aurora Morcillo, Associate Professor, History and Women's Studies

Roderick Neumann, Professor of Geography in the Dept. of
Global & Sociocultural Studies

Ulrich Oslender, Assistant Professor of Geography in the Dept. of
Global & Sociocultural Studies

Vrushali Patil, Assistant Professor of Sociology in the Dept. of
Global & Sociocultural Studies and Women's Studies

Valerie Patterson, Clinical Associate Professor, Public Administration

Joyce Peterson, Associate Professor, History
and Associate Dean, College of Arts and Sciences

Heather Russell, Associate Professor, English

Vicky Silvera, Head, Special Collection, Library

Andre Smith, Assistant Professor, College of Law

Augusto Soledade, Assistant Professor, Dance

Linda Spears-Bunton, Associate Professor, College of Education

Alex Stepick III, Professor of Anthropology in the Dept. of
Global & Sociocultural Studies

Ida Tafari, Adjunct Instructor, African & African Diaspora Studies

Juan Torres-Pou, Associate Professor, Modern Languages

Chantalle Verna, Assistant Professor, History and Politics & International Relations

Carlton Waterhouse, Associate Professor, College of Law

Donna Weir-Soley, Associate Professor, English

Kirsten Wood, Associate Professor, History

Albert Wuaku, Assistant Professor, Religious Studies



Other faculty not identified above can be considered Affiliated AADS Faculty based on research, identified interest, and publications. Students can take courses for credit from other AADS Affiliated Faculty after approval of syllabus by graduate director.

OVERVIEW OF M.A. PROGRAM

The **M.A. in African & African Diaspora Studies** at Florida International University provides interdisciplinary, graduate level training that draws on faculty expertise across many fields, including education, national and transnational policy analysis, history, cultural studies, and modern languages. This M.A. degree aims to develop scholars with specific skills, research methodologies, principles, and knowledge that will lead to professional positions in a range of fields as it simultaneously prepares graduates for further study at the Ph.D. level. With a geographic reach covering Africa, the Caribbean, the Americas, Europe and Asia, the M.A. in African & African Diaspora Studies provides one of the few truly international, multidisciplinary M.A. models among Africana Studies programs, departments and centers nationally. As such, it is organized to develop research interests and models, advance knowledge, and develop interactive and comparative relationships with similar programs which pursue the life, cultural and social formations, economics, education, language, expressive and performing arts, governmental and other institutional systems, of peoples of African descent wherever they exist.

The goals of the M.A. program are to provide students with specific skills, knowledge and resources to:

1. Work in specific programs and units related to African communities in Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean, the United States, Europe, and Asia, international organizations, NGOs, multi-cultural curriculum development and teaching and other educational contexts, race and social and public policy, journalism and other diverse fields;
2. Prepare students to use and develop theoretical, analytical, and methodological approaches to critical issues such as those pertaining to race and ethnicity in all their manifestations, development and underdevelopment, technology, relations of domination and power, environmental policies, health and wellness, issues of

self determination and mutual cooperation, and all aspects of aesthetic/creative expression;

3. Create new knowledge through research and close study of relevant communities and disseminate this knowledge to the various communities we serve;
4. Understand and confront the unique socioeconomic problems facing communities of Africa and the African Diaspora;
5. Incorporate into an intellectual and research agenda, theoretical and analytical frameworks that focus on a) “Resistance and Struggle,” b) “Nationalities and National/ Post National Identities,” c) “Migration and Identity/ Geographical Repositioning,” d) “History, Culture, Performative and Expressive Modes,” and e) “Schooling, Pedagogical Exigencies, Instructional Practices, and Educational Policies.”

ABOUT FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY (FIU)

Florida International University is a member of the State University System of Florida and is the largest public university in South Florida. Metropolitan Miami is the gateway to Latin America and the Caribbean, and FIU has become a leading academic center in the region. FIU’s enrolls nearly 40,000 students. In addition to United States citizens, the University traditionally attracts a significant number of international students, including hundreds from the Caribbean and hundreds from Africa.



The Graham Student Center, Modesto Maidique Campus



ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Each applicant to the African & African Diaspora Studies Graduate Program must complete an online graduate application form available at <http://gradschool.fiu.edu/admissions.html> and arrange to send transcripts of all prior college (undergraduate and graduate) work and official reports of the Graduate Records Exam (GRE) and TOEFL (if applicable) to the FIU Graduate Admissions Office. Along with copies of the above material, each applicant should also submit to the Graduate Program Director of AADS:

1. A statement of purpose, expressing the applicant's academic and professional objectives
2. Writing samples and other relevant professional work that may support the application.
3. Two letters of recommendation from university professors who are able to comment on the applicant's potential

The application file must be complete before the African & African Diaspora Studies Graduate Committee will consider the applicant for admission. The deadline for receipt of application—including all supporting materials and letters of recommendation—is February 1st. Applicants are encouraged to apply sooner. To be admitted into the African & African Diaspora Studies Graduate Program a student must meet the University's graduate admission requirements, which can be found in Florida International University's Graduate Catalog, and the following minimum standards:

- I. Applicants must have a baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university.
- II. Applicants must have an undergraduate grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 or higher and a combined score of 1050 or higher on the verbal and quantitative sections of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE). Applicants must submit both grade transcripts and GRE scores for consideration. The student must also have a GPA of 3.5 on any previous graduate work.
- III. Applicants whose native language is not English are required to submit scores for the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or the international English Language Testing System (IELTS). A total score of 80 on the IBT TOEFL or 6.3 overall on the IELTS is required.



M.A. PROGRAM SCHEDULE AND REQUIREMENTS

Candidates must obtain a grade of B or higher in all courses and achieve a cumulative average of at least 3.0 (based on a 4.0 scale) and present a satisfactory research paper or a Master's Thesis. A Thesis committee or a research paper committee composed of at least two FIU faculty will guide the student through successful completion of the Thesis or research paper.

Forming your Committee

A student's Thesis or Research paper committee must be comprised of at least two AADS graduate faculty members from the list of Core and Affiliate faculty above. Other faculty not identified as AADS graduate faculty members may be considered to serve on a committee based on their research, identified interest, and publications, with permission of the Graduate Director.

Before the end of a student's first year in the program, he/she should form a thesis or research project committee. This committee will consist of a Committee Chairperson and two additional committee members. The Committee Chairperson and one other committee member must be drawn from the list of Core and Affiliate faculty of the African & African Diaspora Studies Program. The remaining committee member will generally be a faculty member at FIU, although with the approval of the Committee Chairperson and the Graduate Program Director, the third member may come from outside the AADS Program or University.

AT THIS STAGE, **FORM M-1** (Appointment of Thesis Committee) MUST BE FILLED OUT AND SIGNED BY THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND THE GRADUATE DIRECTOR AND TURNED IN TO THE UNIVERSITY GRADUATE SCHOOL BY THE POSTED DEADLINE.

UGS deadlines for M.A. students can be found at:

<http://gradschool.fiu.edu/downloads/Thesis%20&%20Dissertation%20Deadlines%20-%20Revised%20Calendar%204.6.09.pdf>

Remember, deadlines for the College of Arts & Sciences are usually one week before the posted UGS deadlines.

For the Research Project proposal, the student should fill in an internal AADS form that will have to be signed by ALL committee members and by the Graduate Program Director.

Thesis Option

Students choosing this option prepare a thesis that will be between 75 and 100 pages. The student may use original data if she or he and the Committee Chairperson consider it appropriate. However, a thesis or research paper may be based on secondary sources or on library research. In any case it will be based on scholarly sources defined by particular disciplines. While thesis and research papers need not be based on original data collected by the student, they must be rigorous and original. By rigorous, we mean that the thesis/research paper must be tightly argued and logical, well written and well organized. By original, we mean that the thesis cannot simply summarize the arguments or work of others. It must have the student's unique interpretation, which should be cogent--given the data under consideration.

Before engaging in a Thesis, the student must have his or her Thesis Project approved by his or her committee. The student should work closely with his or her faculty advisor during the preparation of the proposal. A proposal may not be given to the remaining committee members without the approval of the faculty advisor. At the end of this approval process (which should ideally take place by the end of the first summer of enrolment for the full time students), **THE FORM M-2 (Master's Thesis Proposal) MUST BE FILLED OUT AND SIGNED BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND GRADUATE DIRECTOR.** Again, UGS deadlines need to be observed.

Please be aware that the UGS requires the submission of a Responsible Conduct of Research Certification by all students submitting a proposal and an M-2 form. Please see <http://ori.fiu.edu/responsibleConduct.html> for information on mandatory RCR training. You should consult with the Graduate Program Director about which RCR course is most appropriate for your research. Please also note that Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval is required for all FIU research involving human subjects.

Once the student has completed his or her research and thesis, and all chapters have been reviewed by the faculty advisor and by the remaining members of the thesis committee, the student must **FILL OUT FORM M-3 (Preliminary Approval of Thesis and Request for Oral defense) AND HAVE IT SIGNED BY ALL MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE AND BY THE DEAN OF ARTS & SCIENCES BEFORE SENDING IT TO THE UGS.**

It is customary that the student will still have to make some minor changes to his or her thesis following the thesis oral defense. If the committee members found the text of the thesis as well as the oral defense acceptable, they will sign **FORM M-4 (Thesis Defense Report)**. Once all final changes recommended by the thesis committee have been implemented, the Faculty Thesis Advisor will sign **Form M-5**.

The **Research Paper Option** will follow much the same procedure, but does not require UGS forms. See p. 14.



DEPARTMENTAL SIGNATURES AND DEADLINES

Departmental Deadlines for Signatures

Students must submit any forms to the Graduate Program Director (GPD) *at least one week prior to College and/or UGS deadlines.*

Deadlines are published at:

<http://gradschool.fiu.edu/calendars.html>

Please note that the College of Arts and Sciences require all paperwork a week before UGS deadlines.

It is the *student's responsibility to know these deadlines* and abide by ALL of them (departmental, College, University). Any additional forms that the GPD must arbitrate/sign must also be submitted at least a week before they are due. Students should not expect the GPD to rush the reviewing and administrative process if the forms and other documents are not submitted on time.

Important 2009-2011 UGS Deadlines

One week earlier for CAS; two weeks earlier for AADS

		<u>For graduation in Summer Term 2010</u>	<u>Fall 2010</u>	<u>Spring 2011</u>
Form Committee	M-1	10/2/2009	2/23/2010	6/4/2010
Thesis Proposal	M-2	3/12/2010	7/9/2010	TBA
Preliminary Approval	M-3	6/25/2010	TBA	TBA
Defense Report	M-4	7/16/2010	TBA	TBA
Final Thesis	M-5	8/6/2010	TBA	TBA

COMBINED M.A./PhD PROGRAMS

As of Fall 2009, AADS offers a combined M.A./PhD in AADS and International Relations that allows students to pursue both degrees at the same time. We anticipate approval of two more combined M.A./Ph.D. programs, one in Global and Sociocultural Studies and the other in Atlantic History.

In all three of these combined programs, students must apply simultaneously to AADS and the PhD program they want to enter, and meet the admissions requirements for *both* programs.

The course requirements for the M.A./Ph.D. in AADS and International relations combine the core requirements for the two programs. Students in this program will take the following courses during their first two years for 36 credits:

INR 5615 Research Design
INR 5609 Contemporary Dynamics of International Relations
INR 6706 Political Economy of International Relations
AFA 5005 African and African Diaspora Studies Theory
AFA 6911 Research Paper/Proposal Writing in African and African Diaspora Studies
AFA 6851 Advanced Seminar in African and African Diaspora Studies
AFA 6920 African and African Diaspora Studies Graduate Colloquium
(1 credit/semester for 3 semesters)

15 credits of elective from the lists of elective courses (see MA in AADS): 6 to 9 credits from the Humanities list and 6 to 9 credits from the Social Sciences list

The PhD in IR requires a total of 75 credits. All 36 of the AADS M.A. credits will count towards the International relations PhD, which students will begin upon completing the M.A. See the International relations department for details of the requirements for the remaining 39 credits in that program.

Please see the following departmental websites for further information:

International Relations:

http://international.fiu.edu/index.php?name=dept_of_politics_and_international_relations

Global and Sociocultural Studies:

<http://gss.fiu.edu/>

History: <http://www.fiu.edu/~history/Graduates/phdnew.htm>



CURRICULUM & COURSES

NOTE: the following requirements govern students entering in Fall 2009 and after. Students who entered prior to Fall 2009 in one of three specializations and/or to pursue the Internship/Community Option should consult the previous graduate handbook.

Core and Required Courses (12 credits) (For Thesis and Research Paper/Proposal options)

Total: 36 credit hours

AFA 5005 African and African Diaspora Studies Theory (offered every other fall semester) (3)

AFA 6851 Advanced Seminar in African and African Diaspora Studies

This course is offered every summer, and is typically taken at the very end of a student's enrollment, prior to graduation. (3)

AFA 6920 African and African Studies Diaspora Graduate Colloquium (1 credit per semester, for 3 semesters)

Students must register for one credit for three consecutive semesters and attend all symposia, conferences, colloquia, and lectures sponsored by the program and write response papers on each event to be submitted to the AADS faculty member in charge of the colloquium. A syllabus will be given to all enrolled students at the beginning of each semester. (3)

One research methods course (3)

All students must take at least one research method course. In consultation with the GPD they will choose this course from the list below, according to their disciplinary preference as it relates to their specific research interest.

ENG 5009	Literary Criticism and Scholarship [English]
LIN 5760	Research Methods in Language Variation [Linguistics]
SPW 5806	Methods of Literary Research [Modern Languages]
POS 5706	Research Methodology [Politics]
SYA 6305	Research Methods I [Sociology]
ANG 6497	Qualitative Research Methods [Anthropology]
DEP 5796	Methods of Developmental Research [Psychology]
HIS 6059	Historical Methods [History]
INR 5615	Research Design in International Relations [International Relations]

Language Requirement

Students will be asked to demonstrate proficiency in a language other than English according to the nature of their thesis or research paper/project and professional interests. Credit hours earned in meeting language requirement will not count towards the 36 credit hours required for the degree.

Thesis Option Requirements

Students choosing to write an M.A. thesis must take 6 credits of thesis research, ***AFA 6971 Thesis Research in African & African Diaspora Studies***.

Students writing a thesis must acquire certification of Responsible Conduct of Research.

Thesis students will also take 18 credits of electives, selected from the lists below on pp. 15-17. They must have at least 6 credits in each category of electives, Humanities and Social Sciences. With approval of the Graduate Director, students may also select other courses not listed below after submitting the appropriate syllabus. Students are strongly advised to check course offerings in relevant departments each year, as these can frequently change. Please remember that not all of the courses are always offered; if one you need to take is available, grab it the semester it is offered.

Research Paper Option Requirements

Students choosing to write a Research Paper instead of a thesis will not register for thesis credits; instead, they will take 3 credits of research paper/proposal writing, ***AFA 6911 Research Paper/Proposal Writing in African and African Diaspora Studies***. Typically, this class will be taken immediately prior to AFA 6851 Advanced Seminar in African and African Diaspora Studies.

The 25-50 page research paper is different from a thesis in that it does not require a formal oral defense by the student in front of his or her committee. While the research paper is not a full thesis, it should nevertheless be rigorous, with original analysis that reflects the student's ability to carry out a well thought out research project to completion. The research paper must be read and approved by the members of the student's committee.

Before engaging in a research paper, the student must have his or her topic approved by his or her committee. The student should work closely with his or her faculty advisor during the preparation of the proposal. A proposal may not be given to the remaining committee members without the approval of the faculty advisor. At the end of this approval process (which should ideally take place by the end of the first summer of enrolment for the full time students), the internal AADS form (Research Proposal Form) **MUST BE FILLED OUT AND SIGNED BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND GRADUATE DIRECTOR.**

Once the student has completed his or her research, he or she must complete the writing of the “research paper.” The writing of such a paper must be done in close consultation with the faculty advisor. Once the faculty advisor finds the research paper acceptable, the student will submit it to the other committee members. The submission of the final draft subsequently to the other members of the committee will logically follow the completion of the required course, "AFA 6851 Advanced Seminar in African and African Diaspora Studies," which will typically be taken during the student’s second summer of enrollment (if he or she is a full time student who began the M.A. program in a fall semester). Once all faculty members approve the research paper as acceptable, they will sign an AADS Internal Form (Research Paper Form) that will formally indicate their respective approval. The Graduation Certification for Graduation will not be signed by the GPD until the AADS internal form indicating that the research paper was accepted has been signed by ALL committee members. The deadline governing the Research Paper Form is the same as Form M-5 for Thesis students.

The Research Paper Option requires 21 credits of electives from the lists below on pp. 15-17, with at least 6 credits chosen from each category. With approval of the Graduate Director, students may also select other courses not listed below after submitting the appropriate syllabus. Students are strongly advised to check course offerings in relevant departments each year, as these can frequently change. Please remember that not all of the following courses are always offered; if one you need to take is available, grab it the semester it is offered.

List of Electives

Note: These lists match the course offerings at the time of preparation of this handbook. Please note that there will periodically be course additions (which will be added to the AADS course lists as they become available), or course deletions. Please also note that not all courses are offered every semester. . We will try to keep this list up to date, and ask students to make suggestions for additions.

Humanities Electives

AFA 5932	Special Topics in African and African Diaspora Studies
AFA 5107	Teaching the African American Experience
AFA 5341	Health Issues in the African World
AFA 5600	National and Transnational Policy Analysis: The African Diaspora
AFH 5905	Readings in African History
AFH 5935	Topics in African History
FRE 5508	La Francophonie
HAI 5235	Haitian Creole Seminar

HIS 5289 Comparative History : Slavery and Emancipation
 LAH 5465 Peoples, Culture and Politics of Haiti
 LAS 6025 Seminar: The Humanities in Cuba
 LIN 6602 Language Contact
 LIN 6990 Seminar in Language, Race, Identity, and Power
 LIT 5359 African Diaspora Women Writers
 LIT 5358 Black Literature and Literacy/Cultural Theory
 MUH 5025 History of Popular Music in the United States
 REL 5122 African American Religion
 REL 5372 The Globalizing of African Spirituality
 REL 5384 Rasta, Vodou, Santeria
 REL 5488 Theology and Liberation Movements
 SPN 5536 Afro-Cuban Culture
 SPN 5539 Afro-Hispanic Culture
 SPW 5346 Poetry of Jorge Guillen
 SPW 5776 Black Literature in Latin America
 SPW 6368 19th Century Spanish-Caribbean Narrative
 WOH 5236 The Transatlantic Slave Trade and the Making of the African Diaspora,
 1441-1807
 WOH 5237 The African Diaspora Since the End Of the Slave Trade

Social Sciences Electives

AFA/SYD 6xxx Sex, Race, and Power in Colonial Times
 ANG 6473 Diasporas, Migration, and Globalization
 ANG 5397 Advanced African Diaspora Cultures
 ANG 5396 Representations of Africa and Africans in Films
 ANT 6319 The African Diaspora: Anthropological Perspectives
 CPO 5325 Politics of the Caribbean
 CPO 6350 Seminar in Brazilian Politics
 CPO 6376 Seminar in Central American Politics
 CPO 6206 Seminar in African Politics
 CYP 6766 The Psychology of Crosscultural Sensitization in a Multicultural Context
 ECS 5406 Latin American Economies
 ECS 6436 The Economics of Caribbean Migration
 ECS 7435 Economics of the Caribbean
 INR 5087 Ethnicity and the Politics of Development

INR 5255 Seminar in African Development
INR 6936 Seminar in Inter-American Politics
SYD 6705 Comparative Analysis of Ethnicity and Race
SYP 5447 Development and Post-Development
SYP 6739 Seminar: Ethnic Minority Aging in U.S.
WST 5253 Border Crossing: Race and Gender in Historical & Transnational
Perspective



ASSISTANTSHIPS

Assistantships are offered for one academic year unless explicitly stated that they are offered for one semester only. Students must apply every year by the end of March to request funding renewal. Decisions to renew are based on coursework performance, progress in the program and performance on assistantship duties. Students can expect their assistantships to be renewed for 2 years while in the MA program. Assistantships include a full tuition (but not fee) waiver and a stipend.

Obligations

Assistantship duties involve a maximum of 20 hours a week of work and a full time (9 credits) enrollment. Students may be asked to attend all classes **for one course**; do the readings for that course so that they can answer questions from undergraduate students; enter grades and attendance; and grade exams and papers. Students may be asked to proctor exams for one or two courses. Students are not to work more than 20 hours in any week; additional or outside employment is not permitted by the Graduate School. Students are expected to be on campus until all exams are given and grades are entered at the end of the semester. Students should check with their assigned faculty member on the earliest date that they may leave campus at the end of the semester. Students must meet with their assigned faculty member as soon as possible before classes start. Faculty must provide textbooks for TAs and request the books in time so that students can begin readings no later than by the start of the course.



ADDITIONAL GENERAL STUDENT REQUIREMENTS

During each academic year of enrollment, graduate students are expected to attend all lectures, conferences, symposia, and other events organized by the African & African Diaspora Studies Program.

Graduate students must enroll in the MA in African and African Diaspora Studies Theory core course in the first Fall semester of their enrollment, or the first semester in which it is offered once they enter the program.

Each semester, graduate students must receive academic advising for course selection. A Faculty Adviser or the Graduate Director must approve students' course schedule.

Continuous Enrollment Policy - Master's level students must be continuously enrolled in a minimum of one credit.

All AADS graduate students are expected to be a member of the AADS Graduate Students Association.



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Annual Progress Reports

Each student's progress in the program will be reviewed by the graduate committee on a yearly basis, usually in April. The committee will give students a progress evaluation. Copies of the annual evaluations will be kept in each student's file and will be one of several factors examined by the committee if and when the student applies for a TA position.

Publications and Paper Presentations

It is difficult to obtain jobs in academia and it is also very competitive outside academia. A strong record of research, publication, and academic presentations can distinguish one prospective applicant from another. Discuss with members of your committee areas of research that you can develop into publications. Students should explore research opportunities as early as possible and present the findings in academic conferences. The Graduate School expects the program to provide evidence of student publications and/or presentations each year.

Professional Organizations

We recommend that students affiliate themselves with professional organizations. These organizations are critical to developing networks with researchers working in their areas and eventually when applying for jobs, for dissertation funding, or various awards. Attending professional meetings constitutes important training for all students.

Documenting Graduate Student Achievements

Students should prepare a curriculum vita early on and document all academic achievements. Students should consult the materials submitted by successful applicants for the department's faculty positions and should ask their faculty members and the Graduate Director for feedback on the way students present professional qualifications.

Karell Travel Grant

Between 2009 and 2012, the Program is able to offer competitive support for research or professional travel to Africa to one student (or faculty member) each year. This is made possible by a generous gift from Karell African Dream Vacations. The deadline for applications is usually October 1st; you will find a detailed announcement posted on the website.



CONTACT INFORMATION

AADS Main Office

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RELEVANT FIU OFFICES

Academy for the Art of Teaching	MMC - GL 154 (305) 348-3907
College of Arts and Sciences	MMC - ECS 450 (305) 348-2864
Financial Aid Office	MMC - PC 125 (305) 348-7272
Graduate Admissions Office	MMC - PC 231 (305) 348-7442
Registrar's Office	MMC – PC 130 (305) 348- 2320 E-mail: register@fiu.edu
University Graduate School	MMC - PC 230 (305) 348-2455
University Technology Services	MMC - PC 330 (305) 348-2284