

W. E. B. Du Bois Department of Afro-American Studies Graduate Program Language Requirement

Students must demonstrate reading and comprehension skills in at least one language other than English. The students' language proficiency must be at a level sufficient to allow them to read, comprehend, and translate relevant primary and secondary sources in African American Studies. Typically such sources could include—but are not limited to—pertinent passages from documents or entire documents such as the following: literary texts, journal articles, and artifacts, as well as other items located during the course of doctoral research. Languages relevant to graduate research in the Du Bois Department of African American studies could include but are not limited to Sub-Saharan African Languages (e.g. isiZulu, Ibo, Yoruba, Kiswahili, Xhosa), European colonial languages (e.g. French, Spanish, Portuguese, Dutch, German), as well as Afro-Creole languages that are written (e.g. Haitian Creole). Students can fulfill the language requirement in the W.E.B. Du Bois Department of Afro-American Studies in the following ways:

- ❖ Course work: One year of undergraduate language instruction beyond first-year introductory courses in at least one relevant language. The language requirement also could be satisfied with graduate-level instruction in the study and analysis of African American English with faculty in the Linguistics Department at UMass Amherst.
 - Course work must have been completed no more than five (5) years before fall admission to the W.E.B. Du Bois Department of Afro-American Studies
 - Students must make a grade of B or better in each course
 - Courses must be on undergraduate transcripts or on graduate transcripts if courses were taken during prior graduate study.
 - If a student's language study was not completed at UMass (Gen Ed courses and conversation courses at UMass do not apply here) and the level of instruction is uncertain from the transcript, the student must demonstrate (syllabi, graded assignments, or other documentation) to the Graduate Program Director that the level of instruction would prepare the student to read, comprehend, and translate relevant primary and secondary sources in African American studies.
- ❖ Undergraduate or graduate degree in a language relevant to African American studies
- ❖ Native speaker of a language relevant to African American studies
- ❖ Pass language assessment test administered by an examiner approved by the Graduate Program Director
 - Typical examiners could include faculty in the Languages, Literature, and Cultures Department at UMass or others—as approved—with the appropriate language skills
 - The language assessment test must be written and must occur during one testing session
 - The language assessment test must require students to translate from the

relevant foreign language a document of suitable difficulty to demonstrate their ability to read and comprehend primary and secondary sources in African American studies and to translate in writing documents from the foreign language into English. Oral examinations do not fulfill the language requirement.

→ Examiner must provide the date of the examination, title and author of the translated document (in the original language and in English), length of the translated document (number of pages), brief description of document (e.g. page 50 from Chinua Achebe's *Mshale wa Mungu* [*Arrow of God*], East African Publishers, 1964, a novel for adult readers; pages 5-6 from Aimé Césaire's "Discours sur le Colonialisme [Discourse on Colonialism]," in *Présence Africaine*, 1953, an intellectual journal; page 10 from Jacques Roumain's *Gouverneurs de la rosée* [Masters of the Dew], Heinemann, 1944, a novel for adult readers; Gabriela Mistral's "Rocio," a poem for adult readers)