The Graduate Certificate in African Diaspora Studies

University of Massachusetts Amherst
A Graduate Certificate in African Diaspora Studies in the W.E.B. Du Bois Department of Afro-American Studies at the University of Massachusetts Amherst will introduce students to the current scholarship on the African Diaspora as well as a basic grounding in the historical, political, literary, and cultural responses of African peoples to their diasporic conditions. A successful recipient of a Graduate Certificate in African Diaspora Studies from UMass Amherst would be expected to have acquired the following knowledge:

● Grounding in the complex political and historical development of Pan-Africanism and the African Diaspora in the Americas;

● Conceptual strategies and critical apparatus for engaging with a variety of discourses on the African Diaspora;

● Working knowledge of the issues, themes, and concepts informing the current scholarship in African Diaspora Studies, especially a critical engagement with issues such as refugee status, exile, migration, immigration, transnationalism, and expatriation;

● Critical knowledge of the scholarship in at least one aspect of African Diaspora Studies.

Applying for the Certificate

The Certificate welcomes applications from persons who meet the following criteria:

● Have gained admission into a graduate degree-granting department at UMass Amherst.

● Have earned a bachelor’s or graduate degree from an accredited university and have made application for and gained admission to UMass as a non-degree student through the Graduate Admissions Office.

Requirements: Five Graduate Courses

● AfroAm 692Q “African Diaspora Studies: Introduction to Concepts and Historiography”
  This seminar will offer an introduction to key concepts and definitions e.g. diaspora, Pan-Africanism, Afro-centrism; the classic works in the field; and, major trends in contemporary scholarship.

● Four electives selected among the current offerings by the UMass Amherst and Five Colleges African Diaspora Faculty or alternate courses with the approval of one of the certificate co-directors.

For More Information:

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Certificate Co-Directors:
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