African American Studies, M.A.

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS (http://www.cla.temple.edu)

About the Program

The mission of the Department of African American Studies is to provide an intellectual arena in which students learn to critically examine, analyze, and interpret the experiences, traditions, and dynamics of people of African descent. The department's undergirding philosophy is that the specific historical experiences of a people must be the central axis guiding and informing any effective analysis and interpretation of that people's past, present, and future. Our graduate program is informed by the African-centered/Afrocentric paradigms in relation to other perspectives in Africana studies. The program reflects a deeply ingrained commitment to the self-directed study of African peoples and has benefited from a variety of conceptual and political inputs from diverse, but fully committed, faculty participation as well as invaluable contributions from the community. The M.A. program seeks to answer the personal and intellectual aspirations of the student and the particular needs of society that are not satisfied by a baccalaureate degree. Thus, the M.A. provides more specialized study in African American Studies than the B.A. or B.S. degree and often serves as the terminal degree. It is the goal of the department that graduates with an M.A. in African American Studies be prepared to engage in a diverse range of intellectual issues that affect the lives of Africans on the continent and in the diaspora. The M.A. also serves as a strong foundation for those who intend to apply to the Ph.D. program.

Time Limit for Degree Completion: 3 years

Campus Location: Main

Full-Time/Part-Time Status: The degree program can be completed on a full- or part-time basis.

Interdisciplinary Study: Advisors may encourage or require students to take courses in other departments in order to enhance or supplement their program.

Affiliation(s): Faculty are affiliated with a variety of professional organizations such as the African Heritage Studies Association (AHSA); African Literature Association; African Studies Association (ASA); American Anthropological Association (AAA); Association of Black Women Historians (ABWH); Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH); Association for the Study of Classical African Civilizations (ASCAC); Black History Advisory Committee of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission; College Language Association (CLA); Germantown Friends School's Summerbridge Program; Modern Language Association (MLA); National Council for Black Studies (NCBS); National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE); Pennsylvania Humanities Council; TESOL International Association; and Temple University's Young Scholars Program.

Study Abroad: The department offers study abroad in the Temple University Ghana program. A maximum of 6 credits may be applied toward the master's degree.

Accreditation: This program is accredited by the National Council for Black Studies.

Areas of Specialization: Faculty specialize, offer substantial coursework, and mentor in a variety of areas, including:

- African and African American History
- African and African American Literature
- African American Drama
- African American Psychology
- African Civilizations
- African Languages
- Afrocentric Theory
- Caribbean Culture
- Cultural Studies
- Ethnographic Methods
- Linguistics
- Mass Media
- Narrative Tradition
- Popular Culture
- Research Methods
- Rhetoric and Composition
- Social and Political Thought
- Women's Studies
**Job Prospects:** Graduates of the M.A. program in African American Studies find employment in a variety of public and private sector areas, including arts and humanities, business, social services, and teaching. Many secondary school teachers desire to enhance their skills by obtaining an M.A. degree in African American Studies.

**Non-Matriculated Student Policy:** A non-matriculated student may take a maximum of 9 credits in the department. Those credits may be applied to the degree if the student applies and is admitted to the degree program. Non-matriculated students may not take AAS 9982 Individual Research in African American Studies.

**Financing Opportunities:** The department offers a limited number of assistantships on a highly competitive basis. The awards usually involve teaching. Teaching Assistants receive a stipend and full tuition remission of up to 9 credits. The applicant must have a grade point average of 3.5 or better and strong letters of recommendation. A resume, writing sample, and/or syllabus are also required with the Teaching Assistantship application, which is obtained from the Graduate Secretary. Normally, awards are given to doctoral students who best meet the criteria.

**Admission Requirements and Deadlines**

**Application Deadline:**

*Fall:* January 15

Applications for admission are processed together shortly after the deadline date.

APPLY ONLINE to this graduate program.

**Letters of Reference:**

*Number Required:* 3

*From Whom:* Letters of recommendation are preferred from college/university professors who have taught or worked with the applicant in her/his major or minor area of concentration.

**Coursework Required for Admission Consideration:** An applicant is expected to have some academic background in African American Studies.

**Bachelor's Degree in Discipline/Related Discipline:** All applicants must present credentials that are the equivalent of the appropriate baccalaureate degree at Temple University.

**Statement of Goals:** Approximately 500 to 1,000 words include your specific interest in Temple's Department of African American Studies; your research goals as they relate to African American Studies and to the social relevance of the discipline; your future career goals; and your academic and research achievements.

**Standardized Test Scores:**

*GRE:* Required. A combined minimum score of 297 (new test) or 1,000 (old test) on the verbal and quantitative sections is expected.

*TOEFL:* 79 iBT or 550 PBT minimum

**Interview:** An interview may be required.

**Resume:** Current resume required.

**Writing Sample:** The writing sample should demonstrate the student's ability to conduct research and to write a scholarly paper relevant to the discipline. The paper should be no more than 20 pages in length and fully referenced according to a professional, scholarly style manual.

**Transfer Credit:** During the first term of enrollment at Temple, incoming graduate students may apply to have graduate credits taken at other accredited institutions count toward completion of the degree. Grades of transfer courses must be "B" or better. After consultation with and approval of the advisor, the student must submit to the Graduate Committee:

1. a letter specifying the course(s) the student wishes to have considered for credit toward the M.A. and the corresponding Temple course related to the transfer course; and
2. supporting documents (e.g., syllabi, course descriptions from college catalogs, a letter from the transfer course instructor or department) showing the overlap by which the course covers material from Temple courses.

The maximum number of credits a student may transfer is 6.

**Program Requirements**

**General Program Requirements:**

*Number of Didactic Credits Required Beyond the Baccalaureate:* 30

*Required Courses:*
Core Courses

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<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tr>
<td>AAS 8001</td>
<td>Proseminar in Graduate Work in African American Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>AAS 8002</td>
<td>African Civilizations</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>AAS 8003</td>
<td>Research Methods in African American Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>AAS 8005</td>
<td>African Literature</td>
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<td>or AAS 8006</td>
<td>African American Literature</td>
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<td>AAS 8007</td>
<td>African Aesthetics</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>AAS 8008</td>
<td>Ethnographic Methods</td>
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Electives

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Total Credit Hours

30

Culminating Events:
Students have the option of completing the program with either a written comprehensive examination or a thesis.

Comprehensive Examination:
The comprehensive examination is intended to probe the student's knowledge of content, literature, theory/methodology, and methods in African American Studies and to test the student's ability to apply theoretical issues to praxis. It is a proctored, closed book, 6-hour written examination. Students may not use a computer or any other electronic device for the examination unless there is a documented medical necessity.

The M.A. comprehensive exam covers the content, theories, and paradigms of the discipline and/or relevant coursework that students may have taken. Students must take the comprehensive exam after completing all required coursework. The student must answer every question on the examination in order to be evaluated. The evaluators look for content mastery and coherent application of the discipline's theories and paradigms.

The comprehensive examination is offered twice a year: the first week of April and the first week of November. The hours of the exam are from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. The student must schedule her/his examination with the Graduate Secretary after consultation with her/his advisor at least one month in advance of the exam date. In order to arrange an examination date, the student must be sure that her/his record is free of encumbrances that would prevent her/him from meeting University requirements for taking the examination. In addition, the student intending to take the exam must ensure that all of her/his coursework has been completed in the previous term.

The Examination Committee prepares and administers the student's written M.A. comprehensive exam. Students are advised to choose an Examination Committee at the beginning of their final term. They should consult with their graduate advisor to select the second member of the committee and set the date for the comprehensive exam. The Examination Committee is composed of two Graduate Faculty from the Department of African American Studies, one of whom is the major advisor who will write one half of the questions; the other committee member will provide the remaining questions.

The Examination Committee evaluates the answers. The Graduate Director notifies the student of the comprehensive exam results no later than five weeks after completion of the exam. Based on the quality of the examination results, the Examination Committee may make one of the following determinations:

1. Pass: The M.A. student may receive a master's degree when all other departmental and University requirements are met.
2. Fail: The M.A. student is not awarded the M.A. degree, and the student may retake the exam once.
3. Fail/Termination: The M.A. student has failed to pass the written examination a second time and is terminated from graduate status in the department.

Thesis:
Students who choose to complete a thesis are given the opportunity to demonstrate specialized knowledge and their ability to do original research in Africana studies. The student must have completed at least 27 hours of coursework, including the core. S/he then registers for AAS 9996 Master's Thesis and completes a Master's Thesis Option form, duly signed by the student and the designated advisor. The student must work with the advisor to produce and successfully defend a thesis on an approved topic. The student then meets the requirements for submission of the approved thesis to the Graduate School, as stipulated in the Dissertation and Thesis Handbook at http://www.temple.edu/dissertationhandbook/finalchecklist.html.

Contacts

Program Web Address:
http://www.cla.temple.edu/africanamericanstudies/graduate/

Department Information:
Dept. of African American Studies
810 Gladfelter Hall
1115 Poeltt Walk
Philadelphia, PA 19122-6089
afam@temple.edu
Mailing Address for Application Materials:
Dept. of African American Studies
810 Gladfelter Hall (025-26)
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Philadelphia, PA 19122-6089

Department Contacts:
Admissions:
Tammey Abner
tammey.abner@temple.edu
215-204-9607

Graduate Director:
Ama Mazama, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
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215-204-1992

Chairperson:
Molefi Kete Asante, Ph.D.
Professor
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615A Gladfelter Hall
215-204-4322

Courses
AAS 8001. Proseminar in Graduate Work in African American Studies. 3 Credit Hours.
An introduction to the intellectual and professional foundations of the field. It examines the historical origins of African American Studies in the United States and Africa, as well as the context of classic creative, analytical, and autobiographical works.
Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate
Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

AAS 8002. African Civilizations. 3 Credit Hours.
An intensive investigation into the origins of several major African civilizations. Civilizations and periods chosen may vary at the discretion of the instructor but will normally include the classic cultures of Nubia, Kemet, Axum, Songhay, Mali, Ghana, Monomotapa, Yoruba, and Asante.
Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate
Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

AAS 8003. Research Methods in African American Studies. 3 Credit Hours.
An introduction to the basic research methods used in African American Studies. It examines historical, anthropological, behavioral, and critical methods, as well as the methodological foundations of the Afrocentric method.
Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate
Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

AAS 8004. Theories and Methods in African American Studies. 3 Credit Hours.
An intensive critique of African studies within the context of evolving theoretical and methodological issues. Topics include boundaries of particularism, frames of reference, etymology, historical cleavages, and the idea of the African voice. Students will write major research papers analyzing the various perspectives advanced by scholars within the field of African studies.
Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate
Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

AAS 8005. African Literature. 3 Credit Hours.
Examines African literature from 4000 B.C. to the 20th century. Special attention will be paid to the early sacred works, and didactic oral traditions, poetry, drama, the advent and literary aesthetics of Western-writers.
Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate
Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.
AAS 8006. African American Literature. 3 Credit Hours.
Deals with the social context of African American literary development from enslavement to the present. Students are introduced to the cultural patterns and historical experiences that produced the early autobiographies, narratives, poetry, and essays as well as the 20th century novels, plays, and poetry.
Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate
Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

AAS 8007. African Aesthetics. 3 Credit Hours.
Examines the interrelationship of the creative process with cultural and philosophical motifs in African history by studying mythology, the generative and productive force of the spoken word and the power and significance of a wide variety of aesthetic concepts.
Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate
Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

AAS 8008. Ethnographic Methods. 3 Credit Hours.
Examines the various classic and contemporary methods for collecting field data on African cultural and social behaviors. Emphasis on the use of audio and video data gathering methods, and participant observation.
Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate
Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

AAS 8415. Ancient Egyptian Language I. 3 Credit Hours.
Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate
Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

AAS 8416. Ancient Egyptian Language II. 3 Credit Hours.
Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate
Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

AAS 8432. African American Family. 3 Credit Hours.
Contemporary theories and research on the African American family. Includes assessment of family behavior, the role of children, sex roles, perceptual changes within the context of society, demographic factors, impact of unemployment and underemployment, and income distribution.
Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate
Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

AAS 8435. Ebonics: African American Language. 3 Credit Hours.
Examines variations of African American languages found throughout the Americas. Special attention to the Gullah prototype from South Carolina and Georgia. Presents the major theoretical arguments about the development of the languages.
Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate
Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

AAS 8441. African Philosophical Thought. 3 Credit Hours.
An analytical and historical overview of the ideas that have made the African culture, with particular emphasis on the resurrection idea, the concept of rule, harmony and balance, divination systems, dual-gender responsibility, and relationship between human beings.
Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate
Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

AAS 8442. African Religions. 3 Credit Hours.
Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate
Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

AAS 8446. Cheikh Anta Diop. 3 Credit Hours.
A critical examination of the portions of Diop's corpus on the African origin of civilization with special inquiry into the nature of his evidences. Students will present papers analyzing Diop's Afrocentric perspective and his impact on African scholarship around the world.
Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate
Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

AAS 8449. Pan Africanism. 3 Credit Hours.
A survey of the major currents of Pan African Thought from the early Pan African Congresses to the events of the Sixth Pan African Congress of Dar Es Salaam. Opposing critiques will be presented and discussed, especially the Marxist critique of Pan Africanism.
Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate
Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

AAS 8455. Caribbean Culture and Politics. 3 Credit Hours.
An investigation of the roles of culture and politics in the development of the Caribbean basin. Particular emphasis will be placed on the ways that African cultural survivals, creolism, syncretism, and political struggle have acted to create the unique Caribbean outlook.
Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate
Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.
AAS 8464. Literature of the Harlem Renaissance. 3 Credit Hours.  
A study of the African-American realization of literary revivals between the two great 20th Century European wars. Special emphasis on Harlem as a venue and symbol of the emergence of modern African American literature.  
Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate  
Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.  

AAS 8465. Literature of the Black Power Revolution. 3 Credit Hours.  
Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate  
Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.  

AAS 8468. Major African Writers. 3 Credit Hours.  
Examines the 20th Century prose, fiction, and poetry, of major writers of the African world. Students analyze writers in accordance with the protocols of literary innovations, Afrocentric motifs, symbolic functionalism and political themes.  
Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate  
Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.  

AAS 8521. Readings in African History. 3 Credit Hours.  
Survey of the major developments in Africa through written and oral records with discrete emphasis on the analysis of perspectives both external and internal to Africa. Collected traditions, colonial and neocolonial scholarship, liberal and feminist writings, Marxist and neo-Marxist treatises as well as Africanist and afrocentrist literature will be examined.  
Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate  
Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.  

AAS 8542. Readings in African American Social Thought. 3 Credit Hours.  
Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate  
Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.  

AAS 8547. Readings in 1960's Protests. 3 Credit Hours.  
Close reading of documentary evidences in African American political, historical, and social thought during the turbulent sixties. Students prepare papers from primary documents.  
Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate  
Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.  

AAS 8561. African American Theatre. 3 Credit Hours.  
Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate  
Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.  

AAS 8566. African American Music. 3 Credit Hours.  
A survey of the rich musical tradition of African Americans from the emergence of the field hollers and work songs to contemporary music. Attention given to spirituals, jazz, blues and rock as major genres.  
Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate  
Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.  

AAS 9001. Seminar in African Aesthetics. 3 Credit Hours.  
Examines the philosophical foundations of African aesthetics by concentrating on the cosmology, ritual religions, oral traditions, and proverbs of African people. Examines the question of what constitutes African standards of beauty, or art, or good, or culture.  
Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate  
Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.  

AAS 9002. Teaching African American Studies. 1 to 3 Credit Hour.  
Required of all graduate teaching assistants prior to the assumption of teaching duties. Designed to teach communication and organizational skills. Supervision of teaching is required.  
Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate  
Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.  

AAS 9614. African American Diaspora. 3 Credit Hours.  
Using primary source material and with special attention to the United States, students will examine the African experience in the Americas from the 14th century to the present. Movements, periods, events and people that represent the major social, economic and political African American thought will be surveyed.  
Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate  
Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.
AAS 9615. Seminar in African American Psychology. 3 Credit Hours.
An examination of theory and research pertaining to African American psychology. A selected discussion of various theoretical perspectives on African American personality and socialization.
Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate
Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

AAS 9625. Nile Valley Civilization. 3 Credit Hours.
A critical examination of selected topics in the civilizations of Kemet, Nubia and Axum. Detailed analysis and discussion on the primacy of Kemet in African civilization.
Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate
Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

AAS 9641. Sem Life & Work Malcom X. 3 Credit Hours.
Examines the life and work of Malcolm X from the standpoint of his impact on social, political, and economic movements in the United States. The moral force of Malcolm X as seen in the growth of various urban religious and spiritual groups will be assessed.
Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate
Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

AAS 9642. Seminar in African American Social Philosophy. 3 Credit Hours.
An intensive seminar in the writings and activities of major social philosophers such as Edward Blyden, Ida B. Wells, Paul Cuffee, Martin Delany, David Walker, Malcolm X, Harold Cruse, and Angela Davis.
Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate
Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

AAS 9643. Research and Writings of W.E.B. DuBois. 3 Credit Hours.
An intensive examination of selected topics in the autobiographical works of Du Bois, historical, sociological, and creative works.
Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate
Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

AAS 9645. Seminar in the African American Woman. 3 Credit Hours.
An exhaustive treatment of theories relating to the role of the African American woman. Topics will include gender bias within the African American community, feminism and the black woman, sexism, classism, and racism, and the future of the black woman in America.
Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate
Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

AAS 9662. Seminar in the African American Novel. 3 Credit Hours.
A seminar in the African American novel which may focus on one or several principal figures or examine a single theme during a particular historical period, i.e., the novel after 1945.
Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate
Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

AAS 9761. Seminar in African American Studies: Social Behavior. 3 Credit Hours.
Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate
Repeatability: This course may not be repeated for additional credits.

AAS 9982. Individual Research in African American Studies. 1 to 6 Credit Hour.
Individual Research In African American Studies while still in the coursework phase of the program.
Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate
Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

AAS 9993. Master’s Comprehensive Examination. 1 to 6 Credit Hour.
Preparation for master’s comprehensive exam.
Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate
Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

AAS 9994. Preliminary Examination Preparation. 1 to 6 Credit Hour.
Preliminary Exam Preparation. Following coursework completion, registration in AAS 9994 is required to prepare for Preliminary Exams.
Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate
Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

AAS 9996. Master’s Thesis. 1 to 3 Credit Hour.
Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate
Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.

AAS 9998. Pre-Dissertation Research. 1 to 6 Credit Hour.
Pre-Dissertation Research. After having passed the Preliminary exams, registration is appropriate for students working on the dissertation proposal.
Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate
Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.
AAS 9999. Dissertation Research. 1 to 6 Credit Hour.
This course is intended only for those students who have achieved Ph.D. Candidacy status. A minimum of 6 semester hours is required for graduation.

Level Registration Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate

Student Attribute restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Student Attributes: Dissertation Writing Student

Repeatability: This course may be repeated for additional credit.