

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT ASHEVILLE

FACULTY SENATE

Senate Document Number 6412S

Date of Senate Approval 03/15/12

Statement of Faculty Senate Action:

**APC Document 52: Change course descriptions and/or credit hours for
AFST 130, 330, 430, and Special Topics**

Effective Date: Fall 2012

1. Delete: On page 68, the entry for **AFST 130:**

130 Introduction to Africana Studies (3)

A survey of the disciplines that constitute Africana Studies. Students are introduced to the methodologies and basic contents of the fields that have shaped past and current understandings of Black people. Spring.

Add: On page 68, in place of deleted entry:

130 Introduction to Africana Studies (4)

Interdisciplinary course that explores the experiences of Africans and peoples of African descent. Using broad themes and concepts, it will examine such areas as slavery and emancipation, politics and religion, culture and identity, colonialism and nationalism. These themes will be explored in an attempt to conceptualize the experiences of Africans and peoples of African descent within the global system. This course will help students understand the ways in which Africans and peoples of African descent have shaped the world, and how the world has and continues to shape them. Fall and Spring.

2. Delete: On page 68, the entry for **AFST 330:**

330 Field Practicum (3)

A semester-long project with participating public agencies or community service organizations. Background readings, practical experience and field observations and written reports are facets of this course. Students are expected to present reports at the end of the course. Prerequisite: AFST 130. See program director.

Add: On page 68, in place of deleted entry:

330 Field Practicum (4)

A semester-long supervised work experience on Africana related issues with emphasis on economic, social and political development at a local, national and/or international setting. Background readings, practical experience and field

observations and written reports are facets of this course. Students are expected to present reports at the end of the course. Prerequisite: AFST 130. See program director.

3. Delete: On page 68, the entry for **AFST 430:**

430 Senior Seminar in Africana Studies (3)

Advanced readings in Africana Studies focusing on topics of pertinent interests. Interdisciplinary attention is given to current writings in the field. Prerequisite: 12 hours of courses approved by the program director. See program director.

Add: On page 68, in place of deleted entry:

430 Senior Seminar in Africana Studies (4)

Advanced readings in Africana Studies focusing on topics of pertinent interests. Interdisciplinary attention is given to current writings in the field. Prerequisite: Completion of 12 hours in Africana Studies. See program director.

4. Delete: On page 68, the entry for AFST Special Topics courses:

171-3, 271-3, 371-3, 471-3 Special Topics in Africana Studies (1-3)

Courses not otherwise included in the catalog but for which there will be special needs. May be repeated for credit as subject matter changes. See program director.

Add: On page 68, in place of deleted entry:

171-4, 271-4, 371-4, 471-4 Special Topics in Africana Studies (1-4)

Courses not otherwise included in the catalog but for which there will be special needs. May be repeated for credit as subject matter changes. See program director.

Impact:

The proposed changes allow for more effective and efficient delivery of the curriculum in this budgetary climate of dwindling resources. The proposed changes will provide more breadth and scope for students in the minor. Students will be able to complete the requirements of the minor with fewer classes, through a rigorous and engaged curriculum, which does not add to their years of study at UNC Asheville. There is a growing interest in the minor, and with these proposed changes, the minor will be attractive to many more students.

Rationale:

The proposed course changes from 3 credit hours to 4 credit hours are aimed at allowing students to acquire a more intense engagement with the content of the courses, much of which is quite unfamiliar to our students. The current 3 credit-hour format is inadequate to get students to higher levels of critical engagement, analysis and application. By increasing the number of credits and decreasing the number of classes required, students are able to focus on fewer class subjects and achieve a greater depth of understanding, thereby meeting a higher level of academic excellence. The proposed credit hour change also allows for increased intensity of study in each class.