

AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES (AFAM) COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT POLICY STATEMENT

I. PURPOSE AND PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

A. Library Collection Development Objective

African American Studies, an academic discipline, offers an intellectual approach to the study of African people both nationally and globally. It seeks to provide historically accurate assessments of the roles and contributions of people of African descent to America and to human history. The ultimate goal for African American Studies is to serve as a research and resource unit for Valdosta State University, the Lowndes County/Valdosta communities, and the Region.

As an interdisciplinary program, the African American Studies minor offers students the opportunity to communicate more effectively across cultural lines as well as to explore the social, political, and economic reality of the black experience in the United States. The program encourages creative research, the acquisition of expertise in African American Studies. Several departments at Valdosta State University offer courses that support these goals. Core to the African American Studies Program is a commitment to:

1. Promote a positive, healthy, intellectual exchange of knowledge and information, making a study of African and African American culture and history most challenging, refreshing, and ultimately rewarding.
2. Serve a diverse student population, consisting of all racial, ethnic, and cultural origins.
3. Ensure that the college community and the region at large be well informed through AFAM sponsored film festivals, annual AFA Lecture Series, the Annual Multicultural Sankofa Celebration, public workshops, and program publications.
4. Enhance students' awareness and appreciation of the artistic work that comprises an African American cultural heritage, and contributes to the multicultural development at large.
5. Developing new courses in several disciplines, including English, Journalism, Sociology, Anthropology, Criminal Justice, Political Science, History, Women's & Gender Studies, and the Fine Arts.

6. The African American Studies Program at Valdosta State University reflects the experiences of people of African ancestry living in the United States. The collection's focus is on the historical, cultural, political, economic, and social development of people of African descent.

B. Description of User Groups Supported

The collection supports diverse undergraduate and graduate student populations and faculty, consisting of all racial, ethnic, and cultural origins. Additionally, the collection spans several disciplines, including English, Journalism, Sociology, Anthropology, Criminal Justice, Political Science, History, Women's & Gender Studies, and the Fine Arts.

C. New and Expanding Areas of Interest

New and expanding areas of interest include English, Journalism, Sociology, Anthropology, Criminal Justice, Political Science, History, Women's & Gender Studies, and the Fine Arts.

D. Areas of Established Specialization

Established areas of interest include African American literature, African American history, multiculturalism, diversity issues, African history, African literature, African art, and African political systems.

II. TREATMENT OF SUBJECT DEPTH

A. Treatment of Subject Depth

To support the African American Studies Program, the library will collect materials in the following subject areas at the Intermediate Study or Instructional Support Level (3B).

SUBJECT SUBDIVISIONS	COLLECTING LEVEL
African American Anthropology	3B
African American Authors	3B
African American History	3B
African American Political Systems	3B
African American Political Systems	3B
African American Studies	3B
African Americans	3B

African Americans in the United States	3B
African Americans and Education	3B
African Americans in Literature	3B
African Americans in the Criminal Justice System	3B
African Anthropology	3B
African Art	3B
African civilization and Culture	3B
African History	3B
African Literature	3B
African Political Systems	3B
Africana	3B
African-Americans in the Arts	3B
Afro-Americans	3B
Diversity Issues	3B
Economic Conditions/Impact	3B
Gender and Race Issues in Criminal Justice	3B
Multiculturalism	3B
Political Involvement/Impact	3B
Racial and Ethnic Relations	3B
Slavery	3B
Social Conditions/Impact	3B
Spirituality/Impact on U.S. culture	3B
Status and Development Since Emancipation	3B
Women and Gender Studies, African American	3B
Women and Gender Studies, African	3B

B. Specific Delimitations

Formats collected: Monographs, periodicals, audiovisual materials, electronic resources, and reference tools extensively; Dissertations, textbooks, and maps selectively. Attention is given to publications from small African American presses.

Imprint dates collected: Current materials and 20th century extensively; 19th century and earlier selectively.

Chronological focus: Materials with a current or 20th century focus extensively; 19th century and earlier selectively.

Languages collected: English extensively. Works in Spanish, French, and German are collected on a selective basis.

Places of publication: Although no area is specifically excluded, historical emphasis is placed on the contiguous United States. Materials on the African Diaspora in other areas of the Western Hemisphere are also emphasized. North America, Africa, Canada, the Caribbean, Central and South America extensively.