This course will emphasize the following skills that are central to the interdisciplinary field of Africana Studies:

1. An understanding of the complex historical, social, artistic and cultural underpinnings of what is commonly referred to as the “black” experience;

2. An understanding of how histories of power, privilege, colonialism, imperialism, migration, race, ethnicity, as well as the arts and culture have shaped said experience;

3. An understanding of the ways that the intersecting dynamics of race, ethnicity, colonialism, and politics have produced a range of experiences for individuals and groups;

4. An understanding of how artistic, cultural, political, economic and social systems shape crucial public perceptions of specific groups;

5. Knowledge of the ways in which perceptions of the black diaspora from within the United States have been deliberately shaped and conditioned by political, social, cultural, artistic, and educational forces;

6. The ability to think critically through immersion in close reading, rhetorical analysis, expressive culture, historical contextualization, and training in methodological skills;

7. The ability to initiate, develop, and carry out independent inquiry.