

SCHOOL OF INTERDISCIPLINARY GLOBAL STUDIES  
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA



san • ko • fa : it is not taboo to fetch what is at risk of being left behind

MASTER OF LIBERAL ARTS IN AFRICANA STUDIES  
GRADUATE STUDENT HANDBOOK  
Fall 2021 - Spring 2022



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## TITLE IX

“Pursuant to Title IX, the University does not discriminate on the basis of sex in educational programs or activities that it operates. Such protection extends to both employees and students. Any questions or inquiries concerning the application of Title IX may be referred to the Title IX Coordinator, Senior Deputy Title IX Coordinator, or to any of the University's Deputy Title IX Coordinators. The most up-to-date information on the University's Title IX Coordinator and resources can be found in the webpage for the Office of Diversity, Inclusion and Equal Opportunity, located at <http://www.usf.edu/diversity>. When appropriate, the University will take steps to prevent the recurrence of harassment, including sexual violence, and to correct any discriminatory effects of harassment on the complainant and others.”

The Interim Title IX Coordinator is:  
Cecil Howard, J.D. Interim Chief Diversity Officer  
4202 E. Fowler Avenue, ALN 172, Tampa, Florida 33620  
(813) 974-8615; [howardc@usf.edu](mailto:howardc@usf.edu)

“Discrimination and harassment on the basis of race, color, marital status, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, genetic information, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, or veteran status are also prohibited.”

Please visit the Office of Diversity, Inclusion & Equal Opportunity to review the University of South Florida's official policy regarding sexual harassment: <https://www.usf.edu/diversity/title-ix/>.

## SCHOOL OF INTERDISCIPLINARY GLOBAL STUDIES FACULTY

### AFRICANA STUDIES CORE FACULTY

**Cheryl Rodriguez**, Associate Professor  
Ph.D., Anthropology, University of South  
Florida  
[crodriguez@usf.edu](mailto:crodriguez@usf.edu)

**Kersuze Simeon-Jones**, Associate Professor  
Ph.D., History and Literature of the Black  
Diaspora, University of Miami  
[ksimeon@usf.edu](mailto:ksimeon@usf.edu)

**Laurie Lahey**, Instructor II and Undergraduate  
Director  
Ph.D., American Studies, The George  
Washington University  
[lahey@usf.edu](mailto:lahey@usf.edu)

**Edward Kissi**, Associate Professor  
Ph.D., History, Concordia University  
[ekissi@usf.edu](mailto:ekissi@usf.edu)

**Omotayo Jolaosho**, Assistant Professor  
Ph.D., Cultural Anthropology, Rutgers  
University  
[jolaosho@usf.edu](mailto:jolaosho@usf.edu)

**David Ponton III**, Assistant Professor  
Ph.D., History, Rice University  
Assistant Professor  
[dponton@usf.edu](mailto:dponton@usf.edu)

## OTHER SIGS FACULTY

[Golfo Alexopoulos](#), Professor and Director of  
USF Institute on Russia

[Aaron Augsburg](#), Assistant Professor

[Edwin Benton](#), Professor

[Kiki Caurson](#), Associate Professor and  
Assistant Vice President for Research,  
Innovation and Global Affairs

[Earl Conteh-Morgan](#), Professor

[Alec Dinnin](#), Visiting Professor

[Holly Dunn](#), Assistant Professor (AFA  
affiliate)

[Peter Funke](#), Associate Professor

[Cheryl Hall](#), Associate Professor and SIGS  
Associate Director

[Hechiche, Abdelwahab Hechiche](#), Professor

[Arturo Jimenez-Bacardi](#), Assistant Professor

[Tatsiana Kulakevich](#), Instructor I

[Luis Felipe Mantilla](#), Associate Professor

[Jody McBrien](#), Professor

[Judithanne Scourfield Mclauchlan](#), Associate  
Professor

[Janna Merrick](#), Professor

[Mohsen Milani](#), Professor

[Govindan Parayil](#), Professor

[Dajin Peng](#), Associate Professor

[Zacharias Pieri](#), Assistant Professor

[Steven Roach](#), Full Professor and Graduate  
Director

[Manu Samnotra](#), Assistant Professor

[Thomas Smith](#), Professor

[M. Scott Solomon](#), Associate Professor and  
SIGS Director

[Steven Tauber](#), Professor

[Nicolas Thompson](#), Assistant Professor

[Jongseok Woo](#), Associate Professor

## AFFILIATED FACULTY AND OTHERS WITH INTERESTS IN AFRICANA STUDIES

[Fenda Akiwumi](#), Associate Professor of Geography, Director of the Institute on Black Life

[Andrew Berish](#), Associate Professor of Humanities and Cultural Studies

[Gary Lemons](#), Professor of English

[K. Stephen Prince](#), Professor of History

[Guitele J. Rahill](#), Associate Professor in the College of Behavioral and Community Sciences

## SCHOOL OF INTERDISCIPLINARY GLOBAL STUDIES STAFF

Pamela Anderson

International Studies Undergraduate Advisor  
[pkander2@usf.edu](mailto:pkander2@usf.edu)

Marisa Laccone  
Academic Program Specialist  
[boyette3@usf.edu](mailto:boyette3@usf.edu)

Stephen Sovilla  
Academic Advisor, Political Science, Pre-Law  
[sovilla@usf.edu](mailto:sovilla@usf.edu)

Jamee Stiffler  
Academic Services Administrator  
[jstiffler@usf.edu](mailto:jstiffler@usf.edu)

# CONCENTRATION IN AFRICANA STUDIES

## DESCRIPTION

The master of liberal arts with a concentration in Africana studies is an interdisciplinary degree program that focuses on the study of the African Diaspora with attention to history, culture, society, and politics. Coursework in Africana studies—wherein faculty research focuses on the western, eastern, and southern Africa, the Americas, and the Caribbean—aligns with the University of South Florida’s strategic goals of developing “well-educated, highly-skilled global citizens” who will assume leadership roles domestically and abroad. By choosing Africana Studies, you become a part of a unique education entity that is grounded in the experiences, culture, and contributions of the Black World (the United States, Africa, and the Caribbean). Indeed, Africana Studies is itself an institution indebted to the passion for social change and the power of progressive thinking that emerged during the late civil rights movement and the Black Power era. USF’s Department of Africana Studies was founded in 1969 and was the first department of its kind to offer undergraduate and graduate degrees in the state of Florida. In 2016, it joined with International Studies, Latin American and Caribbean Studies, and Political Science to develop an interdisciplinary school focused on training students to develop cross-disciplinary skills and perspectives to advance research that expands our collective knowledge and capacity to recognize, assess, and address social, political, and economic linkages across local and global communities.

## ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS AND APPLICATION PROCESS

In addition to the admission requirements listed in the catalog, applicants must have:

- A statement of purpose discussing your academic experience and your interest in graduate work in Africana Studies.
- A writing sample that is double spaced and does not exceed 20 pages.
- Three (3) letters of recommendation. They should be signed on letterheads and come from sources who can speak to your academic and/or professional experience in ways that will inform readers of your potential as a graduate student.
- A current CV or résumé.
- Official GRE scores.

To apply:

Students must apply for admission through the [Office of Graduate Admissions](#). The School of Interdisciplinary Global Studies admits for the fall and spring semesters.

## MASTER OF LIBERAL ARTS ACADEMIC PROGRAM

Students are required to complete 33 hours of graduate study, including the completion of two core humanities courses (6 hours), three core Africana Studies courses (9 hours), four electives (12 hours), and a thesis (6 hours). In lieu of the thesis, students have the option of completing a substantial literature review (3 hours) with an additional elective (3 hours). Ideally, students will complete the academic program in 2-3 years (4-6 semesters), though each student’s academic

program will vary according to the number of credits they complete per semester. Students must earn a minimum of a “B” in each core course, or otherwise will be required to retake the course.

## REQUIRED HUMANITIES COURSES

The 6 hours required include:

### **HUM 6814: Introduction to Graduate Study<sup>1</sup>**

This course introduces students to graduate study in humanities and cultural studies. This course introduces incoming graduate students to the varied research interests of faculty and emphasizes textual analysis and analytical writing. *Students should enroll in their first semester in the program.*

### **HUM 6815: Research Seminar**

Topics may vary. *Students should enroll in either the third or fourth semester of their program. If the course is offered in the third semester, students should enroll then, as the course is only offered once every two terms.*

## REQUIRED AFRICANA STUDIES COURSES

The 9 hours required include:

### **AFA 6120: Social Theory and Social Thought<sup>2</sup>**

Students will learn and deploy social theory as an analytical tool for understanding social thought with attention to social lives and political experiences of people of African descent. The course examines attempts to theorize race, to develop poststructuralist accounts of human society, to render postcolonial visions legible, to re-envision society through black feminist critique, and to mobilize through politics of representation.

## ELECTIVE HOURS

The required 12 hours may be comprised of electives already approved by the program or students may substitute other electives as approved in consultation with their major professor and by the Graduate Director.

Students are encouraged to consider completing a graduate certificate as the basis of their elective work where appropriate. Compatible certificates in American Culture and Society, Latin American and Caribbean Studies, Women’s and Gender Studies, and Genocide and Human Rights are among examples available to our students. See a full list through the Colleges of Arts and Sciences Graduate program website: <https://www.usf.edu/arts-sciences/students/graduate/graduate-certificates.aspx>.

Pre-approved electives include:

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<sup>1</sup> Unless noted otherwise, course descriptions have been lifted from the USF Graduate Catalog: [http://www.grad.usf.edu/inc/linked-files/Catalog%20and%20Policies/2015-2016/Section\\_26\\_Grad\\_Course\\_Info.pdf](http://www.grad.usf.edu/inc/linked-files/Catalog%20and%20Policies/2015-2016/Section_26_Grad_Course_Info.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> This course description has been adapted from Professor Abe Khan’s 2012 syllabus, “Survey of Social and Political Thought.”

**AFA 6387 Seminar on Genocide and Human Rights**

The seminar views “genocide” as the destruction of particular groups of people by a state or non-state entity through certain intentional acts, and “human rights” as particular norms or principles in international law that guarantee every human being a right to life and dignity. Genocide, then, is the ultimate violation of human rights. Thus, genocide and violations of human rights constitute crimes against humanity, in the legal sense. But besides their association with international and criminal laws, “genocide” and “human rights” are also concepts in social science discourse. The seminar aims at exploring how these concepts have been defined and debated by scholars who study them, how they became the cornerstones of contemporary “international” laws, and how social scientists and legal scholars have assessed their importance as frameworks for building a safe and secure world. In short, the seminar is devoted to a critical conceptual, comparative, and global understanding of “genocide” and “human rights” as social and legal phenomena, and their utility as analytical tools for understanding social justice and international relations.

**AFA 6932 Topics in Africana Studies: Critical Race Theory**

Critical race theory is an intervention in critical legal studies that challenges the “poverty of the liberal imagination.” CRT attends to the ways racism operates within specific historical contexts, the effects of racism’s historical lineage on the present, and the logics, discourses, symbols, and material through which racism and liberalism conspire to avoid redressing the continuing problem of racial inequality. This course will introduce students to foundational texts in CRT, as well as recent developments in this field of inquiry and critiques of its limitations. It provides an opportunity to grasp and accurately re-articulate how critical race theorists understand the problem of racism and to reflect, productively, on the ways their work can inform and enhance each students’ own research questions and agendas. One of the essential concerns of CRT scholarship is exposing the ideological components that undergird “the law” and the practice of research that are rooted in liberal philosophy, which inherently invalidates the voices of marginalized groups as groups, as they attend to the ahistorical abstraction of the anonymous “individual.” Thus, the essential question of the course is a demanding one that both students and the instructor must commit to answering: in what ways does Western liberal philosophy shape my own research, what kind of violence do we perform by failing to recognize that shaping, and in what ways does existing critical theory help us re-imagine our research questions, approaches, and goals?

**AFA 6932 Topics in Africana Studies: Race, Gender, and Sexuality in Black American History**

The course tackle race, gender, and sexuality as co-constructed hierarchical categories that have been present at every moment in black American history, and thus all of American history. While the course attempts to follow a generously defined chronological arc, it does not commit to a single narrative or teleological thread about black American history. Rather, it functions more as an introduction to multiple scholarly literatures, each of which is engaged in

debates within their particular fields. Thus, we will survey a broad swath of history—from the days of slavery to the present—sampling along the way some of the most important, recent works in black American historiography. The authors share common concerns about identity, discipline, and power—concerns that lend themselves to creative approaches to documentary evidence and that beg questions about the possibilities and limits of identity politics in the long freedom struggle. The course will challenge students to answer the following question regarding their own research or civic engagement work: am I missing something valuable when I elide intra-racial differences around issues of color, gender identity, gender roles, disability, sexual orientation, or sexual expression?

**AFA 6932 Topics in Africana Studies: Graduate Seminar on Contemporary Africa**

This graduate seminar will introduce students to cultural, social, political, and economic dynamics that have historically shaped our understanding of the African continent and continue to influence contemporary trajectories. We will investigate pre-colonial, colonial, and post-colonial transformations, liberal struggles, economic development, the impact of apartheid’s demise across the continent, and processes of democratization. We will also consider contemporary challenges and future outlooks on topics including expressive culture, activism and political contestation, ethnic identity, gender and sexual dynamics, statehood, and nation building.

Examples of electives approved in the past\* include:

AFA 6275	Black Women Writers	LIT 6934	African American Novel
AFA 6313	Black English	HIS 6939	Race in North America
AFA 6207	African American Historiography	AFA 6355	African American Community Research
AFA 6945	Internship	AML 6027	African American Literature
REL 6447	Liberation Theology	ANT 6447	Topics in Urban Anthropology
AMS 6375	The American South	EDF 6883	Issues in Multicultural Education
ANT 6469	HIV & AIDS	GEY 6934	Special Topics in Gerontology: Minority Aging
WST 5266	Women of Color: Activism and Change	PHC 7935	Social Differentiation, Cultural Diversity, and Community Health
COM 5930	Communicating Race, Gender, and Class		

\*Note that the above list provides an example of the varied kinds of courses students have been approved to take for electives. They are meant to demonstrate some of the breadth of possibilities available for students to fulfill their elective requirements. The courses listed here may not be offered each semester or academic year.

## ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

Students must decide to pursue a thesis or non-thesis track as part of their graduate program. They should make this choice in consultation with the graduate director and a major professor at the end of the second semester of study.

## THESIS OPTION

A master's thesis must be an original research project completed under supervision of a faculty member who serves as a major professor to the student. Our faculty expect that a master's thesis will be a minimum of 70 double-spaced pages (about 17,000 words), inclusive of notes and bibliography. The lengths of theses vary by discipline; students writing original historical research may complete theses from 85 to 110 pages, while students completing certain ethnographical projects may produce theses that are 60 to 80 pages in length. Ultimately, an acceptable thesis length is left to the discretion of the advising professor and should reflect the academic expectations of the discipline in which the thesis is written. The final product should make a significant contribution to scholarship. The thesis culminates the master's program. Students who are interested in pursuing a doctoral degree or who are interested in careers that require research and/or research management should choose the thesis option.

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## CHOOSING A COMMITTEE

Every student will have a committee of three faculty members who will guide and assess their progress toward completion of the thesis. The student will work most closely with their committee chair/major professor, who will assist the student in developing the research project, developing competency in existing literature, and executing the final written work.

1. After their first year of coursework, students pursuing the thesis option should decide whom they wish to serve as their committee chair/major professor. Once a faculty member has agreed to serve as the chair, the student and faculty member should inform the SIGS Director and the Graduate Director.
2. The student will need approval from at least two additional faculty members to serve on their thesis committee.
  - a. One of the additional faculty members must be a core faculty member in Africana Studies.
  - b. An additional faculty member must not be a core faculty member in Africana Studies, but may be a faculty member in the School of Interdisciplinary Global Studies or an outside department. This third reader should have some expertise related to the proposed thesis topic and may be chosen at a later date but prior to the completion of the thesis proposal.
3. To finalize and formalize the thesis committee, students must complete the College of Arts and Sciences' **Graduate Student Supervisory Committee Appointment Form – New Appointment** (find here: <https://www.usf.edu/arts-sciences/students/graduate/forms-and-links.aspx>).

4. The student should meet with their thesis chair prior to end of the first academic year to discuss research goals the student should strive for while on recess between the first and second years.

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## CRAFTING A THESIS PROPOSAL

Students should write and defend their thesis proposal in their planned penultimate semester or prior.

- The completed thesis proposal should specify the question(s) that guides the proposed research, and where they fit in the literature in which the research questions are situated.
- The proposal should demonstrate the student's competent grasp of existing literature in the field of study and indicate precisely where and how the proposed thesis will contribute to scholarship.
- Moreover, it should identify the method(s) by which the student plans to execute the research, identifying, where appropriate, sources of qualitative or quantitative data as well.

Each thesis project and major professor require different kinds of proposals. Thus, proposals will vary in length and format, though they must meet the criteria listed above. Some major professors, for example, may require a condensed literature review within the body of the proposal, while others may ask for an annotated and structured bibliography. That said, students should expect to include a description of their research objective, a review of the relevant literature, a plan of research, a description of methods, and a bibliography. Proposals average about 20 double-spaced pages.<sup>3</sup> Ultimately, prior to the start of the student's formal thesis research semester, each member of the thesis committee must approve the student's proposal. Students, therefore, should plan to allow time for each committee member to read and respond to the proposal. Successful completion and approval of the thesis proposal serves in lieu of a comprehensive exam.

To facilitate the completion of a thorough proposal, in their third semester, *with the approval of their major professor*, students may enroll in **AFA 6905: Independent Study**. Independent study should help students become more familiar with the existing literature on their interests.<sup>4</sup> Concurrently in the third semester, *if deemed appropriate by the major professor*, students may also enroll in **AFA 6910: Directed Research**.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> We provide this information to give students a sense of the work they will be expected to complete, but emphasize that proposals must meet the expectation of the thesis major professor, and thus will vary not only in length but also in required content.

<sup>4</sup> Students should consult the official USF Graduate Catalog for restrictions on the number of elective hours allowable for independent study and directed research.

<sup>5</sup> Depending on the major professors' assessments of the students' needs and existing course offerings, the major professor may suggest the student continue in formal course work rather than independent study. For example, if the student is proposing a study of African American women's literature, has not taken a course in literature, and one is being offered, it would be advisable for the student to take the formal course rather than construct an independent study on the same topic.

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## THE THESIS

Students should be aware that it is unreasonable to write, revise, and defend a thesis in one semester, and therefore should plan to work on the thesis by way of research, writing, or perhaps reviewing literature, as discussed with their major professor for at least two full semesters. Additionally, students should remain in contact with their major professors throughout the thesis drafting stages, receiving and incorporating feedback throughout rather than attempting to write a full draft prior to review. Therefore, students should meet with their major professors well before the intended final semester to devise a writing and revision schedule that both parties can accommodate.

To schedule a defense date, the student must have submitted a completed draft of the thesis to their committee. Additionally, the thesis defense must be announced 2 weeks prior to the defense itself. Therefore, if the student has a defense date in mind, they should submit their completed thesis draft to their committee at least 4 weeks prior to the desired defense date, but ideally 5-6 weeks prior to the desired defense date. Failure to allow this reasonable amount of time for committee members to read the thesis may jeopardize the student's desired defense date. Once the committee has determined that the thesis is defensible, the student may move forward with paperwork to request a thesis announcement with SIGS Academic Program Specialist Marisa Laccone ([mlaccone@usf.edu](mailto:mlaccone@usf.edu)): [http://www.grad.usf.edu/inc/linked-files/ETD\\_Certificate\\_of\\_Approval\\_Form.pdf](http://www.grad.usf.edu/inc/linked-files/ETD_Certificate_of_Approval_Form.pdf).

Remember:

- Students are wholly responsible for being aware of and informing their major professors of University deadlines regarding defense dates, final submissions deadlines, etc. Consult the official guidelines and requirements of the Office of Graduate Studies: <http://www.grad.usf.edu/ETD-res-main.php>. Each student should remain cognizant of the final thesis submission deadline required by the Office of Graduate Studies and schedule their defense on a date that allows the student time to revise the thesis if the committee demands changes.
- Students should become intimately acquainted with the Office of Graduate Studies' Master's Thesis Process Checklist: <http://www.grad.usf.edu/inc/linked-files/thesisprocesschecklist.pdf>, which includes attending an in-person or online Electronic Thesis & Dissertation (ETD) Workshop in their penultimate semester.
- The thesis defense must be officially announced by SIGS Academic Program Specialist Marisa Laccone no less than one week prior to the scheduled defense date. The student is responsible for informing the SIGS Academic Program Specialist of the date once it has been approved by the committee. The template for the announcement is available through the Office of Graduate Studies: <http://www.grad.usf.edu/graduate-directors.php>.
- The written thesis must conform to the formatting rules as established by ETD in the Office of Graduate Studies.

In their expected final semester, students who choose the thesis option will enroll for at least 3 hours of thesis credit in **AFA 6971: Thesis (Master's)**. The student should remember that they need 6 hours of AFA 6971 completed prior to graduation.

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## DEFENSE

Defenses will vary in format and style. Students should consult with their major professor on the agenda and procedure of their individual defense. All members of the committee and the student must be present for the duration of the defense. Students should remember to bring a completed Thesis Approval and ETD Form, available at: <http://www.grad.usf.edu/student-forms.php>.

## NON-THESIS OPTION

Students who choose a non-thesis option must complete an additional 6 hours of course work at the graduate level, including 3 elective credits and 3 Independent Study credits in AFA 6905.

Towards the end of their second semester, students on the non-thesis track should choose a major professor. To select a major professor, each student should contact the faculty member they are interested in working with to schedule time to meet. The initial e-mail should include a brief description of about 500-1000 words that describes the student's academic work in the program up until that point and the area(s) of interest they would like to explore through their literature review. After meeting, the student should confirm in writing with the professor that both parties have agreed to work together. With the guidance of their major professor, the student will complete a substantial literature review of approximately 50 double-spaced pages (about 12,000 words) in Africana Studies.

The literature review will ultimately be scored by the advising professor, who may pass, conditionally pass with minor revisions, or require a re-write.

Note: Students interested in an academic career, specifically in teaching and/or research at the college level, should opt for the thesis track.

## PROPOSED PLAN OF STUDY

This proposed plan of study will vary according to which core courses are offered per semester; the outline below is based on historical trends. Students should be sure to register for required courses the first time they are offered, since some may be offered only once every four semesters.

Year 1		
	Coursework	Research
Semester 1	HUM 6814: Intro to Graduate Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Focus on coursework but begin thinking about research interests.</li> <li>Informally chat with various faculty members.</li> <li>The Graduate Director serves as your primary help during this early stage of your graduate program.</li> <li>Decide if you will pursue a graduate certificate and apply.</li> </ul>
	AFA 6932: Topics in Africana Studies	
	AFA 6120: Social Theory and Social Thought	
Semester 2	HUM 6815: Research Seminar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>By the end of the semester, attain a major professor and decide on the thesis or non-thesis option. Follow the guidelines listed above.</li> <li>Toward the end of the semester and if on the thesis track, consult your major professor and develop a plan to begin reading for the proposal between semesters 2 and 3.</li> </ul>
	AFA 6108: Social Construction of Race and Racism	
	Approved Elective	
Summer	Required courses are not offered in the summer. Students may enroll in electives if they chose, but registration is not required.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is advisable that thesis track students will complete a plan of study or research created in consultation with their major professor, especially if they intend to defend their thesis at the end of Year 2.</li> </ul>

Year 2		
	Coursework	Research
Semester 3	Take three approved electives, or if you have not completed any of the required core courses, take them. If any required courses have not been offered in the student's first three semesters, they should alert the Graduate Director immediately. If aiming to complete the thesis track by the end of Semester 4, consult with your major professor about independent study and/or directed research hours and a summer plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Thesis students should submit and achieve approval of their thesis proposal by mid-semester.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If the student intends to defend in Semester 4, their proposal should be completed and approved prior to the end of the first month of the semester following a summer of reading, writing, and, potentially, preliminary research.</li> <li>Attend the required ETD workshops.</li> <li>Plan to have a first draft of the thesis completed or near completion by the end of the semester.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Non-thesis students should continue to focus on coursework and attend any writing workshops offered by GPSC: <a href="http://www.grad.usf.edu/workshops.php">http://www.grad.usf.edu/workshops.php</a></li> </ul>

<b>Semesters 4-6</b>	Thesis students: register for thesis hours (AFA 6971).	Thesis students should complete their thesis draft several months prior to the desired defense date and will revise and resubmit the thesis to the committee chair until they are satisfied. Remember to attend to all the deadlines and paperwork required by the Office of Graduate Studies and to keep your major professor and committee abreast of these dates and of your progress. Schedule your defense and submit the final (and revised, if applicable) thesis by the University deadline.
	Non-thesis students: complete additional elective <b>and</b> AFA 6905: Independent Study.	Non-thesis students will complete their project in accordance with the guidelines listed above and should also attend to the deadlines and paperwork required by the Office of Graduate Studies for commencement and degree conferral.

**PROFESSIONAL AND ACADEMIC EXPECTATIONS**

While SIGS is committed to the intellectual and professional development of its graduate students, the faculty expect that students will be responsible for their progress throughout the degree program. Therefore, in order to create and maintain a culture of respect and a steady path towards completion, students should be sure to regularly inform their major professors and committee members on their progress through the program.

Additionally, students should speak with their major professor and committee members about developing a timeline for submitting and receiving feedback on drafts of student work, as well as set general and mutually understood expectations for requesting and receiving letters of recommendation.

Should a student have a concern or dispute with faculty or staff, they should seek out the advice of the graduate director.

## GRADING POLICY AND MAINTAINING GOOD ACADEMIC STANDING<sup>6</sup>

Students pursuing the Master of Liberal Arts in Africana Studies must maintain good academic standing.

The Office of Graduate Studies automatically considers a student out of good standing if they fail to meet the requirements listed above (see: <http://www.grad.usf.edu/inc/linked-files/probation-procedure.pdf>). The School of Interdisciplinary Global Studies will notify the student and the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences in writing that the student is on probation at the end of any semester where the student's performance is unsatisfactory according to the aforementioned criteria. If on probation, students should consult with the Graduate Director about how to improve their performance. At the end of each semester that the student is on probation, SIGS will recommend that the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences either a) discontinues probation, b) continues probation, or c) dismisses the student from the degree program.

Students should also note that after two consecutive semesters with a GPA below 3.00, the College will prevent the student from registering for courses without the express permission of the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. To continue study at the University of South Florida, the student will need to begin the admissions process anew.

Section 7 of the Office of Graduate Studies Catalog, Academic Policies and Regulations, maintains official statements regarding student responsibilities and expected academic and professional conduct: [http://www.grad.usf.edu/policies\\_sect7\\_full.php](http://www.grad.usf.edu/policies_sect7_full.php).

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<sup>6</sup> The language on this page is borrowed or adapted from: [http://www.grad.usf.edu/inc/linked-files/Catalog%20and%20Policies/2012\\_2013/Policies/Automating\\_Academic\\_Probation\\_with\\_Examples\\_updated\\_10\\_24\\_12.pdf](http://www.grad.usf.edu/inc/linked-files/Catalog%20and%20Policies/2012_2013/Policies/Automating_Academic_Probation_with_Examples_updated_10_24_12.pdf).

# FELLOWSHIPS, FUNDING, AND AWARDS

## GRADUATE ASSISTANTSHIPS<sup>7</sup>

**Deadlines:** Fall Semester: June 1<sup>st</sup> | Spring Semester: October 15<sup>th</sup>

**Funding:** The School of Interdisciplinary Global Studies offers Masters-level graduate assistantships each academic year. The number of assistantships vary each year. An assistantship includes a salary (paid biweekly) based on the required hours per week. Graduate assistants who fulfill all requirements are eligible for a tuition waiver on approved coursework as well as USF GA Health Insurance (mostly paid by the department), but are responsible for student fees assessed to their account. Assistantships are competitive and are only awarded to those who apply. If you are interested in an assistantship, please fill out the application [here](#).

## MCKNIGHT DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP

**Deadline:** January 15th of each year

**Eligibility:** Applicants must be African American or Hispanic, U.S. citizens, and hold a minimum of a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited college or university. Since this program is intended to increase enrollment in Ph.D. programs, currently enrolled doctoral students are not eligible to apply.

**Funding:** Up to 50 Fellowships are awarded annually to study at one of nine participating Florida universities. Each award provides annual tuition up to \$5,000 (tuition above this amount is waived by the participating institution) for each of three academic years plus an annual stipend of \$12,000. (An additional two years of support at this same level is provided by the participating institution.) The award also includes a [comprehensive system of academic support](#). Each annual renewal is contingent upon satisfactory performance and normal progress toward the Ph.D. degree. For more information and to apply click here: [www.fefonline.org](http://www.fefonline.org).

## PIVOT

Graduate students at USF are eligible to create Pivot accounts. Pivot is a comprehensive service that assists researchers in identifying funding opportunities, including awards for travel, conference attendance, dissertation fellowships, and research projects. Complete the quick online training and learn more about how to seek out additional funding opportunities: <https://www.usf.edu/research-innovation/sr/funding-resources.aspx>.

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<sup>7</sup> See: <http://hennarot.forest.usf.edu/main/depts/IGS/graduate/>.

## **AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION**

The AAUW's Career Development Grants offers scholarships to eligible U.S. citizens and permanent residents between \$2000 - \$12000 to support course work beyond the bachelor's degree.

<https://www.aauw.org/what-we-do/educational-funding-and-awards/>

## **GRADUATE PROGRAM AS A PROFESSIONAL AND INTELLECTUAL COMMUNITY**

**Black Graduate and Professional Students Association**

<http://usfstudentorganizations.orgsync.com/org/bgpsa/>

**Global Studies Scholar**

<https://orgsync.com/99371/chapter>

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Links verified: Academic Year 2018-2019

School of Interdisciplinary Global Studies  
<http://hennarot.forest.usf.edu/main/depts/IGS/>

Institute on Black Life  
<http://www.ibl.usf.edu/>

USF Graduate School  
<http://www.grad.usf.edu/>

USF Library  
<http://www.lib.usf.edu/>

Innovative Education  
<https://www.usf.edu/innovative-education/ofd/>

USF Academy for Teaching and Learning Excellence (ATLE)  
<https://www.usf.edu/atle>

USF Information Technology (IT)  
<http://www.it.usf.edu/>

My USF  
<http://my.usf.edu>

OASIS (Online Access Student Information System)  
<http://oasis.usf.edu/>

USF Graduate Catalog  
<http://www.grad.usf.edu/catalog.php>

Graduation Process  
<http://usfweb2.usf.edu/commencement/>

USF Graduate Certificates  
<http://www.gradcerts.usf.edu/>

USF Graduate School Professional Development Workshops  
<http://www.grad.usf.edu/workshops.php>

USF Financial Aid  
<http://usfweb2.usf.edu/finaid/>

USF Graduate School Thesis  
<http://www.grad.usf.edu/ETD-res-main.php>

USF Graduate School Forms  
<http://www.grad.usf.edu/student-forms.php>

USF Graduate School Policies & Procedures  
<http://www.grad.usf.edu/policies>

Incomplete Grade Policy & Procedures  
[http://www.grad.usf.edu/policies\\_sect7\\_full.php](http://www.grad.usf.edu/policies_sect7_full.php)

Academic Probation  
[http://www.grad.usf.edu/policies\\_sect7\\_full.php](http://www.grad.usf.edu/policies_sect7_full.php)

This handbook serves as a guide for students pursuing an MLA in Africana Studies. Students should follow all official and binding requirements as outlined by the Office of Graduate Studies (OGS) and in the USF Graduate Catalog (<http://catalog.grad.usf.edu>). While we update this handbook annually and attempt to ensure its accuracy, if information herein conflicts with that provided by OGS, OGS and University-wide rules, regulations, and deadlines always take precedent. If such a conflict does appear, please consult with the Graduate Director.

The University of South Florida, established in 1956, is a high-impact global research university dedicated to student success. USF has 3 campuses located in Tampa, St. Petersburg, and Sarasota-Manatee. In 2020 all 3 campuses were consolidated under one accreditation. Serving more than 50,000 students, USF has an annual budget of \$1.8 billion and an annual economic impact of \$4.4 billion. USF ranks in the top 30 nationally for research expenditures among public universities, according to the National Science Foundation. In 2018, the Florida Board of Governors designated USF as a Preeminent State Research University, placing USF in the most elite category among the state's 12 public universities. USF is a member of the American Athletic Conference.