

## Department of African and African American Studies Timeline

Date	Title	Description
<b>April 10, 1968</b>	Black Students Organization Afro published an advertisement	The black student organization Afro publishes an advertisement in the Harvard Crimson calling for the university to: "Establish an endowed chair for a Black Professor. Establish courses relevant to Blacks at Harvard. Establish more lower level Black Faculty members. Admit a number of Black students proportionate to our percentage of the population as a whole."
<b>April 14, 1968</b>	Founding of the Ad Hoc Committee of Black Students	Founding of the Ad Hoc Committee of Black Students. "Approximately fifty members of the Harvard black student community voted to establish a ten-member body to be the sole articulator of the demands of black students to the Administration on the issues of (1) black admissions, (2) black curriculum, and (3) black faculty" (Charles H. Curl, Jr.'s typescript, "The History of the Ad Hoc Committee (Spring '68).")
<b>April 19, 1968</b>	Ad Hoc Committee of Black Students modifies demands	Ad Hoc Committee of Black Students modifies its demands and calls for (1) a chair in Black Studies instead of a chair specifically for a black professor; (2) the admittance of a greater number of qualified black students rather than a specific percentage; and (3) the establishment of an African-American Research Center.
<b>April 29, 1968</b>	More black Harvard students	The Admissions Department announces its intention to recruit and admit more black students to Harvard.
<b>May 9, 1968</b>	Faculty Committee on African and Afro-American Studies	Dean Franklin L. Ford invites a group of nine faculty members to accept appointments on a select Faculty Committee on African and Afro-American Studies. The members of the committee are C. T. W. Curle, Daniel M. Fox, George W. Goethals, Alan Heimert, H. Stuart Hughes, Martin L. Kilson, Jr., the only African American committee member, Gary T. Marx, J. W. M. Whiting, and Henry Rosovsky, chairman. Two students nominated by the Ad Hoc Committee of Black Students are invited to join the committee as observers, Ernest J. Wilson III and Octavia Hudson. Dean Ford charges the committee with:
<b>May 16, 1968</b>	New course in Afro-American Studies	(1) Clearer identification and better advertisement of courses on Africa and/or various aspects of the experience of black Americans, courses which are already in our catalogue; (2) the mounting of additional instruction in these subjects at Harvard; (3) the greater articulation of our offerings with those of other institutions in these subjects at Harvard; (4) movement toward a possible field of undergraduate concentration, necessarily cutting across disciplinary lines but held together by the centrality of concern for African and Afro-American subject matter (Rosovsky Report).
<b>November 22, 1968</b>	Students call for the creation of a Department of Afro-American Studies	Critical of Social Sciences 5, the Ad Hoc Committee of Black Students releases a statement calling for the creation of a Department of Afro-American Studies at Harvard.
<b>January 20, 1969</b>	Rosovsky Report	Report of the Faculty Committee on African and Afro-American Studies ("Rosovsky Report") is issued. The report recommends: (1) the creation of a standing Faculty Committee on degrees in Afro-American Studies to develop and supervise a combined major in this field and to grant degrees starting with the class of 1972; (2) the establishment of a coordinating Committee on African Studies to oversee the increase of course offerings in African studies; (3) the building of a social and cultural center for black students; (4) the establishment of a Center for Afro-American Studies, which would "provide intellectual leadership, a physical locale and sufficient material resources for consideration of all aspects of the Afro-American experience"; and (5) a major effort to increase black enrollment in the graduate school and to earmark fifteen to twenty fellowships per year for black graduate students.

<b>February 11, 1969</b>	Faculty accepts recommendations	The faculty accepts the recommendations of the Report of the Faculty Committee on African and Afro-American Studies.
<b>February 19, 1969</b>	Search committee for faculty appointments in Afro-American studies	Dean Franklin L. Ford appoints a search committee to identify candidates for faculty appointments in Afro-American studies. The committee includes three students selected by the Ad Hoc Committee of Black Students and three members of the faculty.
<b>April, 15, 1969</b>	Students March	In a climate of widespread student unrest led by the Harvard-Radcliffe chapter of Students for a Democratic Society (SDS), which resulted in rallies, sit-ins, strikes, and protests against ROTC and also labor policies at Harvard, African American students march on Dean Franklin L. Ford's office to reiterate their demands for student roles in setting up curricula for black studies and hiring tenured faculty.
<b>April 22, 1969</b>	Faculty approves students' demands to establish Afro-American Studies as a department	<p>Overturing its earlier vote on the Rosovsky Report, the faculty approves students' demands to establish Afro-American Studies as a department and to have a voice in appointing faculty for the new department. Professor Henry Rosovsky, the committee chair, and Professor Daniel M. Fox resign from the committee. In the same meeting, the Faculty of Arts and Sciences votes to expand the Standing Committee on Afro-American Studies to include three students chosen by the Association of African and Afro-American Students at Harvard and Radcliffe and three students chosen from and by potential concentrators in the field.</p> <p>The Standing Committee is to have the following functions: To oversee expansion of library resources in the Afro-American Studies field; To develop the Afro-American Research Institute; To solicit funds for Departmental chairs; To work towards a greater Boston consortium of university Afro-American resources; To seek out and hire immediately, temporary consultants knowledgeable in Afro-American Studies and personally involved in the Afro-American experience to assist in the development of this program; To nominate the first four to six appointments in the department, two of which must be tenured.</p>
<b>May 1, 1969</b>	Standing Committee on Afro-American Studies	<p>The Standing Committee on Afro-American Studies includes the following members:</p> <p>Harold Amos (Bacteriology and Immunology)  Kathryn Bowser (Radcliffe '72)  Leslie F. Griffin, Jr. (Harvard '70)  Loretta G. Hardge (Radcliffe '72)  Clarence James (Harvard '72)  John F. Kain (Economics)  Myles V. Lynk (Harvard '70)  Juan Marichal (Romance Languages)  Talcott Parsons (Social Relations)  Mark Smith (Harvard '72)  Zeph Stewart (Classics)  Charles A. Whitney (Astronomy)  Richard A. Musgrave (Economics and Law School) - Chairman</p>
<b>September 22, 1969</b>	Musgrave Report	The Standing Committee on Afro-American Studies issues a report-the so-called Musgrave Report-announcing nine faculty appointments and seven new courses for the fall term, with ten planned for the spring. The committee also proposes the establishment of a W. E. B. Du Bois Institute for Afro-American Research. The faculty appointments included Dr. Ewart Guinier, Dr. Ephraim Isaac, Mr. Fred Clifton, Dr. Azinna Nwafor, Dr. Orlando Patterson, Professor Richard A. Long, Professor J. Newton Hill, Mr. Hayward Henry, and Mr. Harold R. Washington.

<b>October, 1, 1969</b>	First chair of the Department of Afro-American Studies	Professor Ewart Guinier is named first chair of the Department of Afro-American Studies.
<b>September 21, 1970</b>	Report of the Afro-American Studies Department	In the preface of his Report of the Afro-American Studies Department, Professor Ewart Guinier states that "we are building a program-graduate as well as undergraduate- which is being developed from a black perspective to serve the interests of the black community and thereby the interests of all." He further indicates in the introduction that the purpose of the department is "the development and use of appropriate tools with which to examine the Black experience in Africa and the New World in all its aspects and from a Black perspective." Guinier reports a total enrollment of 354 students in the department's 25 courses during the first academic year.
<b>June 1, 1972</b>	First class graduates	The department graduates its first class of concentrators in Afro-American studies; they number fourteen.
<b>May 1, 1975</b>	W.E.B. Du Bois Institute	Founding date of what was initially called the W.E.B. Du Bois Institute for Afro-American Research.
<b>July 1, 1985</b>	Ford Foundation publishes Afro-American Studies	The Ford Foundation published Nathan Huggins's report, titled Afro-American Studies, examining "the current status of Afro-American studies on American campuses in light of the early experience and future needs of the field."
<b>October 28, 1986</b>	Blacks at Harvard	For the 350th Anniversary of Harvard College, the Afro-American Studies Department produces and disseminates Blacks at Harvard, the first historical documentation of black faculty and student presence. It was later expanded and published by New York University Press in 1993 as Blacks at Harvard: A Documentary History of African-American Experience at Harvard and Radcliffe, edited by Werner Sollors, Caldwell Titcomb, and Thomas A. Underwood with an introduction by Randall Kennedy.
<b>1996-1997</b>	Proposal for a graduate program in Afro-American studies	A committee composed of K. Anthony Appiah, Chair, Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham, and Werner Sollors prepares a proposal for a graduate program in Afro-American studies. The aim of the program is to combine an interdisciplinary training in African American cultural and social studies with a focus in a major disciplinary field, leading to the Ph.D. in African American studies.
<b>June 9, 1997</b>	Barker Center	With the opening of the Barker Center, the Department of Afro-American Studies and the W. E. B. Du Bois Institute for Afro-American Research are united in a common physical space for the first time.
<b>1997-1998</b>	University Professors	William Julius Wilson is named the Lewis F. and Linda L. Geysler University Professor. Cornel West is named the Alphonse Fletcher, Jr., University Professor. West holds this title until his departure from Harvard in 2002.
<b>February 15, 2000</b>	Faculty approves graduate program in Afro-American studies	The faculty approves unanimously the establishment of a graduate program in Afro-American studies.
<b>April 18, 2000</b>	Anniversary	Harvard University celebrates the thirtieth anniversary of the Department of Afro-American Studies and the twenty-fifth anniversary of the W. E. B. Du Bois Institute for Afro-American Research.
<b>September 4, 2001</b>	Graduate Program classes begin	The Graduate Program in Afro-American Studies begins classes with its first six students.
<b>2003-2004</b>	Department of African and African American Studies	The department revises its undergraduate curriculum to include the Africa track and the America Track. By vote of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences at its regular meeting the Department of Afro-American Studies begins the academic year as the newly renamed Department of African and African American Studies. The W. E. B. Du Bois Institute for Afro-American Research also changes its name to the W. E. B. Du Bois Institute for African and African American Research.  With the appointment of John M. Mugane as Senior Preceptor in

		African and African American Studies, the African Language Program is established with Mugane as its director.
<b>September 5, 2006</b>	Graduate Program African Studies track	The graduate program is adjusted so as to include the African Studies track.
<b>2006-2007</b>	Henry Louis Gates, Jr.	Henry Louis Gates, Jr., becomes the Alphonse Fletcher, Jr., University Professor. Under the leadership of Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham, the department begins discussion of a new pedagogy—the Social Engagement Initiative—and its introduction into the curriculum.
<b>June 4, 2008</b>	Evelynn M. Hammonds	President Drew Faust appoints Evelynn M. Hammonds, Barbara Gutmann Rosenkrantz Professor of the History of Science and of African and African American Studies, to be the Dean of Harvard College. Hammonds is the first African American or woman to hold this position.
<b>2010</b>	Social Engagement Senior Theses	First Social Engagement Senior Theses are written. AAAS concentrator Sangu Delle wins the Hoopes Prize for his Social Engagement thesis, entitled “The Value of Water and Sanitation in Development: A Case Study of Agyementi”