Hello!

Congratulations on being accepted to Carleton! As director of Africana Studies (AFST), I’m delighted that you’re interested in AFST and write to welcome you to the College and to our interdisciplinary program. We are a lively community of faculty, majors, and minors engaging in fascinating courses as well as intellectual activities outside the classroom—such as our Angelina Weld Grimké Lecture Series, named in honor of Carleton’s first African-American student.

Have you ever wondered about the role of youth in the revolutions that brought Black Studies programs to U.S. campuses? About African diasporas in the Arab world? Or about changing representations of Blackness? Our program lets you explore these and other questions.

The program in Africana Studies provides a cross-culturally and historically comparative framework to study the rich connections and exchanges among African people, their descendants, and the various “new worlds” in which they have made and are making their lives. A particular strength of Carleton’s Africana Studies program is the opportunity to explore these issues both on the African continent and in numerous African diasporas—of varying historical depth—in the Americas, Europe, Asia, and the Middle East. Africana Studies provides an interdisciplinary perspective on the cultural, literary, political, social, and intellectual responses to slavery, colonialism, and racialization throughout Africa and its many diasporas.

Students can pursue their intellectual interests in Africa and its diasporas through on-campus courses and off-campus studies programs, and through a rich variety of courses in nearly all curricular exploration divisions. Through multidisciplinary training, students are encouraged to develop their analytic, research, and literary skills; they acquire the intellectual tools to critique and correct the distortions and silences about Africans and their descendants in both academic canons and public discourse.

If you have questions about Africana Studies, please send me an email at jcwillis@carleton.edu. I’m looking forward to working with you in the very near future.

With best wishes,

Thabiti Willis
Associate Professor, History
Director, Africana Studies Program