

REQUIREMENTS OF SCHOLARS

Attendance at monthly cohort meetings and weekly workshop attendance

Presenting papers in the annual Drake Forum

PREREQUISITES

1) Enrollment in or completion of the following courses:

1 course in the AAS 39 series

AAS R1A/1B or equivalent

AAS 5A/5B

2) Must be at least 2 years from the completion of degree

HOW TO APPLY

To apply to be an Engaged Scholar please submit a 1-page statement of interest, and application form to veveclarkinstitute@berkeley.edu.

The application form and instructions for the statement of interest can be found online at: <http://africam.berkeley.edu/content/clark-institute>

**DEADLINE
AUGUST 1ST**

VèVè Amasasa Clark, born December 14, 1944, joined the ancestors December 1, 2007. Raised in Queens, New York, Clark received her bachelor's and master's degrees from Queens College. She first came to the University of California, Berkeley, as a graduate student and completed her Ph.D. in French and ethnology in 1983. After earning tenure at Tufts University, Clark returned to UC Berkeley in 1991 as an associate professor in the Department of African American Studies (AAS).

Clark's scholarship, teaching, and service—indeed her entire intellectual acumen and arsenal—reflect her passionate commitment to the field of African American and African diaspora studies, a discipline that she in no uncertain terms both fashioned and elevated. Fluent in French, Spanish and Creole, conversant in Wolof, and with training in literary studies and anthropology, Clark embodied interdisciplinarity well in advance of its present popularity; her work was at the vanguard of our most consequential scholarly currents.

She was most passionate about African and Caribbean literatures, Afro-Caribbean folklore, African diasporic theater, African American dance history, and critical pedagogy. Clark often spoke of infrastructure as a means to dismantle institutional barriers and foster social justice through the academy. Effectively, she has left her telling signature on a variety of existing institutions at Berkeley and beyond, including the forging of the doctoral program in African American and African Diaspora Studies at UC Berkeley, one of few such programs in the nation. Moreover, she was instrumental in creating other significant organizations, including the Haitian Studies Association, for which she served as founding member of its board of directors. Her enthusiasm for her research subjects translated seamlessly into the classroom, where she taught some of the department's most popular courses, including Marasa: Caribbean Literatures by Women, The Negritude Movement in French African/Caribbean Literatures, African Women Writers, and Introduction to the University.

VèVè A. Clark

Institute for Engaged Scholars of African American Studies



VèVè A. Clark
1944 – 2007
Associate Professor of African American Studies
UC Berkeley

Join a Network of Peer
Scholars

WHAT IS THE VÈVÈ A. CLARK INSTITUTE FOR ENGAGED SCHOLARS OF AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES?

The Clark Institute is a small cadre of scholars majoring in the discipline of African American Studies preparing to meet the rigor and intellectual demands of top research university graduate programs, professional schools and postgraduate careers.

Clark Institute Scholars attend monthly seminar meetings and weekly workshops and gain access to a variety of resources to support their academic development, including working closely with African American Studies faculty.

GOALS FOR THE CLARK SCHOLARS

To understand the structure and function of a research university and how knowledge is generated

To be knowledgeable of and conversant with the African American Studies canon

To graduate in four years or less

To demonstrate intellectual leadership within the classroom and across the university

To foster and contribute to a spirit of generosity and collaboration in the African American Studies community

BENEFITS OF THE VÈVÈ A. CLARK INSTITUTE FOR ENGAGED SCHOLARS

Priority enrollment in African American
Studies courses

Academic mentorship from faculty

Priority access to academic advising with
the African American Studies
Undergraduate Advisor

Cultivating intellectual ideas
and areas of research

Access to a distinguished alumni
network of scholars and professionals

Placement in internship programs and
community service projects



WHY AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES?

Intellectual Flexibility: Our students develop the knowledge and skills to bring distinct perspectives to graduate study and employment in careers as diverse as law, education, finance, medicine, social work, non-profit organizations, and the performing arts.

Preparation for the Knowledge

Economy: Inter- and multidisciplinary fields such as African American Studies prepare students to function in professional environments where the ability to synthesize and generate information from disparate sources and through different expressive modes is critical.

Civic Engagement: We believe—in the best tradition of a liberal arts education—that the knowledge base our students cultivate with a degree in African American Studies prepares them to be well-spoken, well-informed, deeply engaged citizens in a society where the mechanisms of racialization are embedded in some of our most pressing social problems as well as in our most exciting opportunities.

Global Perspective: Economic, technological, and socio-political transformations in our world mean that the most successful citizens will be those who can think and operate across geo-political borders. Because our major in African American Studies is situated within the department's larger investment in researching the African Diaspora, our students are trained to understand the central role of racialized blackness in both world history and contemporary cultures.

Passion: We take pride in offering a major where personal passion can merge with intellectual rigor to produce the next generation of highly-skilled critical thinkers.