

Juan Maefield

University of Central Arkansas
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EDUCATION

Michigan State University, PhD, African American & African Studies (specialization: African American history), 2021
Michigan State University, MA, African American & African Studies (specialization: African American history), 2017
University of Michigan-Dearborn, BA, History (minors: African American & African Studies and Philosophy), 2013
Wayne County Community College District, AA, Teacher Education (concentration: U.S. History), 2011

TEACHING/RESEARCH BACKGROUND

African American History (major) – social, cultural, political history of African Americans in the U.S.; the civil rights movement over the longue durée; Civil War & Reconstruction, slavery/post-emancipation. **U.S. History** – U.S. history since 1865. **Islam** – Islam in the U.S.; Islam in Black America; history of the Nation of Islam.

UNDERGRADUATE TEACHING

University of Central Arkansas, Conway, AR

Assistant Professor, Department of History, 2021-Present

Courses Taught

AFAM/HIST 1330: Introduction to Africana Studies
HIST 1376: Policing Black Bodies: The History of Mass Incarceration
HIST 3353: African American History Before 1868
HIST 3354: African American History Since 1868
HIST 4324: African American Music History
HIST 4324: Freedom's Daughters: African American Women's History
HIST 4359: Civil Rights Movement History
HIST 5359: The Civil Rights Movement (Graduate Course)

Independent Study Courses

HIST 4V91: Witchcraft, Race, and Marginalization Through History: A Study Abroad Exploration
HIST 4V91: Black Bodies, White Coats: The Intersection of Blackness and Medicine

Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI

Instructor, Department of African American & African Studies, 2018-2020

Courses Taught

AAAS 390: The Long Civil Rights Movement (2020)

This course examined the struggle for civil rights in the United States from an expanded perspective, chronologically and ideologically, by exploring five epochs: (1) civil rights involvement during the transition from slavery to freedom (1865-1910), (2) civil rights activism during the early twentieth century (1910-1950), (3) the classical phase of the Civil Rights Movement (1954-1965), the Black Power era (1965-1975) and finally, (5) the contemporary activism of the Black Lives Matter Movement.

AAAS 300: Survey in Africana Studies (2018-2019)

This course introduced students to the broad and dynamic field of African American & African Studies by examining key aspects of Black life in its current and historical unfolding. This course underscored the interlocking oppressions of race, class, gender, and sexuality while examining key topics of the discipline including African/African American history, Black women's history, Black feminist thought, Black queer theories, and the African diaspora.

Teaching Assistant/Student Leader, Research and Action in the New South Africa, Department of African American & African Studies (2019)

AAAS 390: Special Topics in Black/Africana Studies

AAAS 490: Independent Study: Black/Africana Studies

AAAS 495: Advanced Research: Black/Africana Studies

This study abroad program offered guided research in South Africa and provided students the opportunity to engage with local and collegiate organizations and programs in Stellenbosch, Pretoria, Johannesburg, and Cape Town.

Teaching Assistant, Center for Integrative Studies in the Arts and Humanities, 2016-2017

IAH 201: The U.S. and the World (2017)

Assisted instructor by leading weekly discussions, grading exams and essays, creating quizzes, and evaluating students' overall participation in three sections of 25 students.

IAH 203: Latin America and the World (2016)

Assisted instructor by leading weekly discussions, grading exams and essays, creating quizzes, and evaluating students' overall participation in three sections of 25 students.

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

University of Central Arkansas, Conway, AR

Co-Director, African & African American Studies Program

- Oversee the undergraduate program and work with faculty members in many programs of the College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences
- Oversee work in numerous outreach and public programming activities
- Develop programs and activities commensurate with a vision of providing excellence in interdisciplinary academic engagements
- Seek input from faculty affiliates in the pursuit of ambitious academic goals to raise the visibility of the program and the university within the field of Africana Studies
- Actively represent and advocate for the Africana Studies program while also incorporating a strategy focused on outcomes shared by partners on campus

Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI

Coordinator of Undergraduate Recruitment, 2014-2015

- Successfully recruited 28 undergraduate students to enroll in the newly established African American & African Studies minor (before the fall of 2014, AAAS only offered a certificate program)
- Served as an academic advisor to the 28 students enrolled in the AAAS minor
- Monitored and maintained the files of the AAAS Minors
- Co-created a "Talk Back" series to discuss key topics of the Black experience while introducing the campus community to the AAAS minor

RESEARCH and PUBLICATIONS

University of Central Arkansas, Conway, AR

Publications:

- Maefield, Juan. "I Don't Feel Any Oppressed At All": African American Sunni Women in Detroit. *International Journal of Arts, Humanities & Social Science* 6, no. 4 (2025): 12–27. <https://doi.org/10.56734/ijahss.v6n4a2>
- Maefield, Juan. *Islam in Black Detroit: A Case Study*. PhD diss., Michigan State University, 2021. ProQuest Dissertations Publishing. (<https://doi.org/doi:10.25335/xe19-qf49>)
- Maefield, Jajuan J. "Transcultural and Religious Bricolage: How the Nation of Islam (Re)Constructed a Religion." Master's thesis, Michigan State University, 2017. <https://d.lib.msu.edu/etd/6904>.

Current Research:

- Editor, *Unveiling Insights: Faculty Perspectives on Immersive Research and Study Abroad in the African Diaspora* (Summer 2025 release date)
- "Policing Black Bodies: Teaching Critical History in a Transformative Classroom" (in progress)

- “African Roots in Western Soil: The Efficacy of African-Centered Education in Predominantly White Institutions” (in progress)
- “Jazz, Jordan’s and Hijabs: Islam in Black Detroit, A Case Study” (in progress)

The Muslim Center: Mosque and Community Center, Detroit, MI

- Dissertation Research, *Islam in Black Detroit: A Case Study*, 2018-2021

Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI

- Education Abroad, Research and Action in the New South Africa, 2019
- MA thesis research, “Transcultural and Religious Bricolage: How the Nation of Islam (Re)Constructed a Religion”
- Research Assistant, Department of African American & African Studies, 2015-2016

ACADEMIC/COMMUNITY SERVICE

University of Central Arkansas, Conway, AR

Departmental Service

- Hospitality Committee (2023 - Present)
- Undergraduate/Core Curriculum Committee (2023-present)
- BSE Interviewer (2021 - Present)
- Member of 2390 Working Group (2022)
- Faculty Affairs Committee (2021-2023)
- Curriculum Committee (2024 - Present)
- Faculty Search Committee (2024 - Present)

College Service

- Research Committee (2023-present)
- Co-Director, Africana Studies (2023 - Present)
- CAHSS Curriculum Committee (2023 - Present)

University Service & Activities

- UCA Foundation Scholarship Reviewer (2023 - Present)
- Presented at SOAR Session (June 22, 2023)
- Attended Bear Facts Day to recruit for Africana Studies (Oct 7, 2023)

Student Organizations

- Advisor, AFAM Studies Society (2021 - Present)

Community Service Activities

- Member, Brother’s Keeper Coaching Circle (2023 - Present)
- “Journey to Salvation: The 1961 Freedom Rides” lecture to First Methodist Church Forum Class, Conway, AR (Aug 7, 2022)
- Lecturer and Consultant, Africa-America Institute, Detroit, MI (2021- 2022)
- Judge, National History Day Arkansas (2022 - Present)

Michigan State University, East Lansing

Advisor, Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, 2019-2020

Advisor/Guest Speaker, Talk Back Series, Department of African American & African Studies, 2014-2019

Advisor/Mentor, African Student Leadership Association (ASLA), 2014-2015

Village Summit Community Center, Lansing, MI

Executive Board Member, 2016-2021

The Muslim Center: Mosque and Community Center, Detroit, MI

Soup Kitchen Volunteer, 2018-2020

HONORS, AWARDS, AND GRANTS

University of Central Arkansas

Diversity, Belonging, Inclusion, and Equity (DBIE) Award Finalist (2025)

Most Valuable Professor (2023)

Michigan State University

Dissertation Completion Fellowship, 2021

Summer Support Fellowship, 2018-2020

Muslim Studies' Graduate Student Spotlight, 2020

Somers Excellence in Teaching Award, 2017

University of Michigan-Dearborn

Honor Scholar of the Year, 2014

PRESENTATIONS

Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI

Guest speaker: Talk Back Series, Department of African American and African Studies, 2014 – 2019

Facilitator: Muslim Journeys, Muslim Studies Program, 2019-2020

National Council of Black Studies

Panel Facilitator: Queering Africana Studies, 2019

Durfee Innovations Society, Detroit, MI

Panel: "Reconstruction: America after the Civil War," American Descendants of Slavery (ADOS), 2020

MEMBERSHIPS

Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH)

National Council of Black Studies (NCBS)