Twin Cities Campus

African American and African Studies B.A.

African-Amer & African Studies

College of Liberal Arts

- Program Type: Baccalaureate
- Requirements for this program are current for Spring 2021
- Required credits to graduate with this degree: 120
- Required credits within the major: 30
- Degree: Bachelor of Arts

African American & African Studies (AA&AS) is a place to make connections across the complexities of Africa, Black America, and the African diaspora. Multidisciplinary in its approach to learning, AA&AS students are exposed to the pressing challenges of the modern world, as well as possibilities for transformations through the study of African American and African history, literature, and culture, and the study of Africa in global perspectives. The courses present students with tools of inquiry from multiple liberal arts disciplines to make known tremendous diversities and overlapping histories and experiences within the wider black world. AA&AS also offers two African languages, Swahili (spoken throughout East, Central, and South Africa) and Somali, in its undergraduate curriculum. The major curriculum consists of three core courses and seven upper-division elective courses. Many AA&AS graduates have not only been accepted to professional and graduate schools, but have also cultivated their career paths in exciting directions including education, business, medicine, law, the arts, journalism, local and transnational advocacy work, and foreign affairs.

Program Delivery

This program is available:

- via classroom (the majority of instruction is face-to-face)

Admission Requirements

For information about University of Minnesota admission requirements, visit the Office of Admissions website.

General Requirements

All students are required to complete general University and college requirements including writing and liberal education courses. For more information about University-wide requirements, see the liberal education requirements.Required courses for the major or minor in which a student receives a D grade (with or without plus or minus) do not count toward the major or minor (including transfer courses).

Program Requirements

Students are required to take 4 semester(s) of any second language.

All CLA BA degrees require 18 upper division (3xxx-level or higher) credits outside the major designator. These credits must be taken in designators different from the major designator and cannot include courses that are cross-listed with the major designator. The major designator for the African American and African Studies BA is AFRO.

At least 12 upper division credits in the major must be taken at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities campus. At least 15 credits in the major must be taken at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities campus.

Students are encouraged to meet with the AA&AS departmental advisor at least once a year.

Students may earn a BA or a minor in African American and African studies, but not both.

All incoming CLA freshmen must complete the First-Year Experience course sequence.

All students must complete a capstone in at least one CLA major. The requirements for double majors completing the capstone in a different CLA major will be clearly stated. Students must also complete all major requirements in both majors to allow the additional capstone to be waived. Student completing an addition degree must complete the capstone in each degree area.

Core Courses

Take exactly 2 course(s) totaling exactly 6 credit(s) from the following:

Preparatory Course

Take exactly 1 course(s) totaling exactly 3 credit(s) from the following:

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•AFRO 1011 - Introduction to African American Studies [DSJ] (3.0 cr)
•AFRO 1021 - Introduction to Africa [GP] (3.0 cr)
•AFRO 1023W - Introduction to African World Literature [GP, LITR, WI] (3.0 cr)
•AFRO 19xx - Freshman Seminar

•Core Theory Course

Take exactly 1 course(s) totaling exactly 3 credit(s) from the following:
•AFRO 4105 - Ways of Knowing in Africa and the African Diaspora (3.0 cr)

Electives

Any AFRO 3xxx, 4xxx, 5xxx or its cross-list may count as an elective.
Take exactly 7 course(s) totaling 21 or more credit(s) from the following:
•AFRO 3006 - Impact of African Migrations in the Atlantic World (3.0 cr)
•AFRO 3108 - Black Music: A History of Jazz (3.0 cr)
•AFRO 3112 - In the Heart of the Beat: the Poetry of Rap (3.0 cr)
•AFRO 3125W - Black Visions of Liberation: Ella, Martin, Malcolm, and the Radical Transformation of U.S. Democracy [CIV, WI] (3.0 cr)
•AFRO 3131 - Contemporary Issues in Africa (3.0 cr)
•AFRO 3435 - Political Dynamics in the Horn of Africa [SOCS, GP] (3.0 cr)
•AFRO 3301 - The Music of Black Americans [AH, DSJ] (3.0 cr)
•AFRO 3426 - African Americans, Social Policy, and the Welfare State (3.0 cr)
•AFRO 3578 - Contemporary Sub-Saharan African Popular Art Forms [AH, TS] (3.0 cr)
•AFRO 3601W - African Literature [LITR, GP, WI] (3.0 cr)
•AFRO 3654 - African Cinema [AH, GP] (3.0 cr)
•AFRO 3745 - Black Cultural Studies [AH, DSJ] (3.0 cr)
•AFRO 3867 - Black Men: Representations and Reality (3.0 cr)
•AFRO 3910 - Topics in African American and African Studies (1.0 - 3.0 cr)
•AFRO 3993 - Directed Study (1.0 - 5.0 cr)
•AFRO 5101 - Seminar: Introduction to Africa and the African Diaspora (3.0 cr)
•AFRO 5191 - Seminar: The African American Experience in South Africa (3.0 cr)
•AFRO 5910 - Topics in African American and African Studies (3.0 cr)
•AFRO 5993 - Directed Study (1.0 - 3.0 cr)
•AFRO 3002 - West African History: 1800 to Present [GP] (3.0 cr)
or HIST 3455 - West African History: 1800 to Present [GP] (3.0 cr)
•AFRO 3103 - World History and Africa [HIS, GP] (3.0 cr)
or AFRO 5103 - World History and Africa (3.0 cr)
•AFRO 3120 - Social and Intellectual Movements in the African Diaspora [HIS, GP] (3.0 cr)
or AFRO 5120 - Social and Intellectual Movements in the African Diaspora (3.0 cr)
or HIST 3456 - Social and Intellectual Movements in the African Diaspora [HIS, GP] (3.0 cr)
•AFRO 3205 - History of South Africa from 1910: Anti-Racism, Youth Politics, Pandemics & Gender (Based Violence) [HIS, GP] (3.0 cr)
or HIST 3435 - History of South Africa from 1910: Anti-Racism, Youth Politics, Pandemics & Gender (Based Violence) [HIS, GP] (3.0 cr)
•AFRO 3431 - Early Africa and Its Global Connections [HIS, GP] (3.0 cr)
or HIST 3431 - Early Africa and Its Global Connections [HIS, GP] (3.0 cr)
•AFRO 3432 - Modern Africa in a Changing World [HIS, GP] (3.0 - 4.0 cr)
or HIST 3432 - Modern Africa in a Changing World [HIS, GP] (3.0 - 4.0 cr)
•AFRO 3433 - Economic Development in Contemporary Africa [SOCS, GP] (3.0 cr)
or APEC 3061 - Economic Development in Contemporary Africa [GP, SOCS] (3.0 cr)
•AFRO 3436 - Fighting for History:Historical Roots of Contemporary Crises in Africa (3.0 cr)
or HIST 3436 - Fighting for History:Historical Roots of Contemporary Crises in Africa (3.0 cr)
•AFRO 3593 - The African American Novel (3.0 cr)
or AFRO 5593 - The African American Novel (3.0 cr)
or ENGL 3593 - The African American Novel (3.0 cr)
or ENGL 5593 - The African-American Novel (3.0 cr)
•AFRO 3597W - Introduction to African American Literature and Culture I [LITR, DSJ, WI] (4.0 cr)
or ENGL 3597W - Introduction to African American Literature and Culture I [LITR, DSJ, WI] (4.0 cr)
•AFRO 3598W - Introduction to African American Literature and Culture II [LITR, DSJ, WI] (4.0 cr)
or ENGL 3598W - Introduction to African American Literature and Culture II [LITR, DSJ, WI] (4.0 cr)
•AFRO 3627 *{Inactive}*(3.0 cr)
or AFRO 5627 - Seminar: Harlem Renaissance (3.0 cr)
or ARTH 3627 *{Inactive}*(3.0 cr)
•AFRO 3655 *{Inactive}*[AH, DSJ] (3.0 cr)
or ARTH 3655 - African-American Cinema [AH, DSJ] (3.0 cr)
or ARTH 5655 - African-American Cinema [AH, DSJ] (3.0 cr)
•AFRO 3864 - African American History: 1619 to 1865 [HIS, CIV] (3.0 cr)
or HIST 3864 - African American History: 1619-1865 [HIS, CIV] (3.0 cr)

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•AFRO 3865 - African American History: 1865 to the Present (3.0 cr)
or HIST 3865 - African American History, 1865 to Present (3.0 cr)
•AFRO 3866 - The Civil Rights and Black Power Movement, 1954-1984 (3.0 cr)
or AFRO 5866 - The Civil Rights and Black Power Movement, 1954-1984 (3.0 cr)
or HIST 3856 - The Civil Rights and Black Power Movement, 1954-1984 (3.0 cr)
•AFRO 3868W - Race, War, and Race Wars in American History [CIV, WI] (3.0 cr)
or HIST 3868W - Race, War, and Race Wars in American History [CIV, WI] (3.0 cr)
•AFRO 4231 - Color of Public Policy: African Americans, American Indians, Asian Americans & Chicanos in the U.S. (3.0 cr)
or AAS 4231 - Color of Public Policy: African Americans, American Indians, Asian Americans & Chicanos in the U.S. (3.0 cr)
or AMIN 4231 - Color of Public Policy: African Americans, American Indians, Asian Americans, & Chicanos in the U.S. (3.0 cr)
or CHIC 4231 - Color of Public Policy: African Americans, American Indians, Asian Americans & Chicanos in the U.S. (3.0 cr)
•AFRO 4335 - African American Politics (3.0 cr)
or POL 4335 - African American Politics [SOCS, DSJ] (3.0 cr)
•AFRO 4406 - Black Feminist Thought (3.0 cr)
or AFRO 5406 - Black Feminist Thought (3.0 cr)
or GWSS 4406 - Black Feminist Thought in the American and African Diasporas (3.0 cr)
or GWSS 5406 - Black Feminist Thought in the American and African Diasporas (3.0 cr)
•AFRO 3478W - Contemporary Politics in Africa and the Colonial Legacy [GP, WI] (3.0 cr)
or POL 3478W - Contemporary Politics in Africa and the Colonial Legacy [GP, WI] (3.0 cr)
•AFRO 5932 - The Production of Knowledge, Negotiating the Past, and the Writing of African Histories (3.0 cr)
or HIST 5932 - The Production of Knowledge, Negotiating the Past, and the Writing of African Histories (3.0 cr)
•**Gender-focused Elective**
Other courses that do not appear on this list may count with prior approval from the departmental advisor.
Take 1 or more course(s) totaling 3 or more credit(s) from the following:
•AFRO 3251W - Sociological Perspectives on Race, Class, and Gender [WI] (3.0 cr)
or AAS 3251W - Sociological Perspectives on Race, Class, and Gender [SOCS, DSJ, WI] (3.0 cr)
or SOC 3251W - Sociological Perspectives on Race, Class, and Gender [SOCS, DSJ, WI] (3.0 cr)
•AFRO 3402 - Pleasure, Intimacy and Violence (3.0 cr)
or GWSS 3402 - Pleasure, Intimacy and Violence (3.0 cr)
•AFRO 3592W - Introduction to Black Women Writers in the United States [LITR, DSJ, WI] (3.0 cr)
or ENGL 3592W - Introduction to Black Women Writers in the United States [LITR, DSJ, WI] (3.0 cr)
•AFRO 3625W - Women Writers of Africa and the African Diaspora [LITR, GP, WI] (3.0 cr)
or AFRO 5625 - Women Writers of Africa and the African Diaspora (3.0 cr)

Capstone

The capstone consists of a research paper of 25-40 pages in length. Choose to complete this paper by enrolling in AFRO 4991W, or any AFRO 4xxx/5xxx course (excluding AFRO 4105) that is not being taken as an elective. Students who are interested in rigorous research and one-on-one work with department faculty should take AFRO 4991W. The capstone must be chosen in consultation with the director of undergraduate studies.
Take exactly 1 course(s) totaling exactly 3 credit(s) from the following:
Students who double major and choose to complete the capstone requirement in their other major may waive the African American and African Studies capstone, but are still responsible for taking the 30 credits required for the African American and African Studies BA.
•AFRO 4991W - Thesis Research and Writing [WI] (3.0 cr)
or AFRO 4xxx
or AFRO 5xxx

Upper Division Writing Intensive within the major

Students are required to take one upper division writing intensive course within the major. If that requirement has not been satisfied within the core major requirements, students must choose one course from the following list. Some of these courses may also fulfill other major requirements.
Take 0 - 1 course(s) from the following:
•AFRO 3125W - Black Visions of Liberation: Ella, Martin, Malcolm, and the Radical Transformation of U.S. Democracy [CIV, WI] (3.0 cr)
•AFRO 3601W - African Literature [LITR, GP, WI] (3.0 cr)
•AFRO 3625W - Women Writers of Africa and the African Diaspora [LITR, GP, WI] (3.0 cr)
•AFRO 3251W - Sociological Perspectives on Race, Class, and Gender [WI] (3.0 cr)
or AAS 3251W - Sociological Perspectives on Race, Class, and Gender [SOCS, DSJ, WI] (3.0 cr)
or SOC 3251W - Sociological Perspectives on Race, Class, and Gender [SOCS, DSJ, WI] (3.0 cr)
•AFRO 3592W - Introduction to Black Women Writers in the United States [LITR, DSJ, WI] (3.0 cr)
or ENGL 3592W - Introduction to Black Women Writers in the United States [LITR, DSJ, WI] (3.0 cr)
•AFRO 3597W - Introduction to African American Literature and Culture I [LITR, DSJ, WI] (4.0 cr)
or ENGL 3597W - Introduction to African American Literature and Culture I [LITR, DSJ, WI] (4.0 cr)
•AFRO 3598W - Introduction to African American Literature and Culture II [LITR, DSJ, WI] (4.0 cr)
or ENGL 3598W - Introduction to African American Literature and Culture II [LITR, DSJ, WI] (4.0 cr)
•AFRO 3868W - Race, War, and Race Wars in American History [CIV, WI] (3.0 cr)

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or HIST 3868W - Race, War, and Race Wars in American History [CIV, WI] (3.0 cr)
•AFRO 3478W - Contemporary Politics in Africa and the Colonial Legacy [GP, WI] (3.0 cr)
or POL 3478W - Contemporary Politics in Africa and the Colonial Legacy [GP, WI] (3.0 cr)

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