African American Studies, B.A.

Requirements

The Bachelor of Arts with a major in African American studies requires a minimum of 120 s.h., including at least 30 s.h. of work for the major. Students must maintain a g.p.a. of at least 2.00 in all courses for the major and in all UI courses for the major. They also must complete the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences General Education Program. Transfer credit is evaluated individually and is limited to a maximum of 9 s.h.

The B.A. with a major in African American studies requires the following course work.

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<thead>
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<th>Introductory Courses</th>
<th>6</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>African American Studies Core</td>
<td>18</td>
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<tr>
<td>Electives</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Hours</strong></td>
<td><strong>30</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Introductory Courses**

Students are required to complete the following introductory courses.

- **AFAM:1020/AMST:1030**
  - Introduction to African American Culture
  - 3 s.h.

- **AFAM:1030**
  - Introduction to African American Society
  - 3 s.h.

Introduction to African American Culture (AFAM:1020) presents themes in African American cultural studies. It includes readings in literature, music, film studies, religious studies, and the visual and performing arts.

Introduction to African American Society (AFAM:1030) examines the construction of social and historical institutions in the United States and the African diaspora (e.g., Black church, Black family, gender, sexuality). The course may include readings in political science, religion, history, sociology, geography, anthropology, and other disciplines.

**African American Studies Core**

In addition to the two required introductory courses, all students must complete at least two courses from each of the three topical areas below (minimum of 18 s.h.). Additional courses may be approved for the topical areas; consult with an African American studies advisor.

**History, Religion, and the Diaspora**

Two of these:

- **AFAM:1250/RELS:1350**
  - Introduction to African American Religions
  - 3 s.h.

- **AFAM:2265/HIST:2265**
  - Introduction to African American History
  - 3 s.h.

- **AFAM:2730/RELS:2730**
  - African American Islam
  - 3 s.h.

- **AFAM:3245/RELS:3745**
  - Twentieth-Century African American Religion: Civil Rights to Hip-Hop
  - 3 s.h.

- **AFAM:3275/HIST:3275**
  - History of Slavery in the U.S.A.
  - 3-4 s.h.

**Literature and Performing Arts**

Two of these:

- **AFAM:1240**
  - The Art of Listening to Jazz
  - 3 s.h.

- **AFAM:1241**
  - The Soundtrack of Black America
  - 3 s.h.

- **AFAM:1820**
  - Everybody is a Star: Black Celebrity Since 1968
  - 3 s.h.

- **AFAM:1830**
  - Music of the African American Diaspora
  - 3 s.h.

  - Giants of Jazz: Miles, Trane, and Duke
  - 3 s.h.

- **AFAM:2465/ENGL:2465**
  - Selected African American Authors
  - 3 s.h.

- **AFAM:2700/AMST:2700**
  - The Black Image in Sequential Art: Comics, Graphic Novels, and Anime
  - 3 s.h.

- **AFAM:2781/ENGL:2460/POLI:2107**
  - Black Literature and Politics: Controversies of National Allegiance
  - 3 s.h.

- **AFAM:3459/ENGL:3459**
  - African American Literature Before 1900
  - 3 s.h.

- **AFAM:3460/ENGL:3460**
  - African American Literature After 1900
  - 3 s.h.

- **AFAM:3462/ENGL:3462/THTR:3462**
  - African American Drama
  - 3 s.h.

- **AFAM:3465/ENGL:3465**
  - African American Autobiography
  - 3 s.h.

- **AFAM:3710/GWSS:3710**
  - African American Women Writers
  - 3 s.h.

- **AFAM:3840/THTR:3403**
  - Free-Style Writing: Poetry, Plays, and Performances
  - 3 s.h.

- **AFAM:3900**
  - Topics in African American Studies (when topic is literature or performing arts)
  - 3 s.h.

**Media, Politics, and Social Institutions**

Two of these:

- **AFAM:4195/HIST:4295**
  - African American History 1619-1865
  - 3 s.h.

- **AFAM:4298/HIST:4296**
  - African American History 1865-Present
  - 3 s.h.

- **AFAM:4310/HIST:4710**
  - Pre-Colonial African History
  - 3 s.h.

- **AFAM:4715/HIST:4715**
  - African History Since 1880
  - 3 s.h.

- **AFAM:7205/HIST:7205/GWSS:7205**
  - Gender and Race in Nineteenth-Century U.S.
  - 3 s.h.

- **EPLS:5126**
  - Twentieth-Century Educational Movements
  - 2-3 s.h.
African American Studies, B.A.

AFAM:2064/ 
SOC:2064 Racial Inequity and the Experiences of African American Families in the U.S. 3

AFAM:2070/ 
COMM:2069 Black TV Drama: The Wire 3

AFAM:2076/ 
COMM:2076 Race, Ethnicity, and Media 3

AFAM:2079/ 
SPST:2079 Race and Ethnicity in Sport 3

AFAM:2500 Black Culture and Experience: Contemporary Issues 3

AFAM:3053/ 
AMST:3053 The Civil Rights Movement 3

AFAM:3130/ Black American Cinema 3

AFAM:3400/ 
AMST:3400 Black Popular Music 3

AFAM:3500/ 
REL:3808 Malcolm X, King, and Human Rights 3

AFAM:3900 Topics in African American Studies (when topic is media, politics, or social institutions) arr.

AFAM:3925/ 
JMC:3165 African Americans and the Media 3

AFAM:4001/ 
COM:4172 Television and African American Culture 3

Electives

Students also must take two elective courses (minimum of 6 s.h.) selected from the three topical areas listed above. With the approval of an African American studies advisor, students may substitute relevant courses offered by other departments for one or both electives; the substituted courses may not be cross-listed with African American studies. Students must gain the advisor's approval before enrolling in a substitute course.

Two electives selected from the three topical areas above, or approved substitutes 6

Language Requirement

The language requirement for the African American studies major is the same as the World Languages requirement of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences General Education Program. Students are encouraged, but not required, to take African language courses (Swahili is currently offered) or Spanish language courses to fulfill the World Languages requirement.

Honors

Honors in the Major

Students majoring in African American studies have the opportunity to graduate with honors in the major. Honors in the major offers students the opportunity to pursue special interests and individual in-depth research.

Honors students must maintain a cumulative University of Iowa g.p.a. of at least 3.33 and complete all required course work for the major (30 s.h.). Students should register for up to 6 s.h. of AFAM:4990 Honors Project. Work in this course enhances a student's ability to complete honors projects under the guidance of the supervising faculty member. Students enroll in AFAM:4990 with the approval of their African American studies advisor, who typically supervises the course. They may count up to 6 s.h. earned in AFAM:4990 toward the 30 s.h. required for the major.

Under the guidance of the African American studies advisor, an honors student defines a research project (thesis) using primary, secondary, or archival sources. Students submit a project proposal by the end of their junior year. They also complete a thesis under the guidance of a supervising faculty member and present the results as a senior essay to a committee of two faculty members, including the supervising African American studies faculty member and one other African American studies faculty member, chosen in consultation with the supervisor. A student's committee may choose to hear an oral defense of the honors thesis, usually during the student's last semester.

University of Iowa Honors Program

In addition to honors in the major, students have opportunities for honors study and activities through membership in the University of Iowa Honors Program. Visit Honors at Iowa to learn about the University's honors program.

Membership in the UI Honors Program is not required to earn honors in the African American studies major.

Academic Plans

Four-Year Graduation Plan

The following checkpoints list the minimum requirements students must complete by certain semesters in order to stay on the University’s Four-Year Graduation Plan. Courses in the major are those required to complete the major; they may be offered by departments other than the major department.

During the first year of study, students should focus on completing the General Education Program, perhaps including Swahili or Spanish course work to begin satisfying the World Languages requirement.

Before the fifth semester begins: at least three courses in the major, including AFAM:1020 Introduction to African American Culture and AFAM:1030 Introduction to African American Society

Before the seventh semester begins: at least seven courses in the major and at least 90 s.h. earned toward the degree

Before the eighth semester begins: at least nine courses in the major

During the eighth semester: enrollment in all remaining course work in the major, all remaining General Education courses, and a sufficient number of semester hours to graduate

Sample Plan of Study

African American Studies (B.A.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Year</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Fall</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>RHET:1030</td>
<td>Rhetoric (GE: Rhetoric or other General Education Course)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Major: introductory course (also GE: Values and Culture) 3
GE: Historical Perspectives 3
GE: Natural Sciences without a lab 3
CSI:1600 Success at Iowa 2

Hours 15

Spring
ENGL:1200 The Interpretation of Literature (GE: Interpretation of Literature) 3
Major: introductory course (also GE: Social Sciences) 3
GE: Diversity and Inclusion 3
GE: Natural Sciences with a lab 4
Elective course 2

Hours 15

Second Year
Fall
Major: history, religion, and the diaspora topical area course 3
GE: Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts 3
GE: Quantitative or Formal Reasoning 3
GE: World Languages or elective course 3-5
Elective course 3

Hours 15-17

Spring
Major: history, religion, and the diaspora topical area course 3
Major: media, politics, and social institutions topical area course 3
GE: International and Global Issues 3
GE: World Languages or elective course 3-5
Elective course 3

Hours 15-17

Third Year
Fall
Major: literature and performing arts topical area course 3
Major: media, politics, and social institutions topical area course 3
GE: World Languages or elective course 3-5
Elective course 3
Elective course 3

Hours 15-17

Spring
Major: elective course 3
Major: literature and performing arts topical area course 3
GE: World Languages or elective course 3-5
Elective course 3
Elective course 3

Hours 15-17

Fourth Year
Fall
Major: elective course 3
Major: elective course 3
Elective course 3
Elective course 3
Elective course 3

Hours 15

Total Hours 120-128

1 General Education (GE) courses may be completed in any order unless used as a prerequisite for another course. Students should consult with an advisor about the best sequencing of courses. For more information, view the General Education Program.

2 Students may use their elective courses to complete a double major, minors, or certificates.

3 Students who have completed four years of a single language in high school have satisfied the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences GE: World Languages requirement. Enrollment in world languages courses requires a placement exam, unless enrolling in a first-semester-level course.

Career Advancement

The African American studies major provides valuable background for careers in a diverse society, in areas such as community work, public school teaching, religion, government, political science, and law. Some graduates go on to advanced study, many preparing for work as teachers and administrators at colleges and universities.

The Pomerantz Career Center offers multiple resources to help students find internships and jobs.