African American Studies, BA

Learning Outcomes

Students will:

- understand basic facts, principles, key figures, and events related to African American experience in American society, plus recognize the significant contributions of African Americans in the United States and abroad;
- become familiar with the foundations of the discipline of African American studies and the development of the field, specifically conceptual ideas that shape the academic study of African American life;
- acquire the tools for contextualizing and understanding the intersectionality of race, class, gender, and/or sexual orientation in an effort to identify relevant challenges and solve human problems related to the African American community;
- learn to critically analyze cultural issues shaping the lives and conditions of African Americans through curriculum, community service, and service learning as they confirm the value of diversity in the 21st century; and
- be prepared for potential careers or postbaccalaureate work in African American studies and related fields through the development of skills in critical thinking, oral and written communication, and research.

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 grade-point average of at least 2.0 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 GE CLAS Core. Transfer credit is evaluated individually and is limited to a maximum of 9 s.h. Students may count up to 56 s.h. of African American credit is evaluated individually and is limited to a maximum of 9 s.h. Students may count up to 56 s.h. of African American studies coursework (prefix AFAM) toward credit required for the Bachelor of Arts degree.

The BA with a major in African American studies requires the following coursework.

Requirements Hours
Introductory Courses 6
African American Studies Core 18
Electives 6

Introductory Courses

Students are required to complete the following introductory courses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course #</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AFAM:1020</td>
<td>Introduction to African American</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMST:1030</td>
<td>Culture</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFAM:1030</td>
<td>Introduction to African American</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>American Culture</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

AFAM:1020 Introduction to African American Culture examines the evolution of cultural experiences and developments in the United States and the African diaspora (e.g. the Harlem Renaissance, graphic novels, blues, hip hop, soul, and gospel). The course includes readings in literature, music, film, comics, anime, popular culture events, and the visual and performing arts.

AFAM:1030 Introduction to African American Society examines the construction of social and historical institutions in the United States and the African diaspora (e.g., Black church, Black family, Black traditions, and social movements). The course includes readings in education, sports, political science, religion, health, criminal justice, history, sociology, and other disciplines.

AFAM:1041 African American Religion and Popular Culture 3
AFAM:1250 Introduction to African American Religions 3
AFAM:1900 Diverse Topics in African American Studies (when topic is history, religion, or the diaspora) 3
AFAM:2266 Civil War and Emancipation 3
AFAM:2267 African American History to 1877: From Slave Cabin to Senate Floor 3
AFAM:2268 African American History Since the Civil War 3
AFAM:2500 Black Culture and Experience: Contemporary Issues (when topic is history, religion, or the diaspora) 3
AFAM:3260 Violence in Black America 3
AFAM:3262 The Black Midwest: History, Literature, and Culture 3
AFAM:3275 History of Slavery in the U.S.A. 3-4
AFAM:3555 Topics in African Cinema 3
AFAM:3758 The Ancient African Past 3
AFAM:3760 The Making of Modern Africa 3
AFAM:3900 Topics in African American Studies (when topic is history, religion, or the diaspora) arr.
## Literature and Performing Arts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course #</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AFAM:1130</td>
<td>The History of African American Film</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFAM:1140/ARTS:1140</td>
<td>Introduction to African American Art</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFAM:1240/MUS:1740</td>
<td>The Art of Listening to Jazz</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFAM:1241/MUS:1741</td>
<td>The Soundtrack of Black America</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFAM:1900</td>
<td>Diverse Topics in African American Studies (when topic is literature or performing arts)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFAM:2463/ENGL:2463</td>
<td>Topics in African American Literature</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFAM:2465/ENGL:2465</td>
<td>Selected African American Authors</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFAM:2500</td>
<td>Black Culture and Experience: Contemporary Issues (when topic is literature or performing arts)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFAM:2700/AMST:2700</td>
<td>The Black Image in Sequential Art: Comics, Graphic Novels, and Anime</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFAM:3459/ENGL:3459</td>
<td>African American Literature Before 1900</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFAM:3460/ENGL:3460</td>
<td>African American Literature After 1900</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFAM:3461/ENGL:3461</td>
<td>Twenty-First Century African American Literature</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFAM:3462/ENGL:3462/THTR:3462</td>
<td>African American Drama</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFAM:3465/ENGL:3465</td>
<td>African American Autobiography</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFAM:3900</td>
<td>Topics in African American Studies (when topic is literature or performing arts)</td>
<td>arr.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Media, Politics, and Social Institutions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course #</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AFAM:1900</td>
<td>Diverse Topics in African American Studies (when topic is media, politics, or social institutions)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFAM:2064/SOC:2064</td>
<td>African American Families: Urban and Suburban</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFAM:2070/COMM:2069</td>
<td>Black Television Culture</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFAM:2072/COMM:2072</td>
<td>African American Popular Culture</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFAM:2076/COMM:2076</td>
<td>Race, Ethnicity, and Media</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFAM:2079/SPST:2079</td>
<td>Race and Ethnicity in Sport</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFAM:2500</td>
<td>Black Culture and Experience: Contemporary Issues (when topic is media, politics, or social institutions)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFAM:2770/GHS:2770/SOC:2770</td>
<td>Black and White Community Politics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFAM:3100/AMST:3100/SOC:3100</td>
<td>Race, Organizations, and Workplace</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFAM:3110/SOC:3110</td>
<td>Malcolm X, King, and Human Rights</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFAM:3500/HIST:3160/RELS:3808</td>
<td>Digitizing Blackness</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFAM:3630/SOC:3630</td>
<td>Topics in African American Studies (when topic is media, politics, or social institutions)</td>
<td>arr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFAM:3925/JMC:3165</td>
<td>African Americans and the Media</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFAM:4250/EPLS:4250</td>
<td>Education In Black America</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFAM:4770/GEOG:4770/GHS:4770</td>
<td>Environmental Justice</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Electives

Students also must take two elective courses (minimum of 6 s.h.) selected from the three topical areas previously listed. One of the two elective courses may be substituted with AFAM:4980 Independent Study or AFAM:4990 Honors Project. With the approval of an African American studies advisor, students may also substitute relevant courses offered by other departments for one or both electives; the substituted courses may not be cross-referenced with African American studies. Students must gain the advisor's approval before enrolling in a substitute course.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course #</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Two electives selected from the three topical areas or approved substitutes</td>
<td></td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 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 GE CLAS Core. 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 complete all required coursework for the major while maintaining a University of Iowa grade-point average (GPA) of at least 3.33 and a major GPA of at least 3.33 (30 s.h.). Students must register for up to 6 s.h. of AFAM:4990 Honors Project, which 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 an African American studies faculty member, who will supervise 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 faculty member, 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 complete a thesis under the guidance of a supervising faculty member and present the results as a senior essay to a committee of three, including the supervising African American studies faculty member, one other African American studies faculty member, and the African American studies chair. 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.

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.

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 GE CLAS Core, perhaps including Swahili or Spanish coursework 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 coursework in the major, all remaining GE CLAS Core courses, and a sufficient number of semester hours to graduate.

Sample Plan of Study

Sample plans represent one way to complete a program of study. Actual course selection and sequence will vary and should be discussed with an academic advisor. For additional sample plans, see MyUI.

African American Studies, BA

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AFAM:1030</td>
<td>Introduction to African American Society</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFAM:1020</td>
<td>Introduction to African American Culture</td>
<td>3 - 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL:1200</td>
<td>The Interpretation of Literature</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RHET:1030</td>
<td>Rhetoric</td>
<td>3 - 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GE CLAS Core:</td>
<td>Values and Culture</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GE CLAS Core:</td>
<td>Natural Sciences with Lab</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSI:1600</td>
<td>Success at Iowa</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFAM:1030</td>
<td>Introduction to African American Society</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFAM:1020</td>
<td>Introduction to African American Culture</td>
<td>3 - 4</td>
</tr>
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<td>Rhetoric</td>
<td>3 - 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL:1200</td>
<td>The Interpretation of Literature</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GE CLAS Core:</td>
<td>Values and Culture</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GE CLAS Core:</td>
<td>Natural Sciences with Lab</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective course</td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Second Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Major: history, religion, and the diaspora topical area course</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GE CLAS Core: Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GE CLAS Core: Quantitative or Formal Reasoning</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GE CLAS Core: World Languages First Level</td>
<td>4 - 5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proficiency or elective course</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
African American Studies, BA

Elective course\textsuperscript{d} 3

**Hours** 16-17

**Spring**
- Major: history, religion, and the diaspora topical area course 3
- Major: media, politics, and social institutions topical area course 3
- GE CLAS Core: International and Global Issues\textsuperscript{c} 3
- GE CLAS Core: World Languages Second Level Proficiency or elective course\textsuperscript{e} 4 - 5
- Elective course\textsuperscript{d} 3

**Third Year**

**Fall**
- Major: literature and performing arts topical area course 3
- Major: media, politics, and social institutions topical area course 3
- GE CLAS Core: World Languages Third Level Proficiency or elective course\textsuperscript{e} 4 - 5
- Elective course\textsuperscript{d} 3
- Elective course\textsuperscript{d} 3

**Hours** 16-17

**Spring**
- Major: literature and performing arts topical area course 3
- GE CLAS Core: Social Sciences\textsuperscript{c} 3
- GE CLAS Core: World Languages Fourth Level Proficiency or elective course\textsuperscript{e} 4 - 5
- Elective course\textsuperscript{d} 3
- Elective course\textsuperscript{d} 3

**Fourth Year**

**Fall**
- Major: elective course\textsuperscript{f} 3
- Elective course\textsuperscript{d} 3
- Elective course\textsuperscript{d} 3
- Elective course\textsuperscript{d} 3
- Elective course\textsuperscript{d} 3

**Hours** 16-17

**Spring**
- Major: elective course\textsuperscript{f} 3
- Elective course\textsuperscript{d} 3
- Elective course\textsuperscript{d} 3
- Elective course\textsuperscript{d} 3
- Elective course\textsuperscript{d} 3

Degree Application: apply on MyUI before deadline (typically in February for spring, September for fall)

**Hours** 15

**Total Hours** 123-129

\textsuperscript{a} Sustainability must be completed by choosing a course that has been approved for Sustainability AND for one of these General Education areas: Natural Sciences; Quantitative and Formal Reasoning; Social Sciences; Historical Perspectives; International and Global Issues; Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts; or Values and Culture.

\textsuperscript{b} Fulfills a major requirement and may fulfill a GE requirement.

\textsuperscript{c} GE CLAS Core 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.

\textsuperscript{d} Students may use elective courses to earn credit towards the total s.h. required for graduation or to complete a double major, minors, or certificates.

\textsuperscript{e} Students who have completed four levels of a single language or two levels of two different languages in high school or college have satisfied the GE CLAS Core World Languages requirement. Students who have completed three levels of a single language may complete a fourth-level course in the same language or may choose an approved World Language and Cultural Exploration course. Enrollment in world languages courses requires a placement exam, unless enrolling in a first-semester-level course. Contact your academic advisor or CLAS Undergraduate Programs Office with questions concerning the World Languages requirement.

\textsuperscript{f} Students are required to complete 6 s.h. in electives selected from the three topical areas. With the approval of an African American studies advisor, students may substitute relevant courses offered by other departments for one or both electives.

\textsuperscript{g} Please see Academic Calendar, Office of the Registrar website for current degree application deadlines. Students should apply for a degree for the session in which all requirements will be met. For any questions on appropriate timing, contact your academic advisor or Degree Services.