

African American Studies, BA

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 2.00 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 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 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.

Course #	Title	Hours
AFAM:1020/ AMST:1030	Introduction to African American Culture	3
AFAM:1030	Introduction to African American Society	3

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.

African American Studies Core

In addition to the two required introductory courses, all students must complete at least 6 s.h. from each of the three topical areas below (minimum of 18 s.h.). Other courses may be approved for the topical areas; consult with an African American studies advisor.

History, Religion, and the Diaspora

Course #	Title	Hours
At least 6 s.h. from these:		
AFAM:1041/ RELS:1041	African American Religion and Popular Culture	3
AFAM:1250/ RELS:1350	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/ HIST:2266	Civil War and Emancipation	3
AFAM:2267/ HIST:2267	African American History to 1877: From Slave Cabin to Senate Floor	3
AFAM:2268/ HIST: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:3245/ RELS:3745	Twentieth- and Twenty-first-Century African American Religion: Civil Rights to Black Lives Matter	3
AFAM:3260/ HIST:3260	Violence in Black America	3
AFAM:3262/ HIST:3262	The Black Midwest: History, Literature, and Culture	3
AFAM:3275/ HIST:3275	History of Slavery in the U.S.A.	3-4
AFAM:3555/ ENGL:3555	Topics in African Cinema	3
AFAM:3758/ HIST:3758	The Ancient African Past	3
AFAM:3760/ HIST:3760	The Making of Modern Africa	3
AFAM:3900	Topics in African American Studies (when topic is history, religion, or the diaspora)	arr.
AFAM:7205/ GWSS:7205/ HIST:7205	New Histories: U.S. Slavery	arr.
EPLS:5126	Twentieth-Century Educational Movements	2-3

Literature and Performing Arts

Course #	Title	Hours
At least 6 s.h. from these:		
AFAM:1130	The History of African American Film	3
AFAM:1140/ ARTS:1140	Introduction to African American Art	3
AFAM:1240/ MUS:1740	The Art of Listening to Jazz	3
AFAM:1241/ MUS:1741	The Soundtrack of Black America	3
AFAM:1900	Diverse Topics in African American Studies (when topic is literature or performing arts)	3
AFAM:2463/ ENGL:2463	Topics in African American Literature	3
AFAM:2465/ ENGL:2465	Selected African American Authors	3

AFAM:2500	Black Culture and Experience: Contemporary Issues (when topic is literature or performing arts)	3
AFAM:2700/ AMST:2700	The Black Image in Sequential Art: Comics, Graphic Novels, and Anime	3
AFAM:3459/ ENGL:3459	African American Literature Before 1900	3
AFAM:3460/ ENGL:3460	African American Literature After 1900	3
AFAM:3461/ ENGL:3461	Twenty-First Century African American Literature	3
AFAM:3462/ ENGL:3462/ THTR:3462	African American Drama	3
AFAM:3465/ ENGL:3465	African American Autobiography	3
AFAM:3900	Topics in African American Studies (when topic is literature or performing arts)	arr.

Media, Politics, and Social Institutions

Course #	Title	Hours
At least 6 s.h. from these:		
AFAM:1900	Diverse Topics in African American Studies (when topic is media, politics, or social institutions)	3
AFAM:2064/ SOC:2064	African American Families: Urban and Suburban	3
AFAM:2070/ COMM:2069	Black Television Culture	3
AFAM:2072/ COMM:2072	African American Popular Culture	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 (when topic is media, politics, or social institutions)	3
AFAM:2770/ GHS:2770/ SOC:2770	Black and White Community Politics	3
AFAM:3053/ AMST:3053/ HIST:3253	The Civil Rights Movement	3
AFAM:3100/ AMST:3100/ SOC:3100	Critical Race Theory: Culture, Power, and Society	3
AFAM:3110/ SOC:3110	Race, Organizations, and Workplace	3
AFAM:3500/ HIST:3160/ RELS:3808	Malcolm X, King, and Human Rights	3
AFAM:3600/ AMST:3600	Digitizing Blackness	3
AFAM:3630/ SOC:3630	The Racial Wealth Gap: Black Debt, White Debt	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:4250/ EPLS:4250	Education In Black America	3
AFAM:4770/ GEOG:4770/ GHS:4770	Environmental Justice	3

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.

Course #	Title	Hours
Two electives selected from the three topical areas 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 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.