AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE, PH.D.

The mission of the Department of African Cultural Studies is to provide research and teaching in the languages and expressive cultures of Africa and Africans around the world.

The department is the only one of its kind in the United States. For those learning to conduct research in African expressive cultures, it offers curricula leading to both the master of arts degree and the doctor of philosophy degree. For those learning to teach African languages, it offers a terminal master of arts degree with an emphasis on pedagogy. Its students come from all over the world, including many African countries.

FUNDING

Prospective students should see the program website (http://african.wisc.edu) for funding information.

REQUIREMENTS

MINIMUM DEGREE REQUIREMENTS AND SATISFACTORY PROGRESS

To make progress toward a graduate degree, students must meet the Graduate School Minimum Degree Requirements and Satisfactory Progress (http://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/#policiesandrequirements) in addition to the requirements of the program.

MINIMUM GRADUATE DEGREE CREDIT REQUIREMENT

54 credits

MINIMUM GRADUATE RESIDENCE CREDIT REQUIREMENT

45 credits

MINIMUM GRADUATE COURSEWORK (50%) REQUIREMENT

Half of degree coursework (26 credits out of 51 total credits) must be completed at the graduate level. Courses with the Graduate Level Coursework attribute are identified and searchable in the university's Course Guide (http://my.wisc.edu/CourseGuideRedirect/BrowseByTitle).

PRIOR COURSEWORK REQUIREMENTS: UW–MADISON GRADUATE WORK FROM OTHER INSTITUTIONS

No credits from graduate work from other institutions may count toward the degree.

PRIOR COURSEWORK REQUIREMENTS: UW–MADISON UNDERGRADUATE

No credits from a UW–Madison undergraduate degree are allowed to count toward the degree.

PRIOR COURSEWORK REQUIREMENTS: UW–MADISON UNIVERSITY SPECIAL

No credits from a UW–Madison University Special student career are allowed to count toward the degree.

CREDITS PER TERM ALLOWED

15 credits

PROGRAM-SPECIFIC COURSES REQUIRED

Two graduate seminars. Two additional courses to be chosen in consultation with the director of graduate studies and the candidate's advisor/supervisor.

DOCTORAL MINOR/BREADTH REQUIREMENTS

All doctoral students are required to complete a minor.

OVERALL GRADUATE GPA REQUIREMENT

3.00 GPA required

OTHER GRADE REQUIREMENTS

Ph.D. candidates should maintain a 3.5 GPA in all core curriculum courses and may not have any more than two Incompletes on their record at any one time.

PROBATION POLICY

A semester GPA below 3.0 will result in the student being placed on academic probation. If a semester GPA of 3.0 is not attained during the subsequent semester of full-time enrollment (or 12 credits of enrollment if enrolled part-time) the student may be dismissed from the program or allowed to continue for one additional semester based on advisor appeal to the Graduate School.

ADVISOR / COMMITTEE

All students are required to conduct a yearly progress report meeting with their thesis committee after passing the preliminary examination.

ASSESSMENTS AND EXAMINATIONS

Doctoral students must pass a preliminary examination, a dissertation proposal defense, and the defense of the completed dissertation.

TIME CONSTRAINTS

A student may not hold an assistantship for more than five years.

A candidate for a doctoral degree who fails to take the final oral examination and deposit the dissertation within five years after passing the preliminary examination may be required to take another preliminary examination and to be admitted to candidacy a second time.

LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

1. Ph.D. students must complete one year of a major African language taught in this department beyond second year level
2. Reading proficiency in one non-African language other than English. The language must be chosen in consultation with the Department.

ADMISSIONS

Applicants should have a minimum undergraduate grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 (out of a possible 4.0), though special cases may be considered for probationary admission. In addition to the online application, the department requires transcripts of all previous
Knowledge and Skills

Content

- Students will be able to identify canonical authors and texts, historical forms, genres, and structures, as well as aesthetic and cultural concerns in Africa and its diasporas.
- Students will develop in-depth knowledge in a subfield of specialization within African cultural studies.
- Students will demonstrate their understanding of major theories, approaches, concepts, and current and classical research findings in African and diaspora literary and cultural studies.
- Students will develop a level of proficiency in the different "ways of knowing" Africa and the diaspora through language, literatures, and cultures.
- Students will understand the main trends in foreign language teaching, and the specific challenges involved in teaching African languages.
- Students will develop knowledge of a secondary field of research from outside the Department of African Languages and Literature.

Analytic Skills

- Students will discuss cultural texts from various theoretical and critical perspectives, formulate ideas and make connections between literary/cultural concepts and themes.
- Students will demonstrate command of the terminology and methodology of cultural studies, construct complex arguments, and use primary and secondary sources to support arguments.
- Students will articulate the place of their own research in relation to existing research on related topics.
- Students will observe and evaluate the teaching practice of a foreign language instructor and provide constructive feedback.

Professional Conduct

- Students will recognize, apply, and foster principles of ethical and professional conduct in teaching, research, and writing.

People

Professors Cowell (Arabic language, linguistics, literature, and culture), Fair (media studies, popular culture, conflict and post-conflict studies), Olaniyan (African and African diaspora literature, literary theory, popular culture), Radano (U.S. and global black music, African musical diaspora, cultural theory), Schatzberg (African popular culture, African soccer, African political thought), Songo (African and Francophone literatures, African and Francophone cinema, literary theory); Associate Professors El-Nossery (North African Middle Eastern Literatures, women's writing, visual studies), Thompson (linguistic and literary ethnography, critical discourse analysis, less commonly taught language pedagogy); Assistant Professors Brown (African screen media, African literature, literary theory), England (Classical Arabic poetry and prose, Modern Arabic literature), Nimis (Francophone Africa, Lingala language and popular music, the Global South), Sajnani (Global HipHop studies, Africana critical theory, socio-political thought and social justice).

For more information about faculty research interests, see their website (https://african.wisc.edu/people).