African Studies, Doctoral Minor

The Doctoral Minor in African Studies is for students completing a Ph.D. at the University of Wisconsin–Madison who wish to focus their study on Africa. It requires four courses or seminars in two departments outside the student’s major department. The African studies minor is completed under “Minor Option A” of the Graduate School regulations.

Suggestions for Students Pursuing the Doctoral Minor in African Studies

- Early Approval of Minor Program: It is the student’s responsibility as a graduate student to determine that all courses/seminars being completed are eligible for inclusion in the doctoral minor. Students are encouraged to consult with the African Studies Program advisor before taking courses intended to be included in the minor.
- Language Training: In planning the program, students should bear in mind the strong desirability of attaining competence in an African language. For many kinds of research, ability to use a language as a research tool is indispensable.
- Auditing Courses: In addition to courses and seminars formally taken for credit, students are encouraged to audit additional offerings to develop a broad competence in African studies.

Admissions

- Meet with the African Studies Program advisor. To make an appointment, send an email to Aleia McCord, aleia.mccord@wisc.edu.
- Submit the Ph.D. Minor in African Studies application form and obtain the approval and signature of major professor. After you have completed the preliminary Ph.D. examinations, the African Studies Program director or designate will sign the warrant indicating completion of the minor.

Requirements

- Complete a minimum of 12 graduate credits from the African Studies Program core curriculum (http://africa.wisc.edu/?page_id=26) in four courses or seminars outside the major field, and from at least two different departments. (Agricultural and applied economics, and economics courses/seminars are considered to be of one discipline for purposes of the minor.)
- Graduate credit is available only for courses with numbers of 300 or higher.
- At least one of these four units must be a course or seminar at the 700 to 900 level. No thesis or dissertation credits (990) may be used.
- Introductory first-year language courses may not be used for the doctoral minor in African studies even if they are numbered 300 or higher. Language courses may count for the minor only in so far as they do not overlap with departmental language requirements. When a department requires an African language for the Ph.D., language courses may count toward the minor only above and beyond four semesters of study in one language.
- Include no more than one independent reading and research course in the four courses or seminars submitted.

Special Circumstances and Conditions in Complying with the Doctoral Minor

- Grade Point Average: A 3.0 grade point average is required for all courses submitted for the minor.
- Credits from Other Universities: Courses from other universities that were taken for graduate credit may count toward the minor with approval of the African Studies Program. Normally, only two of the required four courses or seminars may come from outside the University of Wisconsin–Madison. Exceptions may be proposed by petition.
- Courses Taken as an Undergraduate: Courses taken while the candidate was an undergraduate student are not eligible for credit toward the doctoral minor, including courses with graduate-level numbers.

Learning Outcomes

1. Regional expertise: advanced knowledge of the societies and cultures of the region through in-depth understanding of the principal historical, social, political, cultural and scientific forces and conditions that have given rise to the unity and diversity in the region today.
2. Multi-disciplinarity: analyzing contemporary political, economic, and cultural realities in the region from at least two disciplinary perspectives, ideally including humanities, social sciences and sometimes natural science approaches.
3. Depth of knowledge: advanced knowledge of particular facets of life in the region by taking courses on particular sub-regions or countries, by studying a regional language, or by taking at least two courses on the region in one discipline.
4. Research and methods: Students must demonstrate the ability to conduct interdisciplinary research that shows knowledge of research methodologies, demonstrates analytical skills, and the ability to articulate and elaborate research findings.

People

Faculty: Professors Hutchinson (chair) (African Studies/Anthropology), Adell (Afro-American Studies), Anderson (Music), Barrows (Agricultural and Applied Economics), Baumann (Nursing), Bernault (History), Bershady (Astronomy), Bloch (Curriculum and Instruction), Bosu (Veterinary Medicine), Bunn (Anthropology), Carter (Agricultural and Applied Economics), Chavas (Agricultural and Applied Economics), Christensen (Animal Health and Biomedical Sciences), Cowell (African Languages and Literature), Drewal (Art History/Afro-American Studies), Fair (Journalism and Mass Communication), Gallagher (Astronomy), Gjerde (Medicine and Public Health), Graziano (Medicine and Public Health), Haq (Medicine and Public Health), Hauner (African Languages and Literature), Hewson (Curriculum and Instruction), Johnson-Christensen (Animal Health and Biomedical Sciences), Klug (Law), Ladson-Billings (Medicine and Public Health), Langston (Forest and Wildlife Ecology), McLintock (English), Memen (Languages and Cultures of Asia), Naughton (Geography), Nixon (English), Ntambi (Biochemistry), Olaniyan (African Languages and Literature/English), Payne (Political Science), Popkewitz (Curriculum and Instruction), Posner (Agronomy), Reed (Animal Sciences), Reschovsky (Agricultural and Applied Economics), Schatzberg (Political Science), Scheub (African Languages and Literature), Schleicher (African Languages and Literature), Seidman
(Sociology), Shapiro (Agricultural and Applied Economics), Songolo (African Languages and Literature/French and Italian), Tesfagiorgis (Afro-American Studies), Thompson (Law), Tripp (Political Science/Gender and Women's Studies), Turner (Geography), Verna (Art), Wilcots (Astronomy), Zeichner (Curriculum and Instruction); Associate Professors Al-Ghadeer (African Languages and Literature), Anstett (Family Medicine), Chamberlain (History), Conway (Communication Arts), Conway (Pediatrics), Foltz (Agricultural and Applied Economics), Jenson (French and Italian), Lambert (Anthropology), Madureira (Comparative Literature), Nesper (Anthropology), Pickering (Anthropology), Sapega (Spanish and Portuguese), Stambach (Educational Policy Studies), Sweet (History); Assistant Professors Hark (Design), Keller (History of Science), Kendall (Educational Policy Studies), Kodesh (History), Sellers (Social Work), Straus (Political Science), Wendland (Medicine and Public Health/Anthropology)