AFRICAN CULTURAL STUDIES, B.A.

The mission of the Department of African Cultural Studies is to research and teach the languages and expressive cultures of Africa and Africans around the world. This includes work at the graduate and undergraduate levels, and emphasizes the development and application of analytical, linguistic, and methodological tools that enable students to work effectively and imaginatively across regions, languages, cultural forms, methodologies, and disciplines.

Undergraduates study one of six languages offered by the department—Arabic, Hausa, Swahili, Wolof, Yoruba, and Zulu—and combine their language study with popular courses in the humanities, literature, and ethnic studies. The department’s undergraduate courses cover a wide range of topics, including introductory African literature and storytelling, contemporary cinema and music, and social issues. Students also have the opportunity to study less commonly taught African languages through the self-study methodology program, which enables independent learning of a language through supportive, peer-to-peer and instructor-led coursework.

Majors are encouraged to study abroad in Africa during their undergraduate careers. Study abroad programs sponsored by UW–Madison include semesters or full years in Morocco, Senegal, South Africa, Ghana, and other African nations. Other programs are available through different institutions. See International Academic Programs (http://www.studyabroad.wisc.edu) and visit the Majors Advising Page (https://www.african.wisc.edu) for more information, students should feel free to contact the Department of African Cultural Studies (http://african.wisc.edu) or the advisor (https://calendar.wisc.edu/scheduling-assistant/public/profiles/YjfjFEtg.html) at any time.

HOW TO GET IN

Declaring the major in African cultural studies is as easy as meeting with the advisor. Make an appointment today (https://calendar.wisc.edu/scheduling-assistant/public/profiles/YjfjFEtg.html).

REQUIREMENTS

UNIVERSITY GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

All undergraduate students at the University of Wisconsin–Madison are required to fulfill a minimum set of common university general education requirements to ensure that every graduate acquires the essential core of an undergraduate education. This core establishes a foundation for living a productive life, being a citizen of the world, appreciating aesthetic values, and engaging in lifelong learning in a continually changing world. Various schools and colleges will have requirements in addition to the requirements listed below. Consult your advisor for assistance, as needed. For additional information, see the university Undergraduate General Education Requirements (http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/#requirementsforundergraduatetestudytext) section of the Guide.

General Education
- Breadth—Humanities/Literature/Arts: 6 credits
- Breadth—Natural Science: 4 to 6 credits, consisting of one 4- or 5-credit course with a laboratory component; or two courses providing a total of 6 credits
- Breadth—Social Studies: 3 credits
- Communication Part A & Part B *
- Ethnic Studies *
- Quantitative Reasoning Part A & Part B *

* The mortarboard symbol appears before the title of any course that fulfills one of the Communication Part A or Part B, Ethnic Studies, or Quantitative Reasoning Part A or Part B requirements.

COLLEGE OF LETTERS & SCIENCE BREADTH AND DEGREE REQUIREMENTS: BACHELOR OF ARTS (B.A.)

Students pursuing a bachelor of arts degree in the College of Letters & Science must complete all of the requirements below. The College of Letters & Science allows this major to be paired with either a bachelor of arts or a bachelor of science curriculum. View a comparison of the degree requirements here. (https://pubs.wisc.edu/home/archives/ug15/images/babs2009.pdf)

BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Mathematics
- Fulfilled with completion of University General Education requirements

Quantitative Reasoning b (QR B) coursework. Please note that some majors may require students to complete additional math coursework beyond the B.A. mathematics requirement.

Foreign Language
- Complete the fourth unit of a foreign language; OR
- Complete the third unit of a foreign language and the second unit of an additional foreign language

Note: A unit is one year of high school work or one semester/term of college work.

L&S Breadth
- Humanities, 12 credits: 6 of the 12 credits must be in literature
- Social Sciences, 12 credits
- Natural Sciences, 12 credits: must include one 3+ credit course in the biological sciences; must include one 3+ credit course in the physical sciences

Liberal Arts and Science Coursework 108 credits

Depth of Intermediate/Advanced work 60 intermediate or advanced credits

Major
- Declare and complete at least one (1) major

Total Credits 120 credits

UW-Madison
- 30 credits in residence, overall

Experience
- 30 credits in residence after the 90th credit
Minimum GPAs
- 2.000 in all coursework at UW–Madison
- 2.000 in intermediate/advanced coursework at UW–Madison

**NON–L&S STUDENTS PURSUING AN L&S MAJOR**

Non–L&S students who have permission from their school/college to pursue an additional major within L&S only need to fulfill the major requirements and do not need to complete the L&S breadth and degree requirements above. Please note that the following special degree programs are not considered majors so are not available to non–L&S degree-seeking candidates:

- Applied Mathematics, Engineering and Physics (Bachelor of Science—Applied Mathematics, Engineering and Physics)
- Journalism (Bachelor of Arts—Journalism; Bachelor of Science—Journalism)
- Music (Bachelor of Music)
- Social Work (Bachelor of Social Work)

Principal African languages taught by the department are Arabic, Hausa, Swahili, Wolof, Yoruba, and Zulu. The program supports the study of various other African languages through courses and/or individualized study.

**REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR**

30 credits and eight courses as follows:

### LANGUAGE

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AFRICAN 324</td>
<td>Fourth Semester Arabic</td>
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<td>AFRICAN 334</td>
<td>Fourth Semester Swahili</td>
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<tr>
<td>AFRICAN 338</td>
<td>Fourth Semester-A Language of Southern Africa</td>
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<td>AFRICAN 374</td>
<td>Fourth Semester Yoruba</td>
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<td>AFRICAN 394</td>
<td>Fourth Semester-A Language of West Africa</td>
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<td><strong>Total Credits</strong></td>
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### CULTURE STUDIES

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<thead>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>AFRICAN 100</td>
<td>Introduction to African Cultural Expression</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>AFRICAN 201</td>
<td>Introduction to African Literature</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>AFRICAN/ FOLKLORE 210</td>
<td>The African Storyteller</td>
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<td>AFRICAN 211</td>
<td>The African Autobiography</td>
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<td>AFRICAN 212</td>
<td>Introduction to African Popular Culture</td>
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<td>AFRICAN/ AFROAMER 220</td>
<td>Hiphop, Youth Culture, and Politics in Senegal</td>
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<td>AFRICAN 230</td>
<td>Introduction to Yoruba Life and Culture</td>
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<tr>
<td>AFRICAN 231</td>
<td>Introduction to Arabic Literary Culture</td>
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One course outside the department or 6th unit of African language

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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AFRICAN 232</td>
<td>Introduction to Swahili Cultures</td>
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<tr>
<td>AFRICAN/ AFROAMER 233</td>
<td>Global HipHop and Social Justice</td>
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<tr>
<td>AFRICAN/ FOLKLORE 270</td>
<td>The Hero and Trickster in African Oral Traditions</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>AFRICAN/ AFROAMER/ ANTHRO/GEOG/HISTORY/ POLI SCI/SOC 277</td>
<td>Africa: An Introductory Survey</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFRICAN/ AFROAMER/ HISTORY/ POLI SCI 297</td>
<td>African and African-American Linkages: An Introduction</td>
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<tr>
<td>AFRICAN 403</td>
<td>Theories of African Cultural Studies</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>AFRICAN 405</td>
<td>Topics in African Cultural Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>AFRICAN 300</td>
<td>African Literature in Translation</td>
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<td>AFRICAN 301</td>
<td>Introduction to African Linguistics</td>
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<td>AFRICAN 303</td>
<td>African Literature and Visual Culture</td>
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<tr>
<td>AFRICAN/LCA/ RELIG ST 370</td>
<td>Islam: Religion and Culture</td>
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<tr>
<td>AFRICAN 402</td>
<td>Theory of African Literature</td>
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<tr>
<td>AFRICAN 406</td>
<td>Topics in African Literature</td>
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<tr>
<td>AFRICAN 407</td>
<td>Topics in African Languages</td>
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<td>AFRICAN 412</td>
<td>Contemporary African Fiction</td>
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<td>AFRICAN/ AFROAMER 413</td>
<td>Contemporary African and Caribbean Drama</td>
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<tr>
<td>AFRICAN/ FRENCH 440</td>
<td>African/Francophone Film</td>
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<tr>
<td>AFRICAN/ PORTUG 451</td>
<td>Lusophone African Literature</td>
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<td>AFRICAN 453</td>
<td>Modern African Literature in English</td>
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<tr>
<td>AFRICAN/ FOLKLORE 471</td>
<td>Oral Traditions and the Written Word</td>
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<tr>
<td>AFRICAN 500</td>
<td>Language and Society in Africa</td>
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<tr>
<td>AFRICAN 501</td>
<td>Structure and Analysis of African Languages</td>
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Outside courses:

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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AFROAMER/ ART HIST 241</td>
<td>Introduction to African Art and Architecture</td>
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<tr>
<td>AFROAMER 302</td>
<td>Undergraduate Studies in Afro-American History</td>
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<tr>
<td>AFROAMER/ HISTORY 347</td>
<td>The Caribbean and its Diasporas</td>
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<tr>
<td>AFROAMER/ GEN&amp;WS 367</td>
<td>Art and Visual Culture: Women of the African Diaspora and Africa</td>
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<tr>
<td>ANTHRO 333</td>
<td>Prehistory of Africa</td>
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<tr>
<td>ANTHRO 490</td>
<td>Undergraduate Seminar (Culture and Health in Africa)</td>
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<tr>
<td>ART HIST/ AFROAMER 241</td>
<td>Introduction to African Art and Architecture</td>
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<tr>
<td>ART HIST 479</td>
<td>Art and History in Africa</td>
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### ART HIST 579
Proseminar in African Art

### ECON/A E A 477
Agricultural and Economic Development in Africa

### GEN&W/AFROMER 221
Introduction to Black Women’s Studies

### GEN&W/AFROMER 267
Artistic/Cultural Images of Black Women

### GEN&W/AFROMER 267
Art and Visual Culture: Women of the African Diaspora and Africa

### GEOG 355
Africa, South of the Sahara

### HISTORY 105
Introduction to the History of Africa

### HISTORY 201
The Historian’s Craft (Roman Africa)

### HISTORY 278
Africans in the Americas, 1492-1808

### HISTORY 279
Afro-Atlantic History, 1808-Present

### HISTORY 377
History of Africa, 1500 to 1870

### HISTORY 378
History of Africa Since 1870

### HISTORY 444
History of East Africa

### HISTORY 445
History of Equatorial Africa

### LITTRANS 226
Introduction to Luso-Afro-Brazilian Literature

### LITTRANS 334
In Translation: The Art of Isak Dinesen/Karen Blixen

### MUSIC/AFROAMER/DANCE 318
Cultural Cross Currents: West African Dance/Music in the Americas

### POLI SCI 329
African Politics

### POLI SCI 429
Gender and Politics in Comparative Perspective

### POLI SCI 455
African International Relations

### PORTUG/AFRICAN 451
Lusophone African Literature

### 6th-unit language courses:

- AFRICAN 323: Third Semester Arabic (4 credits)
- AFRICAN 333: Third Semester Swahili (4 credits)
- AFRICAN 337: Third Semester-A Language of Southern Africa (4 credits)
- AFRICAN 373: Third Semester Yoruba (4 credits)
- AFRICAN 475: Fifth Semester Yoruba (3 credits)
- AFRICAN 493: Fifth Semester, A Language of Southern Africa (3 credits)
- AFRICAN 495: Fifth Semester, A Language of Northern Africa (3 credits)
- AFRICAN 497: Fifth Semester, A Language of West Africa (3 credits)

### RESIDENCE AND QUALITY OF WORK

2.000 GPA in all AFRICAN and major courses

2.000 GPA on 15 upper-level major credits, taken in residence

15 credits in AFRICAN, taken on the UW–Madison campus

1 Courses with intermediate or advanced level are considered upper level in this major.

### HONORS IN THE MAJOR

Students may declare Honors in the African Cultural Studies Major in consultation with the African Cultural Studies undergraduate advisor. To be admitted to the Honors Program in African Cultural Studies, students must have achieved a 3.300 university GPA and a 3.300 GPA in all AFRICAN courses as well as all courses accepted in the major.

### Honors in the African Cultural Studies Major Requirements

To earn a B.A. or B.S. with Honors in the Major in African Cultural Studies students must satisfy both the requirements for the major (above) and the following additional requirements:

1. Earn a 3.300 overall university GPA
2. Earn 3.300 GPA in all AFRICAN courses, and all courses accepted in the major
3. Complete a minimum of 15 credits in the major for Honors while in residence at UW–Madison from the following:
   a. 9 credits in courses no lower than 200 level
   b. A two-semester Senior Honors Thesis in AFRICAN 681 Senior Honors Thesis and AFRICAN 682 Senior Honors Thesis, for a total of 6 credits.

### UNIVERSITY DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Total Degree To receive a bachelor’s degree from UW–Madison, students must earn a minimum of 120 degree credits. The requirements for some programs may exceed 120 degree credits. Students should consult with their college or department advisor for information on specific credit requirements.

Residency Degree candidates are required to earn a minimum of 30 credits in residence at UW–Madison. “In residence” means on the UW–Madison campus with an undergraduate degree classification. “In residence” credit also includes UW–Madison courses offered in distance or online formats and credits earned in UW–Madison Study Abroad/Study Away programs.
Quality of Work
Undergraduate students must maintain the minimum grade point average specified by the school, college, or academic program to remain in good academic standing. Students whose academic performance drops below these minimum thresholds will be placed on academic probation.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. (Content) Recognize canonical authors and texts, historical forms, genres, and structures, and recognize aesthetic and cultural concerns in Africa and its diasporas.

2. (Content) Demonstrate their understanding of major theories, approaches, concepts, and current and classical research findings in African and diaspora literary and cultural studies.

3. (Content) Develop a level of proficiency in the different “ways of knowing” Africa and the diaspora through language, literatures, and cultures.

4. (Research Skills) Understand their own learning processes and possess the capacity to intentionally seek, evaluate, and learn from information, and recognize and reduce bias in their thinking.

5. (Research Skills) Effectively retrieve and comprehend primary sources in English and African languages, and secondary sources from a range of disciplines.

6. (Communication Skills) Develop or improve speaking, listening, writing, reading skills in an African language, and integrate these skills to communicate effectively.

7. (Communication Skills) Communicate effectively through essays, oral presentations, and discussion, so they may share their knowledge, wisdom, and values with others across social and professional settings.

8. (Communication Skills) Show knowledge of conventional rhetorical strategies, and integrate research by other authors while distinguishing between their own ideas and those of others.

9. (Communication Skills) Write and speak across disciplinary boundaries with regard to existing research about Africa and the diaspora in the humanities and social sciences.

10. (Analytical Skills) Discuss cultural texts from various theoretical and critical perspectives, formulate ideas and make connections between literary/cultural concepts and themes.

11. (Analytical Skills) Demonstrate command of the terminology and methodology of cultural studies, construct complex arguments, and use primary and secondary sources to support arguments.

ADVISING AND CAREERS

ADVISING

How does the major in African cultural studies fit into my educational goals?

While there are a wide variety of reasons to visit your major advisor, there seem to be two recurring questions:

1. Can I complete the major during the time I have left at UW?
2. Which classes will be offered in the future?

If you like to plan, seeing your major advisor is very important; it can make the difference between fitting in Contemporary Arabic Literature and Culture and Global HipHop and Social Justice before you graduate. Many students also try to complete more than one major or certificate, and discussing how you might be able to reach this goal is another primary role of your major advisor. Advisors can speak to you about course content, which courses fit best with your interest areas, and what kinds of courses might work best with your learning style—e.g., do you prefer multiple choice or essays? Any and all of these discussions can occur during your advising appointment.

In addition to discussing the major, advisors also know a lot about:

- General Education requirements
- Breadth requirements
- Interpreting university policies and deadlines
- Connecting majors to careers
- Getting involved with campus organizations
- Finding volunteer and/or internship opportunities
- Talking about your challenges and difficulties
- Connecting with tutors
- Picking a study abroad program
- Practicing for interviews
- Talking about graduate school
- Proofreading resumes and cover letters

Ready to meet with the ACS advisor? Make an appointment today (https://calendar.wisc.edu/scheduling-assistant/public/profiles/YjFlFEdg.html).

CAREERS

While many students have a difficult time believing it, a humanities major such as ours, enables students who complete it to consider just about any type of career or educational pursuit. Our coursework builds the critical thinking and communication skills needed to succeed in careers ranging from politics and education to business and law.

Think about what you learn in a classroom setting as well as what you do each day to be a successful student; the skills you develop are equally important in the workplace:

- critical reading, reflection, and analysis
- proper research design and methodology
- expanded world view and exposure to new ideas/ways of thinking
- effective teamwork to advance a common project/purpose
- effective time-management and self-motivation to complete projects independently
- demonstrated writing proficiency in short and long essay format
- discussion and debate strategies
- broader knowledge of career and graduate-study options

One of the more significant skills majors develop is language acquisition. Your study of African languages sets you apart and demonstrates your willingness to explore and expand your understanding of history and culture. In addition, the study of these less commonly taught languages
shows discipline and perseverance, since they can be difficult languages to learn.

Overall, you will have a wide variety of skills and talents to start you on the path to a rewarding career!


### L&S CAREER RESOURCES

SuccessWorks at the College of Letters & Science helps students leverage the academic skills learned in their major, certificates, and liberal arts degree; explore and try out different career paths; participate in internships; prepare for the job search and/or graduate school applications; and network with professionals in the field (alumni and employers).

SuccessWorks can also assist students in career advising, résumé and cover letter writing, networking opportunities, and interview skills, as well as course offerings for undergraduates to begin their career exploration early in their undergraduate career.

- [SuccessWorks](https://careers.ls.wisc.edu)
- Set up a career advising appointment ([https://careers.ls.wisc.edu/make-an-appointment](https://careers.ls.wisc.edu/make-an-appointment))
- [INTER-LS 210 L&S Career Development: Taking Initiative](https://careers.ls.wisc.edu/inter-ls-210-career-development-taking-initiative) (1 credit, targeted to first- and second-year students)—for more information, see Inter-LS 210: Career Development, Taking Initiative
- [Learn how we’re transforming career preparation: L&S Career Initiative](http://ls.wisc.edu/lsci)

### PEOPLE

### FACULTY

To view full faculty profiles, visit our website [https://african.wisc.edu/people/faculty](https://african.wisc.edu/people/faculty).

**Matthew H. Brown**: African screen media (particularly "Nollywood"), oral traditions, literature

**Vlad Dima**: French New Wave cinema, Francophone cinemas, film theory, television studies

**Ainehi Edoro**: Form, theory, and history of the African novel

**Névine El Nossery**: Francophone & Middle Eastern literature and culture, postcolonial studies

**Samuel England**: Classical Arabic poetry and prose, modern Arabic literature

**Colleen Hamilton**: Second language acquisition

**Luis Madureira**: Colonial and postcolonial studies, modernism, theater and performance

**Mustafa Mustafa**: Arabic

**Tejumola Olaniyan**: African, African American, and Caribbean literature and culture

**Ronald Radano**: Ethnomusicology, US Black music and its transnational circulation

**Damon Sajnani**: Africana cultural studies, social and political theory, HipHop studies

**Katrina Daly Thompson**: African discourse, linguistic ethnography, language pedagogy

### EMERITUS FACULTY

- Patrick Bennett
- Dustin Cowell
- Jo Ellen Fair
- Magdalena Hauner
- Linda Hunter
- Edris Makward
- Michael Schatzberg
- Harold Scheub
- Aliko Songolo

### ACADEMIC STAFF

Bill Bach, Department Administrator
Toni Landis, Academic Advisor/Student Services Coordinator

### RESOURCES AND SCHOLARSHIPS

### RESOURCES FOR LANGUAGE LEARNERS

One of the most valuable resources for students interested in language study is the Language Institute and its website, Languages at UW–Madison [http://www.languages.wisc.edu](http://www.languages.wisc.edu).

Learn more about scholarships [http://www.languages.wisc.edu/beyond/scholarships](http://www.languages.wisc.edu/beyond/scholarships) and other opportunities for funded language study.