African Languages and Literature, 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).

For more information, students should feel free to contact the Department of African Cultural Studies (http://african.wisc.edu) department 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 languages and literature 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.

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

Requirements Detail

Mathematics

Fulfilled with completion of University General Education requirements Quantitative Reasoning a (QR A) and 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

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.

University 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 *

Total Credits 120 credits

UW-Madison

30 credits in residence, overall

Experience

30 credits in residence after the 90th credit
Minimum 2.000 in all coursework at UW–Madison
GPAs 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.

Principal African languages taught by the department are Arabic, Swahili, 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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AFRICAN/LCA LANG 324</td>
<td>Fourth Semester Arabic</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFRICAN 334</td>
<td>Fourth Semester Swahili</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFRICAN 338</td>
<td>Fourth Semester-A Language of Southern Africa</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFRICAN 354</td>
<td>Fourth Semester Xhosa</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFRICAN 374</td>
<td>Fourth Semester Yoruba</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFRICAN 394</td>
<td>Fourth Semester-A Language of West Africa</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Credits 4

**CULTURE STUDIES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AFRICAN 100</td>
<td>Introduction to African Cultural Expression</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

One 200-level course: 3-4

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AFRICAN 201</td>
<td>Introduction to African Literature</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFRICAN/FOLKLORE 210</td>
<td>The African Storyteller</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFRICAN 211</td>
<td>The African Autobiography</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFRICAN 212</td>
<td>Introduction to African Popular Culture</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFRICAN/AFROAMER 220</td>
<td>HipHop, Youth Culture, and Politics in Senegal</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>AFRICAN 230</td>
<td>Introduction to Yoruba Life and Culture</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFRICAN 231</td>
<td>Introduction to Arabic Literary Culture</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFRICAN 232</td>
<td>Introduction to Swahili Life and Culture</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFRICAN/AFROAMER 233</td>
<td>Global HipHop and Social Justice</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>AFRICAN/FOLKLORE 270</td>
<td>The Hero and Trickster in African Oral Traditions</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

One course outside the department or 6th unit of African language 3-4

Outside courses:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AFRICAN/AFROAMER/ART HIST 241</td>
<td>Introduction to African Art and Architecture</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFRICAN/AFROAMER/HISTORY 347</td>
<td>The Caribbean and its Diasporas</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFRICAN/AFROAMER/GEN&amp;WS 367</td>
<td>Art and Visual Culture: Women of the African Diaspora and Africa</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>ANTHRO 333</td>
<td>Prehistory of Africa</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANTHRO 490</td>
<td>Undergraduate Seminar (Culture and Health in Africa)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ART HIST 241</td>
<td>Introduction to African Art and Architecture</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ART HIST 479</td>
<td>Art and History in Africa</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ART HIST 579</td>
<td>Proseminar in African Art</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON/A E 477</td>
<td>Agricultural and Economic Development in Africa</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ELECTIVES
Credits in any AFRICAN Language or Culture Studies course (listed above) or any of the following courses to achieve 30 credits and eight courses in the major:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AFRICAN/</td>
<td>Third Semester Arabic</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LCA LANG 323</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFRICAN 333</td>
<td>Third Semester Swahili</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>Third Semester-A Language of Southern Africa</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFRICAN 353</td>
<td>Third Semester Xhosa</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFRICAN 373</td>
<td>Third Semester Yoruba</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFRICAN 475</td>
<td>Fifth Semester Yoruba</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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 Languages and Literature Major in consultation with the African Languages and Literature undergraduate advisor. To be admitted to the Honors Program in African Languages and Literature, 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 Languages and Literature Major Requirements
To earn a B.A. or B.S. with Honors in the Major in African Languages and Literature 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

Requirements Detail

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Degree</th>
<th>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.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Residency</td>
<td>Degree candidates are required to earn a minimum of 30 credits in residence at UW–Madison. &quot;In residence&quot; means on the UW–Madison campus with an undergraduate degree classification. &quot;In residence&quot; credit also includes UW–Madison courses offered in distance or online formats and credits earned in UW–Madison Study Abroad/Study Away programs.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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

- (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.
- (Content) Students will demonstrate their understanding of major theories, approaches, concepts, and current and classical research findings in African and diaspora literary and cultural studies.
- (Content) Students will develop a level of proficiency in the different "ways of knowing" Africa and the diaspora through language, literatures, and cultures.
- (Research Skills) Students will 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.
- (Research Skills) Students will effectively retrieve and comprehend primary sources in English and African languages, and secondary sources from a range of disciplines.
- (Communication Skills) Students will develop or improve speaking, listening, writing, and reading skills in an African language, and integrate these skills to communicate effectively.
- (Communication Skills) Students will communicate effectively through essays, oral presentations, and discussion, so they may share their knowledge, wisdom, and values with others across social and professional settings.
- (Communication Skills) Students show knowledge of conventional rhetorical strategies, and integrate research by other authors while distinguishing between their own ideas and those of others.
- (Communication Skills) Students will write and speak across disciplinary boundaries with regard to existing research about Africa and the diaspora in the humanities and social sciences.
- (Analytic Skills) Students will discuss cultural texts from various theoretical and critical perspectives, formulate ideas and make connections between literary/cultural concepts and themes.
- (Analytic Skills) Students will demonstrate command of the terminology and methodologies 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 languages and literature 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 Hip Hop 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/YjFfETg.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!

Visit our website (http://african.wisc.edu/programs/undergraduate/careers-skill-development) for more information.

PEOPLE

FACULTY
Matthew H. Brown
Névine El Nossery (http://african.wisc.edu/faculty/elnossery)
Samuel England (http://african.wisc.edu/faculty/england)
Jo Ellen Fair (http://african.wisc.edu/content/jo-ellen-fair)
Luis Madureira (http://african.wisc.edu/content/lu%C3%ADs-madureira)
Mustafa Mustafa (http://african.wisc.edu/faculty/mustafa)
Tejumola Olaniyan (http://african.wisc.edu/content/tejumola-olaniyan-0)
Ronald Radano (http://african.wisc.edu/content/ronald-radano)
Damon Sajnani (http://african.wisc.edu/faculty/sajnani)
Michael Schatzberg (http://african.wisc.edu/content/michael-schatzberg)
Katrina Daly Thompson (http://african.wisc.edu/faculty/thompson)

FACULTY EMERITUS
Dustin Cowell (http://african.wisc.edu/faculty/cowell)
Harold Scheub (http://african.wisc.edu/faculty/emeri/scheub)
Aliko Songolo (http://african.wisc.edu/faculty/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).

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