AFRO-AMERICAN STUDIES, B.A.

The Department of Afro-American Studies at the University of Wisconsin–Madison offers students an opportunity to study those aspects of black history, culture, and society in ideal interdisciplinary models that reconstruct Afro-American life. It challenges students to critically examine facts and issues that are historically and contemporaneously relevant to the Afro-American experience.

The department offers undergraduate majors in five areas: literature and culture; theater, music and the visual arts; history; Black Women’s studies; and inter-group relations. The M.A. program is based on personalized programs of study shaped to meet the needs of individual students, many of whom participate in the “Bridge” programs which enable them to move directly into Ph.D. programs in English and history. Faculty members and students are active in a broad range of activities, including hip-hop programs for at-risk youth, community theater, college classes for low-income adults, and various support activities for the National Voting Rights Museum in Selma, Alabama. The department prides itself on positive working relationships with our colleagues in traditional disciplines as well as the Women’s Studies Program and the Department of African Cultural Studies. A vibrant community of scholars and students who believe in the ideal of unity without uniformity, we welcome all those committed to the deeper understanding of race in America and the world.

HOW TO GET IN

Students should inform the Department of Afro-American Studies Office of their intention to major and be assigned an advisor within the department.

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/#requirementsforundergraduatestudytext) 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 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

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 Experience

30 credits in residence, overall

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)

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR
The major in Afro-American studies requires a minimum of 30 credits and one area of concentration, plus electives as follows.¹

¹ Electives may be taken from any concentration area. A maximum of 9 credits in Directed Study (AFROAMER 199, AFROAMER 699) may apply.

AFRO-AMERICAN CULTURE: CHOOSE AN EMPHASIS

Literature

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<tr>
<td>AFROAMER 155</td>
<td>They: Race in American Literature</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>AFROAMER/GEN&amp;WS 222</td>
<td>Introduction to Black Women Writers</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>AFROAMER 227</td>
<td>Masterpieces of African American Literature</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>AFROAMER 265</td>
<td>African-American Autobiography</td>
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<td>AFROAMER 154</td>
<td>Hip-Hop and Contemporary American Society</td>
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<td>AFROAMER 156</td>
<td>Black Music and American Cultural History</td>
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<tr>
<td>AFROAMER 225</td>
<td>Introduction to African American Dramatic Literature</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>AFROAMER/ART HIST 241</td>
<td>Introduction to African Art and Architecture</td>
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<td>AFROAMER/ART HIST 242</td>
<td>Introduction to Afro-American Art</td>
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<td>AFROAMER/GEN&amp;WS 367</td>
<td>Art and Visual Culture: Women of the African Diaspora and Africa</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>AFROAMER 456</td>
<td>Soul Music and the African American Freedom Movement</td>
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<td>AFROAMER 337</td>
<td>The Harlem Renaissance</td>
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<td>AFROAMER 338</td>
<td>The Black Arts Movement</td>
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<tr>
<td>AFROAMER 525</td>
<td>Major Authors</td>
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Total Credits 18

The Arts

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Total Credits 18

AFRO-AMERICAN HISTORY

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<tr>
<td>AFROAMER 231</td>
<td>Introduction to Afro-American History</td>
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Total Credits 18
**Afro-American Studies, B.A.**

**AFROAMER 272** Race and American Politics from the New Deal to the New Right

**AFROAMER/AFRICAN/HISTORY/ POLI SCI 297** African and African-American Linkages: An Introduction

**AFROAMER/HISTORY 347** The Caribbean and its Diasporas

Two courses from:

**AFROAMER 302** Undergraduate Studies in Afro-American History

**AFROAMER 303** Blacks, Film, and Society

**AFROAMER/GEN&WS 324** Black Women in America: Reconstruction to the Present

**AFROAMER/GEN&WS 326** Race and Gender in Post-World War II U.S. Society

**AFROAMER 456** Soul Music and the African American Freedom Movement

**AFROAMER/HISTORY 628** History of the Civil Rights Movement

Three courses from:

**AFROAMER/HISTORY 321** Afro-American History Since 1900

**AFROAMER/HISTORY 322** Afro-American History to 1900

**AFROAMER/HISTORY 393** Slavery, Civil War, and Reconstruction, 1848-1877

**AFROAMER/GEN&WS 624** African American Women’s Activism (19th & 20th Centuries)

**AFROAMER 631** Colloquium in Afro-American History

**AFROAMER 671** Selected Topics in Afro-American History

Total Credits 18-19

**AFRO-AMERICAN SOCIETY: CHOOSE AN EMPHASIS**

**Black Women’s Studies**

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<tr>
<td>AFROAMER/GEN&amp;WS 221</td>
<td>Introduction to Black Women’s Studies</td>
<td>3</td>
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Two courses from:

**AFROAMER/GEN&WS 222** Introduction to Black Women Writers

**AFROAMER 302** Undergraduate Studies in Afro-American History

**AFROAMER/GEN&WS 323** Gender, Race and Class: Women in U.S. History

**AFROAMER/GEN&WS 324** Black Women in America: Reconstruction to the Present

**AFROAMER/GEN&WS 326** Race and Gender in Post-World War II U.S. Society

**AFROAMER/GEN&WS 367** Art and Visual Culture: Women of the African Diaspora and Africa

Three courses from:

**AFROAMER/GEN&WS 267** Artistic/Cultural Images of Black Women

**AFROAMER/GEN&WS 624** African American Women’s Activism (19th & 20th Centuries)

**AFROAMER/GEN&WS 625** Gender, Race and the Civil Rights Movement

**AFROAMER/GEN&WS 677** Critical and Theoretical Perspectives in Black Women’s Writings

**AFROAMER/GEN&WS 679** Visual Culture, Gender and Critical Race Theory

Total Credits 18

**Intergroup Relations**

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<td>AFROAMER 151</td>
<td>Introduction to Contemporary Afro-American Society</td>
<td>3</td>
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Two courses from:

**AFROAMER/GEN&WS 323** Gender, Race and Class: Women in U.S. History

**AFROAMER/ASIAN AM 443** Mutual Perceptions of Racial Minorities

Three courses from:

**AFROAMER/ANTHRO/C&E SOC/GEOG/HISTORY/LACIS/POLI SCI/SOC/SPANISH 260** Latin America: An Introduction

**AFROAMER/POLI SCI 519** African American Political Theory

**AFROAMER/HDFS/SOC WORK 521** African American Families

**AFROAMER 673** Selected Topics in Afro-American Society

Total Credits 18

**RESIDENCE & QUALITY OF WORK IN THE MAJOR**

2.000 GPA in all AFROAMER and major courses

2.000 GPA on at least 15 credits of upper-level work in the major, in residence

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

Upper-level in the major includes AFROAMER courses numbered 300 and above and courses that count for the major that are designated as Intermediate or Advanced level.

**DISTINCTION**

**Distinction in the Major**

Afro-American studies majors not enrolled for Honors in the Major may receive the “Distinction in the Major” notation on the transcript by earning a 3.750 grade point average in major courses and successfully completing the AFROAMER 691–AFROAMER 692 Senior Thesis project.

**Thesis of Distinction**

The award Thesis of Distinction is granted for an exceptionally good or original thesis, without consideration of the student’s record in other work. A committee of at least two faculty members will
evaluate the thesis and recommend to the dean the granting of this award when appropriate.

HONORS IN THE MAJOR
Students may declare Honors in the Afro-American Studies Major in consultation with the Afro-American Studies undergraduate advisor(s).

HONORS IN THE AFRO-AMERICAN STUDIES MAJOR REQUIREMENTS
To earn Honors in the Major in Afro-American Studies, students must satisfy both the requirements for the major (above) and the following additional requirements:

- 3.300 University GPA
- 3.500 GPA in all AFROAMER courses, and all courses accepted in the major
- Complete at least one course with a cross-cultural or comparative focus:

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<td>Introduction to African Art and Architecture</td>
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<tr>
<td>AFROAMER/ANTHRO/C&amp;E SOC/ GEOG/HISTORY/ LACIS/POLI SCI/ SOC/Spanish 260</td>
<td>Latin America: An Introduction</td>
<td>3-4</td>
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<tr>
<td>AFROAMER/AFRICAN/ANTHRO/ GEOG/HISTORY/ POLI SCI/SOC 277</td>
<td>Africa: An Introductory Survey</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>AFROAMER/AFRICAN/HISTORY 297</td>
<td>African and African-American Linkages: An Introduction</td>
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<td>AFROAMER/HISTORY 347</td>
<td>The Caribbean and its Diasporas</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>AFROAMER/AFRICAN 413</td>
<td>Contemporary African and Caribbean Drama</td>
<td>3-4</td>
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<tr>
<td>AFROAMER/ASIAN AM 443</td>
<td>Mutual Perceptions of Racial Minorities</td>
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- Complete at least 15 credits in AFROAMER at the 500 or 600 level, to include a two-semester Senior Honors Thesis in AFROAMER 681 and AFROAMER 682, for a total of 6 credits.

UNIVERSITY DEGREE REQUIREMENTS
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. Familiar with the history, culture and social conditions of African Americans in the United States and, secondarily, in the African diaspora.
2. Prepared to interact effectively in a multicultural world.
3. Prepared to share the results of academic research in the area of race with their communities in Wisconsin, the U.S., and the world.
4. Prepared for careers working in institutions that address the needs of multicultural communities.
5. Develop an understanding of the connection between different disciplinary approaches to the study of race.

ADVISING AND CAREERS

ADVISING
The Department of Afro-American Studies encourages our majors to begin working on their career exploration and preparation soon after arriving on campus. We partner with SuccessWorks at the College of Letters & Science. L&S graduates are in high demand by employers and graduate programs. It is important to us that our students are career ready at the time of graduation, and we are committed to your success.

Professor Sandra Adell, Undergraduate and Certificate advisor in the major
saadell@wisc.edu
608-262-0425
4115 Helen C. White Hall

CAREERS
Afro-American Studies Main Office:
Department of Afro-American Studies
4141 Helen C. White Hall
600 North Park Street, Madison, WI 53706
Phone: 608-263-1642; Fax: 608-263-7198

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)
• INTER-LS 210 L&S Career Development: Taking Initiative (1 credit, targeted to first- and second-year students)—for more information, see Inter-LS 210: Career Development, Taking Initiative (https://careers.ls.wisc.edu/inter-ls-210-career-development-taking-initiative)
• Learn how we're transforming career preparation: L&S Career Initiative (http://ls.wisc.edu/lsci)

PEOPLE

Professors Adell, Drewal, Greene, Plummer, Thornton, Werner

Associate Professor Clark-Pujara

Assistant Professors Almiron, Brown, Davis