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. Our faculty specialize in literature, music, film, critical applied linguistics, drama, diaspora studies, and new media. Our undergraduate program 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. A student majoring in African Cultural Studies is prepared for careers across the globe.

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 offers a wide-range of course topics, including African literature and theater, contemporary cinema and music, Afro-Futurism, gender and sexuality, and internet and media studies.

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://studyabroad.wisc.edu/academics/major-advising-pages/maps/african-cultural-studies/).

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

HOW TO GET IN

DECLARING THE MAJOR

Declaring the major in African Cultural Studies is as easy as meeting with the advisor. Find the African Cultural Studies advisor on Starfish (https://advising.wisc.edu/facstaff/starfish/starfish-student-resources/).

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/#requirementsforundergraduatetext) 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 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.

BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

| Mathematics | Complete the University General Education Requirements for Quantitative Reasoning A (QR-A) and Quantitative Reasoning B (QR-B) coursework. |
| 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. |
| L&S Breath | - 12 credits of Humanities, which must include 6 credits of literature; and - 12 credits of Social Science; and - 12 credits of Natural Science, which must include one 3+ credit Biological Science course and one 3+ credit Physical Science course. |
| Liberal Arts and Science Coursework | Complete at least 108 credits. |
| Depth of Intermediate/Advanced work | Complete at least 60 credits at the intermediate or advanced level. |
| Major | Declare and complete at least one major. |
| Total Credits | Complete at least 120 credits. |
| UW-Madison Experience | - 30 credits in residence, overall; and - 30 credits in residence after the 86th credit. |
| Quality of Work | - 2.000 in all coursework at UW–Madison - 2.000 in Intermediate/Advanced level coursework at UW–Madison |
NON−L&S STUDENTS PURSING 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. They do not need to complete the L&S Degree Requirements above.

The African Cultural Studies major consists of a combination of literature and culture courses and two semesters of an African language. The major requirements are divided into three areas: Language, Literature and Culture, and Capstone Course.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR

The major requires a minimum of 32 credits and the specific requirements include:

**LANGUAGE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AFRICAN 321 &amp; AFRICAN 322</td>
<td>First Semester Arabic and Second Semester Arabic</td>
<td>8-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFRICAN 331 &amp; AFRICAN 332</td>
<td>First Semester Swahili and Second Semester Swahili</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFRICAN 335 &amp; AFRICAN 336</td>
<td>First Semester−A Language of Southern Africa and Second Semester−A Language of Southern Africa</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFRICAN 339 &amp; AFRICAN 340</td>
<td>First Semester Summer Arabic and Second Semester Summer Arabic</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFRICAN 361 &amp; AFRICAN 362</td>
<td>First Semester Hausa and Second Semester Hausa</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFRICAN 371 &amp; AFRICAN 372</td>
<td>First Semester Yoruba and Second Semester Yoruba</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFRICAN 391 &amp; AFRICAN 392</td>
<td>First Semester−A Language of West Africa and Second Semester−A Language of West Africa</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**LITERATURE AND CULTURE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AFRICAN 100</td>
<td>Introduction to African Cultural Expression</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFRICAN/AFROAMER/FOLKLORE 270</td>
<td>The Hero and Trickster in African Oral Traditions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFRICAN/AFROAMER/GEOG/HISTORY/POLI SCI/SOC 277</td>
<td>Africa: An Introductory Survey</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFRICAN 300</td>
<td>African Literature in Translation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFRICAN/INTL ST 302</td>
<td>Arabic Literature and Cinema</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Core course:**

**Intermediate/Advanced Literature and Culture:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AFRICAN/AFROAMER/ANTHRO/GEOG/HISTORY/POLI SCI/SOC 277</td>
<td>Africa: An Introductory Survey</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFRICAN/FRENCH 440</td>
<td>African/Francophone Film</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFRICAN/COM ARTS/LIS 444</td>
<td>Technology and Development in Africa and Beyond</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFRICAN 445</td>
<td>Advanced Readings in Arabic Texts</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFRICAN/PORTUG 451</td>
<td>Lusophone African Literature</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFRICAN 453</td>
<td>Modern African Literature in English</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFRICAN 475</td>
<td>Fifth Semester Yoruba</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFRICAN 476</td>
<td>Sixth Semester Yoruba</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFRICAN 500</td>
<td>Language and Society in Africa</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFRICAN 605</td>
<td>Advanced Topics in African Cultural Studies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
AFRICAN 606 Advanced Topics in African Literature
AFRICAN 609 Advanced Topics in Global Black Music Studies
AFRICAN 669 Special Topics
AFRICAN 681 Senior Honors Thesis
AFRICAN 682 Senior Honors Thesis
AFRICAN 698 Directed Study
AFRICAN 699 Directed Study
AFROAMER 302 Undergraduate Studies in Afro-American History
AFROAMER/ DANCE/ MUSIC 318 Cultural Cross Currents: West African Dance/Music in the Americas
AFROAMER/ HISTORY 347 The Caribbean and its Diasporas
AFROAMER/ GEN&WS 367 Art and Visual Culture: Women of the African Diaspora and Africa
A A E/ECON 477 Agricultural and Economic Development in Africa
ANTHRO 333 Prehistory of Africa
ART HIST 479 Art and History in Africa
ART HIST 579 Proseminar in African Art
DANCE/ AFROAMER/ MUSIC 318 Cultural Cross Currents: West African Dance/Music in the Americas
ECON/A A E 477 Agricultural and Economic Development in Africa
GEN&WS/ AFROAMER 367 Art and Visual Culture: Women of the African Diaspora and Africa
GEN&WS/ POLI SCI 429 Gender and Politics in Comparative Perspective
GEOG 355 Africa, South of the Sahara
HISTORY 278 Africans in the Americas, 1492-1808
HISTORY 279 Afro-Atlantic History, 1808-Present
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/ GEN&WS 429 Gender and Politics in Comparative Perspective
POLI SCI 455 African International Relations
AFRICAN 203 Introductory Topics in African Literature
AFRICAN 204 Introductory Topics in African Languages
AFRICAN/ FOLKLORE 210 The African Storyteller
AFRICAN 212 Introduction to African Popular Culture
AFRICAN/ FRENCH 216 Modern and Contemporary Francophone Topics
AFRICAN/ AFROAMER 220 HipHop, Youth Culture, and Politics in Senegal
AFRICAN 230 Introduction to Yoruba Life and Culture
AFRICAN 231 Introduction to Arabic Literary Culture
AFRICAN 232 Introduction to Swahili Cultures
AFRICAN/ AFROAMER 233 Global HipHop and Social Justice
AFRICAN/ AFROAMER/ HISTORY/ POLI SCI 297 African and African-American Linkages: An Introduction
AFROAMER/ GEN&WS 221 Introduction to Black Women’s Studies
AFROAMER/ ART HIST 241 Introduction to African Art and Architecture
AFROAMER/ GEN&WS 267 Artistic/Cultural Images of Black Women
ART HIST/ AFROAMER 241 Introduction to African Art and Architecture
GEN&WS/ AFROAMER 221 Introduction to Black Women’s Studies
GEN&WS/ AFROAMER 267 Artistic/Cultural Images of Black Women
HISTORY 105 Introduction to the History of Africa

Total Credits 21

**CAPSTONE COURSE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 course from the following:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFRICAN 403</td>
<td>Theories of African Cultural Studies</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFRICAN 405</td>
<td>Topics in African Cultural Studies</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Credits** 3

**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

**HONORS IN THE MAJOR**

Students may declare Honors in the African Cultural Studies Major in consultation with the African Cultural Studies undergraduate advisor. To earn 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 and major courses
3. Complete 15 Honors credits in the major, in residence, that includes:
   a. 9 credits in courses numbered 200 and above
   b. A two-semester Senior Honors Thesis in AFRICAN 681 and AFRICAN 682, for a total of 6 credits.

FOOTNOTES

1 Courses with Intermediate or Advanced level are considered upper level in this major.

UNIVERSITY DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Degree</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residency</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quality of Work</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

SAMPLE FOUR-YEAR PLAN

This Sample Four-Year Plan is a tool to assist students and their advisor(s). Students should use it—along with their DARS report, the Degree Planner, and Course Search & Enroll tools—to make their own four-year plan based on their placement scores, credit for transferred courses and approved examinations, and individual interests. As students become involved in athletics, honors, research, student organizations, study abroad, volunteer experiences, and/or work, they might adjust the order of their courses to accommodate these experiences. Students will likely revise their own four-year plan several times during college.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Spring Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Year</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Credits</td>
<td>Spring</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFRICAN 100</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>AFRICAN/AFROAMER 233 or 297</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication Part A</td>
<td>3 Qualitative Reasoning</td>
<td>Part A (complete during first year)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biological Science Breadth</td>
<td>3 Physical Science Breadth</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Year</td>
<td>Credits</td>
<td>Spring Credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Credits</td>
<td>Spring</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFRICAN 201, 202, 203, or 204</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>One AFRICAN or related course at Intermediate level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Science Breadth</td>
<td>3 Quantitative Reasoning</td>
<td>Part B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science Breadth</td>
<td>3 Social Science Breadth</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continue language study for BA/BS OR Elective</td>
<td>3-4 Continue language study for BA OR Elective</td>
<td>3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>3 Elective</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>15-16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>16-17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In addition to discussing the major, advisors also know a lot about:

- Course content
- What kinds of courses might work best with your learning style
- How to reach your academic and career goals
- How to manage your time and academic responsibilities
- How to succeed in your coursework
- How to integrate other coursework into fulfilling lives after graduation, whether that means getting involved with campus organizations, finding volunteer and/or internship opportunities, getting involved with campus organizations, and connecting majors to careers
- Expanding your world view and exposure to new ideas/ways of thinking
- Critical reading, reflection, and analysis
- Discussion and debate strategies
- Proper research design and methodology
- 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

In addition to the valuable language training and cultural competence an ACS major affords you, consider what you learn in the classroom 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
- 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
- Proper research design and methodology
- Broader knowledge of career and graduate-study options

Count on being well-prepared for an exciting and rewarding career!

Visit our website (https://african.wisc.edu/undergraduate-program/career-and-skill-development/) for more information.

**L&S CAREER RESOURCES**

Every L&S major opens a world of possibilities. SuccessWorks (https://successworks.wisc.edu/) at the College of Letters & Science helps students turn the academic skills learned in their major, certificates, and other coursework into fulfilling lives after graduation, whether that means jobs, public service, graduate school or other career pursuits.

In addition to providing basic support like resume reviews and interview practice, SuccessWorks offers ways to explore interests and build career skills from their very first semester/term at UW all the way through graduation and beyond.

Students can explore careers in one-on-one advising, try out different career paths, complete internships, prepare for the job search and/or graduate school applications, and connect with supportive alumni and even employers in the fields that inspire them.

- SuccessWorks (https://careers.ls.wisc.edu/)
- Set up a career advising appointment (https://successworks.wisc.edu/make-an-appointment/)
- Enroll in a Career Course (https://successworks.wisc.edu/career-courses/) - a great idea for first- and second-year students:
• INTER-LS 210 L&S Career Development: Taking Initiative (1 credit)
• INTER-LS 215 Communicating About Careers (3 credits, fulfills Comm B General Education Requirement)
• Learn about internships and internship funding (https://successworks.wisc.edu/finding-a-job-or-internship/)
• INTER-LS 260 Internship in the Liberal Arts and Sciences
• Activate your Handshake account (https://successworks.wisc.edu/handshake/) to apply for jobs and internships from 200,000+ employers recruiting UW-Madison students
• Learn about the impact SuccessWorks has on students' lives (https://successworks.wisc.edu/about/mission/)

PEOPLE

Please visit the African Cultural Studies website (https://african.wisc.edu/people/faculty-and-staff/) for a complete list of faculty, instructional, and academic staff.

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.