African Cultural Studies

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 ranging from gender and sexuality to whiteness to diasporic internet use.

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.studyabroad.wisc.edu/map_africanlanguages.asp).

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.

DEGREES/MAJORS/CERTIFICATES


PEOPLE

FACULTY

To view full faculty profiles, visit our website (https://african.wisc.edu/people/faculty-and-staff).

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
Luis Madureira: Colonial and postcolonial studies, modernism, theater and performance
Jacqueline-Bethel Mougoué: African gender studies, body politics, African feminisms, political and religious movements

Tejumola Olaniyan: African, African American, and Caribbean literature and culture
Ronald Radano: Ethnomusicology, US Black music and its transnational circulation
Reginold Royston: Africana cultural studies, new media and sound studies, philosophy and history of information and communications technology, diaspora and transnationalism
Damon Sajnani: Africana cultural studies, social and political theory, HipHop studies
Katrina Daly Thompson: African discourse, ethnographic approaches to language use, language pedagogy, gender, sexuality, Islam

EMERITUS FACULTY

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

ACADEMIC STAFF

Adeola Avoke: Acting Language Program Director
Bill Bach: Department Administrator
Toni Landis: Academic Advisor/Student Services Coordinator
Mustafa Mustafa: Arabic Instructor