

# B.A. in African American Studies

[Overview](#)

[Degree Requirements](#)

## Description

Students who pursue the major in African American studies will get a broad-based understanding of research in a variety of academic disciplines, with a particular focus on African and African American topics. Students will be provided with historical and contemporary data that will enable them to develop a comprehensive understanding of the life experiences of African Americans.

**Minimum Total Credit Hours: 124**

## Goals/Mission Statement

The mission of African American studies is to research and teach about the history and culture of African Americans as members of American society. More specifically, the objectives of the program are to encourage students and faculty to examine the black experience, to facilitate a cultural and intellectual atmosphere on campus that will be favorable to such studies, and to undertake a program of research and service.

## General Education Requirements

Although other general education requirements for the B.A. degree must be met, the African American studies major does not require a minor.

## Course Requirements

The African-American studies interdisciplinary major consists of 42 semester hours, including 6 hours of basic core courses, 33 hours from the areas of specialization listed below, and the 3-hour senior seminar course. At least 12 of the 33 credits of required upper-division work must be in a designated area of specialization. In addition, 12 hours must be chosen from one or both of the other two areas outside of the designated area of specialization.

### I. Basic Core (6 credit hours)

AAS 201 African-American Experience I  
AAS 202 African-American Experience II

### II. Areas of Specialization (33 credit hours)

Areas of Specialization (12 credit hours minimum)

#### A. African and African-American History

AAS 170/His 170 Introduction to African History  
AAS 310 Experiences of Black Mississippians  
AAS 325/His 307 African-American History to 1865  
AAS 326/His 308 African-American History since 1865  
AAS 362/G St 362 African-American Women's History  
AAS 392/His 387 History of Sub-Saharan Africa  
AAS 438/His 327 Historical Perspectives on Slavery in the Americas  
AAS 440/His 328 History of African Americans in Sports  
AAS 443/His 329 The Civil Rights Era  
His 460 Undergraduate Research Seminar in African History  
AAS 498 African-American Studies Directed Study  
AAS 501 African-American Studies Seminar  
AAS 509/His 509 Historiography of African-American History

#### B. African and African-American Political and Social Institutions

AAS 302 Judicial System and the African-American Experience  
AAS 307/Anth 307 Peoples of Africa  
AAS 308/Pol 307 Politics of Civil Liberties and Civil Rights  
AAS 315/Pol 323 Politics of Sub-Saharan Africa  
AAS 320/Pol 320 African-American Politics  
AAS 350/AAS 351 Topics in African-American Studies  
AAS 413/Soc 413 Race and Ethnicity  
AAS 504 Research in African-American Studies

#### C. African and African-American Culture

AAS 334/S St 334 Introduction to Field Work Techniques  
AAS 337/Anth 337 Anthropology of Blues Culture  
AAS 341/Engl 322 African-American Literary Tradition I  
AAS 342/Engl 323 African-American Literary Tradition II  
AAS 360 Topics in African-American Studies Abroad



AAS 371/Engl 371	African Literature
AAS 373/Engl 373	Caribbean Literature
AAS 386/AH 336	African and African-American Arts
AAS 395/AH 369	Survey of Black-American Art
AAS 420	Richard Wright and Toni Morrison
AAS 441/Engl 441	Comparative Black Literatures
AAS 517/Mus 517	African-American Musical Tradition
AAS 518/Mus 518	History of Jazz
AAS 593/Engl 593	African-American Literature

III. Senior Seminar (3 credit hours)

AAS 480 African-American Studies Senior Seminar

### Other Academic Requirements

A minimum grade of C is required in all courses applied toward the African American studies major.

### Specializations

- [Emphasis - Culture](#)
- [Emphasis - History](#)
- [Emphasis - Political/Social Institutions](#)

