

# 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)

#### A. African and African American History

AAS 170/His 170 Introduction to African History  
AAS 310 Experiences of Black Mississippians  
AAS 322/His 322/G St 322 Race, Gender, Science in Early America  
AAS 324/G St 321/His 324 Race, Gender, Courtship-African Am Hist  
AAS 325/His 307 African American History to 1865  
AAS 326/His 308 African American History since 1865  
AAS 350 Topics in AAS History  
AAS 362/G ST 362/His 339 African American Women's History  
AAS 392/His 387 Modern Africa  
AAS 437/His 326 The Atlantic Slave Trade and Africa  
AAS 438/His 327 Historical Perspectives on Slavery in the Americas  
AAS 440/His 328 History of African Americans in Sports  
AAS 442 The New Negro Era  
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 316/Anth 315 The African Diaspora  
AAS 320/Pol 320 African American Politics  
AAS 351 Topics in AAS Pol & Social Institutions  
AAS 413/Soc 413 Race and Ethnicity  
AAS 414/Soc 414/SST 314 Race, Place & Space  
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 352 Topics in AAS Culture  
AAS 360 Topics in African American Studies Abroad  
AAS 371/Engl 371 African Literature  
AAS 373/Engl 373 Caribbean Literature  
AAS 386/AH 386 African and African American Arts  
AAS 395/AH 369 Survey of Black American Art  
AAS 412 Studies in Black Popular Culture  
AAS 420/Engl 465 Major African American Writers  
AAS 421 Readings in U.S. Black Feminism  
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](#)

