

# 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: 120**

## 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

See the 'General Education/Core Curriculum' for the College of Liberal Arts.

## Course Requirements

The African American studies interdisciplinary major consists of 30 semester hours, including 6 hours of basic core courses (AAS 201 and 202), 21 hours from the areas of specialization listed below (6 minimum from each of the specializations and one elective), and the 3-hour senior seminar course (AAS 480). At least 6 hours from each area of specialization must be taken. Areas of specialization include African and African American history, African and African American political institutions, and African and African American culture.

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

AAS 201 African American Experience I

AAS 202 African American Experience II

### II. Areas of Specialization (6 credit hours minimum each)

#### A. African and African American History

AAS 170/Hst 170. Intro to African History

AAS 310. Experiences of Black Mississippians

AAS 325/Hst 414. African American History to 1865

AAS 326/Hst 415. African American History since 1865

AAS 350. Topics in AAS History

AAS 362/G St 418/Hst 418. African American Women's History

AAS 372/Hst 372. Decolonization in Africa

AAS 376/Hst 376. History of West Africa to 1800

AAS 377/Hst 377. History of West Africa since 1800

AAS 385/Hst 423. History of Mass Incarceration in the US

AAS 390/Hst 374. Nationalism in Africa

AAS 392/Hst 350. Modern Africa

AAS 393/Hst 371. History of Southern Africa

AAS 394/Hst 375. History of Islam

AAS 412. Studies in Black Popular Culture

AAS 423/G St 423/Hst 419. Black Women's Enterprise & Activism

AAS 438/Hst 422. The Rise and Fall of American Slavery

AAS 440/Hst 420. History of African Americans in Sports

AAS 442. The New Negro Era

AAS 443/Hst 424. The Civil Rights Era

AAS 498. African American Studies Directed Study

AAS 501. African American Studies Seminar

AAS 509/Hst 509. Historiography: African American History

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

AAS 302. Judicial System and the African American Experience

AAS 308/Pol 307. Politics of Civil Liberties and Civil Rights

AAS 315/Pol 323. Politics of Sub-Saharan Africa



**II. Areas of Specialization (6 credit hours minimum each)**

AAS 316/Anth 315. The African Diaspora  
AAS 320/Pol 320. African American Politics  
AAS 328/G St 328/Soc 328. African American Feminist Thought  
AAS 330/Rel 330/Soc 330. Racism and Religion  
AAS 337/Anth 337. Anthropology of Blues Culture  
AAS 351. Topics in AAS Pol & Social Institutions  
AAS 370/Pol 370. African American Legal Experience  
AAS 391/Phil 391. Philosophy of Race  
AAS 413/Soc 413. Race and Ethnicity  
AAS 414/Soc 414/S St 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 341/Eng 361. African American Literary Tradition I  
AAS 342/Eng 362. African American Literary Tradition II  
AAS 352. Topics in AAS Culture  
AAS 360. Topics in African American Studies Abroad  
AAS 363/Eng 363. African American Genres  
AAS 364/Eng 364. Studies in African American Lit  
AAS 366/Eng 366. African American Science Fiction Lit  
AAS 367/Eng 367. Blues Tradition in American Lit  
AAS 368/Clc 368. African American Lit and the Classics  
AAS 373/Eng 373. Studies in Comparative Black Lit  
AAS 374/Eng 374. Survey of Caribbean Literature  
AAS 375/Eng 375. Survey of African Literature  
AAS 386/AH 386. African and African American Arts  
AAS 388/AH 388. African Art  
AAS 395/AH 369. Survey of Black American Art  
AAS 412. Studies in Black Popular Culture  
AAS 421/G St 421. Readings in U.S. Black Feminism  
AAS 468/Eng 468. Major African American Writers  
AAS 469/Eng 469. Special Topics in African American Lit  
AAS 473/Eng 473. Prison and the Literary Imagination  
AAS 477/Rhet 477. Rhetorics of Race in the US South  
AAS 479/Eng 479. Special Topics Comparative Black Lit  
AAS 481/Eng 481. Special Topics in Caribbean Literature  
AAS 483/Eng 483. Special Topics in African Literature  
AAS 493/Eng 493. Special Topics in Race and Ethnicity  
AAS 517/Mus 517. African American Musical Tradition  
AAS 518/Mus 518. History of Jazz  
AAS 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.

