

# AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES, BA

The Department of African American Studies offers you an opportunity to study Black history, culture, and society in interdisciplinary models that reconstruct African American life. It challenges you to critically examine facts and issues that are historically and contemporaneously relevant to the African American experience. Faculty members and students are active in a broad range of activities, including hip-hop programs for at-risk youth, college classes for low-income adults, the Prison Education Initiative, and the Public History Project. The department prides itself on positive working relationships with our colleagues in other disciplines, including the departments of Gender and Women's Studies (<https://gws.wisc.edu/>), African Cultural Studies (<https://african.wisc.edu/>), English (<https://english.wisc.edu/>), History (<https://history.wisc.edu/>), and the School of Education (<https://education.wisc.edu/>).

The department is committed to bringing academic research to the broadest possible audience, with the belief that the deepest understanding of the complex reality of race in America requires a truly interdisciplinary approach, one that draws on history and literature, the social sciences, and the arts. Course options for the African American Studies major include "Introduction to Black Women Writers," "Race and American Politics from the New Deal to the New Right," "Hip-Hop and Contemporary American Society," "Blacks, Film, and Society," "Afrofuturism and Popular Culture," "Introduction to African American Art," "Black Street Culture," "Traditions in African American Humor," "Slavery and Capitalism," and "Black Women's Political Behavior."

African American Studies students gain deeper insight into ongoing racial inequality and social justice, helping them be more informed and empathetic when addressing issues of equity in their future careers. Students will graduate prepared to interact effectively in a multicultural world and workplaces and to share the results of academic research in the area of race with their communities.