

AFRICAN CULTURAL STUDIES, BA

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. Our faculty specialize in literature, history, music, film, critical applied linguistics, drama, diaspora studies, communications and new media. Our undergraduate program emphasizes the development and application of analytical, linguistic, and research methods that enable students to work effectively and imaginatively across regions, languages, cultural forms, fields, and disciplines. A student majoring in African Cultural Studies is prepared for careers across the globe!

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. Students can also enroll in academic self-driven study for less commonly taught African languages. The department offers a wide range of course topics, including African literature and theater, contemporary cinema and music, Afro-Futurism, gender and sexuality, and internet and media studies.

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://studyabroad.wisc.edu/academics/major-advising-pages-maps/african-cultural-studies/>).

For more information, students should feel free to contact the Department of African Cultural Studies (<http://african.wisc.edu/>).

HOW TO GET IN

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Requirements	Details
How to get in	No application required. All students who meet the requirements listed below are eligible to declare. For information on how to declare, visit Advising & Careers.
Courses required to get in	None
GPA requirements to get in	None
Credits required to get in	None
Other	None

REQUIREMENTS

UNIVERSITY GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

All undergraduate students at the University of Wisconsin–Madison are required to fulfill a minimum set of common university general education requirements to ensure that every graduate acquires the essential core of an undergraduate education. This core establishes a foundation for living a productive life, being a citizen of the world, appreciating aesthetic values, and engaging in lifelong learning in a continually changing world. Various schools and colleges will have requirements in addition to the requirements listed below. Consult your advisor for assistance, as needed. For additional information, see the university Undergraduate General Education Requirements (<https://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/#requirementsforundergraduatestudytext>) section of the Guide.

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| General Education | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breadth–Humanities/Literature/Arts: 6 credits • Breadth–Natural Science: 4 to 6 credits, consisting of one 4- or 5-credit course with a laboratory component; or two courses providing a total of 6 credits • Breadth–Social Studies: 3 credits • Communication Part A & Part B * • Ethnic Studies * • Quantitative Reasoning Part A & Part B * |
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* The mortarboard symbol appears before the title of any course that fulfills one of the Communication Part A or Part B, Ethnic Studies, or Quantitative Reasoning Part A or Part B requirements.

COLLEGE OF LETTERS & SCIENCE DEGREE REQUIREMENTS: BACHELOR OF ARTS (BA)

Students pursuing a bachelor of arts degree in the College of Letters & Science must complete all of the requirements below. The College of Letters & Science allows this major to be paired with either a bachelor of arts or a bachelor of science curriculum.

BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

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| Mathematics | Complete the University General Education Requirements for Quantitative Reasoning A (QR-A) and Quantitative Reasoning B (QR-B) coursework. |
| Language | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete the fourth unit of a language other than English; OR • Complete the third unit of a language and the second unit of an additional language other than English. |

L&S Breadth	• 12 credits of Humanities, which must include 6 credits of literature; and • 12 credits of Social Science; and • 12 credits of Natural Science, which must include one 3+ credit Biological Science course and one 3+ credit Physical Science course.
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Liberal Arts and Science Coursework	Complete at least 108 credits.
Depth of Intermediate/Advanced work	Complete at least 60 credits at the intermediate or advanced level.
Major	Declare and complete at least one major.
Total Credits	Complete at least 120 credits.
UW-Madison Experience	• 30 credits in residence, overall; and • 30 credits in residence after the 86th credit.
Quality of Work	• 2,000 in all coursework at UW-Madison • 2,000 in Intermediate/Advanced level coursework at UW-Madison

NON-L&S STUDENTS PURSUING AN L&S MAJOR

Non-L&S students who have permission from their school/college to pursue an additional major within L&S only need to fulfill the major requirements. They do not need to complete the L&S Degree Requirements above.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR

The African Cultural Studies major consists of a combination of literature and culture courses and two semesters of an African language for a minimum of 32 credits. The major requirements are divided into three areas: Language, Literature and Culture, and Capstone Course.

LANGUAGE

Code	Title	Credits
Complete one of the following language options:		8-10
AFRICAN 321 & AFRICAN 322	First Semester Arabic and Second Semester Arabic	
AFRICAN 331 & AFRICAN 332	First Semester Swahili and Second Semester Swahili	
AFRICAN 335 & AFRICAN 336	First Semester-A Language of Southern Africa and Second Semester-A Language of Southern Africa	
AFRICAN 339 & AFRICAN 340	First Semester Summer Arabic and Second Semester Summer Arabic	
AFRICAN 361 & AFRICAN 362	First Semester Hausa and Second Semester Hausa	
AFRICAN 371 & AFRICAN 372	First Semester Yoruba and Second Semester Yoruba	

AFRICAN 391 & AFRICAN 392	First Semester-A Language of West Africa and Second Semester-A Language of West Africa
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Total Credits **8-10**

LITERATURE AND CULTURE

Code	Title	Credits
Core course:		3
AFRICAN 100	Introduction to African Cultural Expression	
Intermediate/Advanced Literature and Culture:		12
AFRICAN/AFROAMER/ANTHRO/GEOG/HISTORY/POLI SCI/SOC 277	Africa: An Introductory Survey	
AFRICAN 300	African Literature in Translation	
AFRICAN/INTL ST 302	Arabic Literature and Cinema	
AFRICAN 303	African Literature and Visual Culture	
AFRICAN 304	Soccer in Africa	
AFRICAN 323	Third Semester Arabic	
AFRICAN 324	Fourth Semester Arabic	
AFRICAN 329	Fifth Semester Arabic	
AFRICAN 330	Sixth Semester Arabic	
AFRICAN 333	Third Semester Swahili	
AFRICAN 334	Fourth Semester Swahili	
AFRICAN 341	Third Semester Summer Arabic	
AFRICAN 342	Fourth Semester Summer Arabic	
AFRICAN 343	Fifth Semester Summer Arabic	
AFRICAN 344	Sixth Semester Summer Arabic	
AFRICAN/ASIAN/RELIG ST 370	Islam: Religion and Culture	
AFRICAN 373	Third Semester Yoruba	
AFRICAN 374	Fourth Semester Yoruba	
AFRICAN 393	Third Semester-A Language of West Africa	
AFRICAN 394	Fourth Semester-A Language of West Africa	
AFRICAN 399	Directed Study of an African Language	
AFRICAN 402	Theory of African Literature	
AFRICAN 406	Topics in African Literature	
AFRICAN 407	Topics in African Languages	
AFRICAN/RELIG ST 408	Everyday Religion in Africa	
AFRICAN 409	Topics in US and Global Black Music Studies	
AFRICAN 412	Contemporary African Fiction	
AFRICAN/AFROAMER 413	Contemporary African and Caribbean Drama	
AFRICAN/RELIG ST 414	Islam in Africa and the Diaspora	

AFRICAN 435	Fifth Semester Swahili
AFRICAN 436	Sixth Semester Swahili
AFRICAN/ FRENCH 440	African/Francophone Film
AFRICAN/ COM ARTS/ L I S 444	Technology and Development in Africa and Beyond
AFRICAN/ PORTUG 451	Lusophone African Literature
AFRICAN/ JEWISH/ MEDIEVAL/ RELIG ST 462	Muslims and Jews
AFRICAN 605	Advanced Topics in African Cultural Studies
AFRICAN 606	Advanced Topics in African Literature
AFRICAN 681	Senior Honors Thesis
AFRICAN 682	Senior Honors Thesis
AFRICAN 698	Directed Study
AFRICAN 699	Directed Study
AFROAMER 302	Undergraduate Studies in Afro- American History
AFROAMER/ DANCE/ MUSIC 318	Cultural Cross Currents: West African Dance/Music in the Americas
AFROAMER/ HISTORY 347	The Caribbean and its Diasporas
AFROAMER/ GEN&WS 367	Art and Visual Culture: Women of the African Diaspora and Africa
A A E/ECON 477	Agricultural and Economic Development in Africa
ANTHRO 333	Prehistory of Africa
DANCE/ AFROAMER/ MUSIC 318	Cultural Cross Currents: West African Dance/Music in the Americas
ECON/A A E 477	Agricultural and Economic Development in Africa
GEN&WS/ AFROAMER 367	Art and Visual Culture: Women of the African Diaspora and Africa
GEN&WS/ POLI SCI 429	Gender and Politics in Comparative Perspective
GEOG 355	Africa, South of the Sahara
HISTORY 278	Africans in the Americas, 1492-1808
LITTRANS 226	Introduction to Luso-Afro-Brazilian Literature
LITTRANS 334	In Translation: The Art of Isak Dinesen/Karen Blixen
MUSIC/ AFROAMER/ DANCE 318	Cultural Cross Currents: West African Dance/Music in the Americas
POLI SCI 329	African Politics
POLI SCI/ GEN&WS 429	Gender and Politics in Comparative Perspective
Literature and Culture Electives:	
6	

AFRICAN/ HISTORY 106	Introduction to African History
AFRICAN/ HISTORY 129	Africa on the Global Stage
AFRICAN 201	Introduction to African Literature
AFRICAN 202	Introductory Topics in African Cultural Studies
AFRICAN 203	Introductory Topics in African Literature
AFRICAN 204	Introductory Topics in African Languages
AFRICAN 206	Introduction to African Linguistic Practices
AFRICAN/ FOLKLORE 210	The African Storyteller
AFRICAN 212	Introduction to African Popular Culture
AFRICAN/ FRENCH 216	Modern and Contemporary Francophone Topics
AFRICAN/ AFROAMER 220	HipHop, Youth Culture, and Politics in Senegal
AFRICAN 230	Introduction to Yoruba Life and Culture
AFRICAN 231	Introduction to Arabic Literary Culture
AFRICAN/ AFROAMER 233	Global HipHop and Social Justice
AFRICAN/ AFROAMER/ HISTORY/ POLI SCI 297	African and African-American Linkages: An Introduction
AFROAMER/ GEN&WS 221	Introduction to Black Women's Studies
AFROAMER/ ART HIST 241	Introduction to African Art and Architecture
AFROAMER/ GEN&WS 267	Artistic/Cultural Images of Black Women
ART HIST/ AFROAMER 241	Introduction to African Art and Architecture
GEN&WS/ AFROAMER 221	Introduction to Black Women's Studies
GEN&WS/ AFROAMER 267	Artistic/Cultural Images of Black Women
HISTORY 179	Afro-Atlantic Histories and Peoples, 1791-Present

Total Credits **21**

CAPSTONE COURSE

Code	Title	Credits
1 course from the following:		3
AFRICAN 403	Theories of African Cultural Studies	
AFRICAN 405	Topics in African Cultural Studies	

Total Credits **3**

RESIDENCE AND QUALITY OF WORK

- 2.000 GPA in all AFRICAN and major courses
- 2.000 GPA on 15 upper-level major credits, taken in residence ¹
- 15 credits in AFRICAN, taken on the UW–Madison campus

HONORS IN THE MAJOR

Students may declare Honors in the African Cultural Studies Major in consultation with the African Cultural Studies undergraduate advisor. To earn Honors in the Major in African Cultural Studies students must satisfy both the requirements for the major (above) and the following additional requirements:

1. Earn a 3.300 overall university GPA
2. Earn 3.300 GPA in all AFRICAN and major courses
3. Complete 15 Honors credits in the major, in residence, that includes:
 - a. 9 credits in courses numbered 200 and above
 - b. A two-semester Senior Honors Thesis in AFRICAN 681 and AFRICAN 682, for a total of 6 credits.

FOOTNOTES

¹ Courses with Intermediate or Advanced level are considered upper level in this major.

UNIVERSITY DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Total Degree	To receive a bachelor's degree from UW–Madison, students must earn a minimum of 120 degree credits. The requirements for some programs may exceed 120 degree credits. Students should consult with their college or department advisor for information on specific credit requirements.
Residency	Degree candidates are required to earn a minimum of 30 credits in residence at UW–Madison. "In residence" means on the UW–Madison campus with an undergraduate degree classification. "In residence" credit also includes UW–Madison courses offered in distance or online formats and credits earned in UW–Madison Study Abroad/Study Away programs.
Quality of Work	Undergraduate students must maintain the minimum grade point average specified by the school, college, or academic program to remain in good academic standing. Students whose academic performance drops below these minimum thresholds will be placed on academic probation.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

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1. (Content) Recognize canonical authors and texts, historical forms, genres, and structures, and recognize aesthetic and cultural concerns in Africa and its diasporas.
2. (Content) Demonstrate their understanding of major theories, approaches, concepts, and current and classical research findings in African and diaspora literary and cultural studies.

3. (Content) Develop a level of proficiency in the different "ways of knowing" Africa and the diaspora through language, literatures, and cultures.
4. (Research Skills) Understand their own learning processes and possess the capacity to intentionally seek, evaluate, and learn from information, and recognize and reduce bias in their thinking.
5. (Research Skills) Effectively retrieve and comprehend primary sources in English and African languages, and secondary sources from a range of disciplines.
6. (Communication Skills) Develop or improve speaking, listening, writing, reading skills in an African language, and integrate these skills to communicate effectively.
7. (Communication Skills) Communicate effectively through essays, oral presentations, and discussion, so they may share their knowledge, wisdom, and values with others across social and professional settings.
8. (Communication Skills) Show knowledge of conventional rhetorical strategies, and integrate research by other authors while distinguishing between their own ideas and those of others.
9. (Communication Skills) Write and speak across disciplinary boundaries with regard to existing research about Africa and the diaspora in the humanities and social sciences.
10. (Analytical Skills) Discuss cultural texts from various theoretical and critical perspectives, formulate ideas and make connections between literary/cultural concepts and themes.
11. (Analytical Skills) Demonstrate command of the terminology and methodology of cultural studies, construct complex arguments, and use primary and secondary sources to support arguments.

FOUR-YEAR PLAN

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This Four-Year Plan is only one way a student may complete an L&S degree with this major. Many factors can affect student degree planning, including placement scores, credit for transferred courses, credits earned by examination, and individual scholarly interests. In addition, many students have commitments (e.g., athletics, honors, research, student organizations, study abroad, work and volunteer experiences) that necessitate they adjust their plans accordingly. Informed students engage in their own unique Wisconsin Experience by consulting their academic advisors, Guide, DARS, and Course Search & Enroll for assistance making and adjusting their plan.

First Year		
Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
First semester AFRICAN language	5 Second semester AFRICAN language	5
AFRICAN 100	3 AFRICAN/ AFROAMER 233 or 297 ¹	3
Communication Part A (complete during first year)	3 Quatitative Reasoning Part A (complete during first year)	4
Biological Science Breadth	3 Physical Science Breadth	3
14		15

Second Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
AFRICAN 201, 202, 203, or 204 ²	3 One AFRICAN or related course at Intermediate level	3
Social Science Breadth	3 Quantitative Reasoning Part B	4
Science Breadth	3 Social Science Breadth	3
Continue language study for BA/BS OR Elective	3-4 Continue language study for BA OR Elective	3-4
Elective	3 Elective	3
	15	16

Third Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
One AFRICAN or related course at Intermediate level	3 One AFRICAN or related course at Intermediate level	3
Social Science Breadth	3 Social Science Breadth	3
Science Breadth	3 Elective	3
Elective	3 Elective	3
Elective	3 Elective	3
	15	15

Fourth Year

Fall	Credits Spring	Credits
One AFRICAN or related course at Intermediate level	3 AFRICAN 403 or 405	3
Elective	3 Elective	3
Elective	3 Elective	3
Elective	3 Elective	3
Elective	3 Elective	3
	15	15

Total Credits 120¹ Fulfills Ethnic Studies, Social Science OR Humanities requirement² Fulfills Communication Part B, Literature OR Humanities requirement

In addition to discussing the major, advisors also know a lot about:

- General Education requirements
- Breadth requirements
- Interpreting university policies and deadlines
- Connecting majors to careers
- Getting involved with campus organizations
- Finding volunteer and/or internship opportunities
- Talking about your academic challenges and difficulties
- Connecting with tutors
- Picking a study abroad program
- Practicing for interviews
- Talking about graduate school
- Proofreading résumés and cover letters

CAREERS

Humanities majors develop a wide variety of skills and talents, so they're prepared for just about any type of career or educational pursuit. Our coursework builds the critical thinking and communication skills needed to succeed in careers ranging from politics and education to business and law.

One of the more significant skills African Cultural Studies students develop is language acquisition. We offer a number of funding opportunities (<https://languages.wisc.edu/scholarships/>) to support language study, small class sizes with more opportunity for participation and cultural exchange, unique study abroad and international internship experiences, and instructors who are primarily native speakers with a keen interest in teaching. Plus, UW-Madison ranks #1 in the nation for students earning a bachelor's degree in language other than English!

In addition to the valuable language training and cultural competence an African Cultural Studies major gives you, consider what you learn in the classroom as well as what you do each day to be a successful student. The skills you develop are equally important in the workplace:

- critical reading, reflection, and analysis
- expanded world view and exposure to new ideas/ways of thinking
- effective teamwork to advance a common project/purpose
- effective time-management and self-motivation to complete projects independently
- demonstrated writing proficiency in short and long essay format
- discussion and debate strategies
- proper research design and methodology
- broader knowledge of career and graduate-study options

Count on being well-prepared for an exciting and rewarding career!

Visit our website (<https://african.wisc.edu/undergraduate-program/career-and-skill-development/>) for more information.

SUCCESSWORKS

SuccessWorks (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/>) at the College of Letters & Science helps you turn the academic skills learned in your classes into a fulfilling life, guiding you every step of the way to securing jobs, internships, or admission to graduate school.

Through one-on-one career advising, events, and resources, you can explore career options, build valuable internship and research experience,

ADVISING AND CAREERS**ADVISING AND CAREERS
DECLARE OR CANCEL THIS MAJOR**

Please follow the process described on the African Cultural Studies website. (<https://african.wisc.edu/undergraduate-program/>)

ADVISING

If you like to plan, seeing your major advisor is very important; it can make the difference between fitting in *Contemporary Arabic Literature and Culture* and *South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission* before you graduate. Many students also try to complete more than one major or certificate, and discussing how you might be able to reach this goal is another primary role of your major advisor. Advisors can speak to you about course content, which courses fit best with your interest areas, and what kinds of courses might work best with your learning style. Any and all of these discussions can occur during your advising appointment.

and connect with supportive alumni and employers who open doors of opportunity.

- What you can do with your major (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/what-you-can-do-with-your-major/>) (Major Skills & Outcomes Sheets)
- Make a career advising appointment (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/make-an-appointment/>)
- Learn about internships and internship funding (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/finding-a-job-or-internship/>)
- Try “Jobs, Internships, & How to Get Them,” (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/canvas/>) an interactive guide in Canvas for enrolled UW–Madison students

RESOURCES AND SCHOLARSHIPS

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One of the most valuable resources for students interested in language study is the Language Institute and its website, Languages at UW–Madison (<http://www.languages.wisc.edu/>).

Learn more about scholarships (<http://www.languages.wisc.edu/beyond/scholarships/>) and other opportunities for funded language study.

ACS partners with the campus’ African Studies Program, a federally-funded language and resource center for those doing research in Africa. See their offerings, grants and fellowships here (<https://africa.wisc.edu/academics/academics-fellowships-and-awards/>).