

AFRICAN STUDIES, CERTIFICATE

The African Studies Program (<https://africa.wisc.edu/>) supports research, teaching, and outreach at the University of Wisconsin–Madison, bringing together scholars in multiple disciplines, students, teachers, and community partners to consider all aspects of land and life in Africa. The African Studies Program is a U.S. Department of Education Title VI National Resource Center for Africa (<https://iris.wisc.edu/titlevi/>), a unit in The International Division, and a member of the campus consortium of internationally oriented programs known as the Institute for Regional and International Studies (<http://iris.wisc.edu/>).

The program was established in 1961 by an interdisciplinary team of internationally respected scholars including Jan Vasina, Philip Curtin, Frederick Simoons, and Aristrde Zolberg. The center continues to enjoy a reputation for excellence, having awarded more degrees to Africa specialists than any other American university. No other university boasts such a depth and range of expertise in Africanist scholarship. Over 70 affiliated faculty offer more than 100 courses in 35 departments around campus. The Department of African Cultural Studies offers students an opportunity to study a number of African languages including Arabic, Hausa, Swahili, Wolof, Yoruba, and Zulu, as well as options for self-directed study of less-commonly taught languages.

Undergraduates from any department can benefit from access to our programs and top-ranked faculty by completing a certificate in African studies. The certificate is highly interdisciplinary and welcomes students with backgrounds in the humanities, social sciences, business, health, agriculture, or the environment. What unites certificate students is a shared interest in the people, places, and stories of the continent of Africa.

A certificate in African Studies indicates that a student has acquired an interdisciplinary knowledge about the African continent, its histories, its stories, and its people. African Studies alumni serve in a number of important leadership positions in both the private and public sectors. Former students have gone on to serve as ambassadors, presidential advisors, and leaders of investment firms and Washington think tanks. Many undergraduate certificate students launch their internationally oriented careers by joining the Peace Corps (<https://peacecorps.wisc.edu/>) after graduation.

HOW TO GET IN

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Students interested in declaring the undergraduate certificate should contact the African Studies Program undergraduate advisor (advising@africa.wisc.edu).

REQUIREMENTS

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15 credits in African Studies approved courses

At least two SUBJECTs represented: ¹

Code	Title	Credits
AFRICAN 100	Introduction to African Cultural Expression	3
AFRICAN/ HISTORY 106	Introduction to African History	3-4
AFRICAN/ HISTORY 129	Africa on the Global Stage	3-4
AFRICAN 201	Introduction to African Literature	3
AFRICAN 202	Introductory Topics in African Cultural Studies	3
AFRICAN 203	Introductory Topics in African Literature	3
AFRICAN 204	Introductory Topics in African Languages	3
AFRICAN 206	Introduction to African Linguistic Practices	3
AFRICAN/ FOLKLORE 210	The African Storyteller	3
AFRICAN/ AFROAMER 220	HipHop, Youth Culture, and Politics in Senegal	3
AFRICAN 212	Introduction to African Popular Culture	3
AFRICAN 230	Introduction to Yoruba Life and Culture	3
AFRICAN 231	Introduction to Arabic Literary Culture	3
AFRICAN/ AFROAMER 233	Global HipHop and Social Justice	3
AFRICAN/ AFROAMER/ ANTHRO/GEOG/ HISTORY/POLI SCI/ SOC 277	Africa: An Introductory Survey	4
AFRICAN/ AFROAMER/ HISTORY/ POLI SCI 297	African and African-American Linkages: An Introduction	4
AFRICAN 300	African Literature in Translation	3
AFRICAN 303	African Literature and Visual Culture	3
AFRICAN 304	Soccer in Africa	3
AFRICAN 321	First Semester Arabic	5
AFRICAN 322	Second Semester Arabic	5
AFRICAN 323	Third Semester Arabic	4
AFRICAN 324	Fourth Semester Arabic	4
AFRICAN 329	Fifth Semester Arabic	3
AFRICAN 330	Sixth Semester Arabic	3
AFRICAN 331	First Semester Swahili	5
AFRICAN 332	Second Semester Swahili	5
AFRICAN 333	Third Semester Swahili	4
AFRICAN 334	Fourth Semester Swahili	4
AFRICAN 335	First Semester–A Language of Southern Africa	5
AFRICAN 336	Second Semester–A Language of Southern Africa	4-5
AFRICAN 339	First Semester Summer Arabic	4
AFRICAN 340	Second Semester Summer Arabic	4

AFRICAN 341	Third Semester Summer Arabic	4	AFRICAN 698	Directed Study	1-6
AFRICAN 342	Fourth Semester Summer Arabic	4	AFRICAN 699	Directed Study	1-6
AFRICAN 343	Fifth Semester Summer Arabic	4	AFROAMER/ ART HIST 241	Introduction to African Art and Architecture	3
AFRICAN 344	Sixth Semester Summer Arabic	4	AFROAMER/ ART HIST 242	Introduction to Afro-American Art	3
AFRICAN 361	First Semester Hausa	5	AFROAMER/ GEN&WS 367	Art and Visual Culture: Women of the African Diaspora and Africa	3
AFRICAN 362	Second Semester Hausa	4-5	AFROAMER 675	Selected Topics in Afro-American Culture	3
AFRICAN/ASIAN/ RELIG ST 370	Islam: Religion and Culture	3-4	A A E/INTL ST 374	The Growth and Development of Nations in the Global Economy	3
AFRICAN 371	First Semester Yoruba	5	A A E/ECON 474	Economic Problems of Developing Areas	3
AFRICAN 372	Second Semester Yoruba	5	A A E/ECON 477	Agricultural and Economic Development in Africa	3
AFRICAN 373	Third Semester Yoruba	4	ANTHRO 120	Freshman/Sophomore Seminar in Anthropology	3
AFRICAN 374	Fourth Semester Yoruba	4	ANTHRO 333	Prehistory of Africa	3
AFRICAN 391	First Semester-A Language of West Africa	5	ANTHRO 345	Family, Kin and Community in Anthropological Perspective	3
AFRICAN 392	Second Semester-A Language of West Africa	4-5	ANTHRO 348	Economic Anthropology	3-4
AFRICAN 393	Third Semester-A Language of West Africa	4	ANTHRO 391	Bones for the Archaeologist	3
AFRICAN 394	Fourth Semester-A Language of West Africa	4	CLASSICS 315	Africana Approaches to Biblical Interpretation	3
AFRICAN 402	Theory of African Literature	3-4	DANCE 118	African Dance	1
AFRICAN 403	Theories of African Cultural Studies	3	DANCE 165	Introduction to the Histories of Dance	3
AFRICAN 405	Topics in African Cultural Studies	3	DANCE/ THEATRE 218	African Dance Performance	2
AFRICAN 406	Topics in African Literature	3	DANCE/ AFROAMER/ MUSIC 318	Cultural Cross Currents: West African Dance/Music in the Americas	3
AFRICAN 407	Topics in African Languages	3	ED POL 150	Education and Public Policy	3
AFRICAN/ RELIG ST 408	Everyday Religion in Africa	3	ENVIR ST/ GEOG 339	Environmental Conservation	4
AFRICAN 409	Topics in US and Global Black Music Studies	3	FRENCH/ GEN&WS 285	Rebellious Women from the Global South	3-4
AFRICAN 412	Contemporary African Fiction	3	FRENCH 461	French/Francophone Literary Studies Across the Centuries	3
AFRICAN/ AFROAMER 413	Contemporary African and Caribbean Drama	3-4	FRENCH 462	French/Francophone Cultural Studies Across the Centuries	3
AFRICAN/ RELIG ST 414	Islam in Africa and the Diaspora	3	FRENCH 665	Introduction to Francophone Studies	3
AFRICAN 435	Fifth Semester Swahili	3	GEOG 355	Africa, South of the Sahara	3
AFRICAN 436	Sixth Semester Swahili	3	GEOG/C&E SOC/ ENVIR ST 434	People, Wildlife and Landscapes	3
AFRICAN/ FRENCH 440	African/Francophone Film	3	GEOG 538	The Humid Tropics: Ecology, Subsistence, and Development	4
AFRICAN/ COM ARTS/ L I S 444	Technology and Development in Africa and Beyond	3	HISTORY/ AFRICAN 106	Introduction to African History	3-4
AFRICAN/ PORTUG 451	Lusophone African Literature	3	HISTORY 225	Explorations in Third World History (H)	3-4
AFRICAN/JEWISH/ MEDIEVAL/ RELIG ST 462	Muslims and Jews	3	HISTORY 179	Afro-Atlantic Histories and Peoples, 1791-Present	3-4
AFRICAN 605	Advanced Topics in African Cultural Studies	3	HISTORY 278	Africans in the Americas, 1492-1808	3-4
AFRICAN 606	Advanced Topics in African Literature	3			
AFRICAN 670	Theories and Methods of Learning a Less Commonly Taught Language	2			
AFRICAN 671	Multilanguage Seminar	4			
AFRICAN 672	Intensive Summer Multilanguage Seminar	8			

HISTORY/ AFROAMER 347	The Caribbean and its Diasporas	3
INTL ST/ ED POL 335	Globalization and Education	3
INTL ST/ GEN&WS 535	Women's Global Health and Human Rights	3
JOURN 620	International Communication	4
LITTRANS 226	Introduction to Luso-Afro-Brazilian Literature	3
POLI SCI 329	African Politics	3-4
POLI SCI 330	Political Economy of Development	3
POLI SCI 345	Conflict Resolution	3-4
POLI SCI 348	Analysis of International Relations	3-4
POLI SCI 354	International Institutions and World Order	3-4
POLI SCI 356	Principles of International Law	3-4
POLI SCI 437	Nationalism and Ethnic Conflict	3-4
RELIG ST/ CLASSICS/ HISTORY 517	Religions of the Ancient Mediterranean	3

¹ No more than two courses from any one SUBJECT may count toward the certificate. A cross-listed course may count in either—but not both—SUBJECTs in which it is cross-listed.

RESIDENCE AND QUALITY OF WORK

- Minimum 2.000 GPA on all certificate courses
- At least 8 certificate credits must be completed in residence

CERTIFICATE COMPLETION REQUIREMENT

This undergraduate certificate must be completed concurrently with the student's undergraduate degree. Students cannot delay degree completion to complete the certificate.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

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1. (Historical Grounding) understanding the historical, political, and cultural forces and conditions that have given rise to the unity and diversity in the region today.
2. (Multi-disciplinarity) analyzing contemporary political, economic, and cultural realities in the region from at least two disciplinary perspectives, ideally including humanities, social sciences and sometimes natural science approaches.
3. (Depth of knowledge) mastering at the undergraduate generalist level a particular facet of life in the region by taking courses on a particular sub-region or country, or by studying a regional language, or by taking at least two courses on the region in one discipline.

ADVISING AND CAREERS

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We require that students visit with the advisor at least once per semester. Advising for the certificate is run by the African Studies Program advisor, Aleia Ingulli McCord, advising@afrika.wisc.edu, who can assist you in developing your plan of study for the certificate, track progress toward the certificate, explore study abroad and international internship options, and begin the career exploration process. We offer walk-in advising, advising workshops, and scheduled appointments.

We strongly encourage students to enroll in Africa: An Introductory Survey (AFRICAN/AFROAMER/ANTHRO/GEOG/HISTORY/POLI SCI/SOC 277), to study an African language, and to study abroad (<https://studyabroad.wisc.edu/programsearch/?Region=2>) in Africa.

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, 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

WISCONSIN EXPERIENCE

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As a regional center within the Institute for Regional and International Studies (<https://iris.wisc.edu/>), we support and enhance international and global awareness in our student communities and inspire informed thinking about the complexities of our world. We encourage our students to connect to international networks and our regional communities through our program's lecture series, film screenings, and varied outreach events and activities. We encourage our students to study abroad, do international internships, learn foreign languages, and expect them to gain an interdisciplinary grounding in global and regional affairs. We provide resources and expertise on our world area to students, and prospective students, and more broadly to K-12 teachers and students, postsecondary educators and graduate students, businesses, the media, the military, the community at large, and anyone else who is interested.

RESOURCES AND SCHOLARSHIPS

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Information about funding through the African Studies Program is available on our website (<https://africa.wisc.edu/academics/academic-fellowships-and-awards/>). We also encourage our students to explore funding options available through the Institute for Regional and International Studies (IRIS) Awards Office (<https://iris.wisc.edu/funding/students/>).