

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, music, film, critical applied linguistics, drama, diaspora studies, and new media. Our undergraduate program emphasizes the development and application of analytical, linguistic, and methodological tools that enable students to work effectively and imaginatively across regions, languages, cultural forms, methodologies, 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. 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

HOW TO GET IN DECLARING THE MAJOR

For more information about the African Cultural Studies major, contact advising@african.wisc.edu (advising@african.wisc.edu)

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 (<http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/#requirementsforundergraduatestudytext>) section of the *Guide*.

General Education

- 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 *

* 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

Mathematics Complete the University General Education Requirements for Quantitative Reasoning A (QR-A) and Quantitative Reasoning B (QR-B) coursework.

Language

- 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.

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.

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|-----------------|---|
| 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 | |
| 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 | |

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| AFRICAN 303 | African Literature and Visual Culture |
| AFRICAN 304 | Soccer in Africa |
| AFRICAN 323 | Third Semester Arabic |
| AFRICAN 324 | Fourth Semester Arabic |
| AFRICAN 325 | Colloquial Arabic |
| AFRICAN 326 | Colloquial Arabic |
| AFRICAN 329 | Fifth Semester Arabic |
| AFRICAN 330 | Sixth Semester Arabic |
| AFRICAN 333 | Third Semester Swahili |
| AFRICAN 334 | Fourth Semester Swahili |
| AFRICAN 338 | Fourth Semester–A Language of Southern Africa |
| 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 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 445 | Advanced Readings in Arabic Texts |
| AFRICAN/ PORTUG 451 | Lusophone African Literature |
| AFRICAN 453 | Modern African Literature in English |
| AFRICAN 475 | Fifth Semester Yoruba |
| AFRICAN 476 | Sixth Semester Yoruba |
| AFRICAN 500 | Language and Society in Africa |
| AFRICAN 605 | Advanced Topics in African Cultural Studies |
| AFRICAN 606 | Advanced Topics in African Literature |

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| AFRICAN 609 | Advanced Topics in Global Black Music Studies |
| AFRICAN 669 | Special Topics |
| 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 |
| ART HIST 479 | Art and History in Africa |
| ART HIST 579 | Proseminar in African Art |
| 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 |
| HISTORY 444 | History of East Africa |
| HISTORY 445 | History of Equatorial Africa |
| 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 |
| POLI SCI 455 | African International Relations |

Literature and Culture Electives: 6

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|-------------------------|---|
| 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 |

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| 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 232 | Introduction to Swahili Cultures |
| 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 105 | Introduction to the History of Africa |
| 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

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|-----------------|---|
| 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

SAMPLE FOUR-YEAR PLAN

This Sample Four-Year Plan is a tool to assist students and their advisor(s). Students should use it—along with their DARS report, the Degree Planner, and Course Search & Enroll tools—to make their own four-year plan based on their placement scores, credit for transferred courses and approved examinations, and individual interests. As students become involved in athletics, honors, research, student organizations, study abroad, volunteer experiences, and/or work, they might adjust the order of their courses to accommodate these experiences. Students will likely revise their own four-year plan several times during college.

| 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 | | | 16-17 |

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 120-122

¹ Fulfills Ethnic Studies, Social Science OR Humanities requirement

² Fulfills Communication Part B, Literature OR Humanities requirement

ADVISING AND CAREERS**ADVISING AND CAREERS****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.

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 ACS majors 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 ACS major affords 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.

L&S CAREER RESOURCES

Every L&S major opens a world of possibilities. SuccessWorks (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/>) at the College of Letters & Science helps students turn the academic skills learned in their major, certificates, and other coursework into fulfilling lives after graduation, whether that means jobs, public service, graduate school or other career pursuits.

In addition to providing basic support like resume reviews and interview practice, SuccessWorks offers ways to explore interests and build career skills from their very first semester/term at UW all the way through graduation and beyond.

Students can explore careers in one-on-one advising, try out different career paths, complete internships, prepare for the job search and/or graduate school applications, and connect with supportive alumni and even employers in the fields that inspire them.

- SuccessWorks (<https://careers.ls.wisc.edu/>)
- Set up a career advising appointment (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/make-an-appointment/>)
- Enroll in a Career Course (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/career-courses/>) - a great idea for first- and second-year students:
 - INTER-LS 210 L&S Career Development: Taking Initiative (1 credit)
 - INTER-LS 215 Communicating About Careers (3 credits, fulfills Comm B General Education Requirement)

- Learn about internships and internship funding (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/finding-a-job-or-internship/>)
 - INTER-LS 260 Internship in the Liberal Arts and Sciences
- Activate your Handshake account (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/handshake/>) to apply for jobs and internships from 200,000+ employers recruiting UW-Madison students
- Learn about the impact SuccessWorks has on students' lives (<https://successworks.wisc.edu/about/mission/>)

PEOPLE

PEOPLE

Please visit the African Cultural Studies website (<https://african.wisc.edu/people/faculty-and-staff/>) for a complete list of faculty, instructional, and academic staff.

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.