

African and African American Studies

The African and African American Studies major and minor have been incorporated into a new program in Comparative Race and Ethnic Studies. Students interested in African and African American Studies should consider the Comparative Race and Ethnic Studies major and minor sponsored by the Center for the Study of Race, Politics, and Culture and the Committee on African and African American Studies. Students who matriculated before July 2009 may elect to complete the African and African American Studies major or minor as planned or transfer to the new programs instead. Those students should consult with the director of undergraduate studies for Comparative Race and Ethnic Studies (5733 S. University Ave., Rm. 206).

Program of Study

The BA program in African and African American Studies provides an interdisciplinary curriculum for College students to examine the histories, languages, societies, cultures, and the material, artistic, and literary expressions of peoples of Africa and the African diaspora. Students have considerable flexibility in developing a concentration within the major: students may choose to focus on a particular geographic region, intellectual question or theme, or disciplinary perspective.

Students in other fields of study may also complete a minor in African and African American Studies. Information follows the description of the major.

Program Requirements

Students are encouraged to meet the general education requirement in the social sciences before declaring their major, but otherwise they must do so during their first year in the program. Students are also encouraged to consult with the undergraduate program chair in charting and fulfilling their course of study.

The major requires a BA thesis and ten courses distributed according to the following guidelines:

Two introductory courses dealing with African and African American history. These must include African Civilization (ANTH 20701-20702) or African Civilization in Africa (SOSC 26600-26700). Because the African civilization sequence is used to meet a requirement in the major, students must take another civilization sequence to meet their general education requirement.

Six courses in the social sciences and/or the humanities relevant to African and African American studies. The courses require approval by the undergraduate program chair and should contribute to the overall coherence and integrity of a student's program of study. With the approval of the undergraduate chair, courses

in a language such as Arabic, French, Portuguese, or Swahili may be used to meet this requirement.

Two courses, taken during the student’s final year, to prepare a BA thesis. Students are required to write the BA thesis under the supervision of a faculty member approved by the undergraduate program chair. The undergraduate program chair must approve the proposed paper topic by the end of Autumn Quarter of the student’s year of graduation.

This program may accept a BA paper or project used to satisfy the same requirement in another major if certain conditions are met and with the consent of the other program. Approval from both program chairs is required. Students should consult with the chairs by the earliest BA proposal deadline (or by the end of third year, if neither program publishes a deadline). A consent form, to be signed by both chairs, is available from the College adviser. It must be completed and returned to the College adviser by the end of Autumn Quarter of the student’s year of graduation.

Each student in the program has an adviser who is a member of the program faculty, listed below, or a lecturer appointed for his or her special knowledge of African or African American subjects.

Summary of Requirements

2	ANTH 20701-20702 (African Civilization) or SOSC 26600-26700 (African Civilization in Africa)
6	approved courses with relevant African or African American content in the social sciences and/or humanities (language courses may be used)
1	reading course (AFAM 29700)
1	BA thesis (AFAM 29900)
10	

Grading. All courses must be taken for a quality grade.

Honors. The BA with honors is awarded to all students who meet the following requirements: a GPA of at least 3.25 overall and 3.5 in the major, and a grade of A- or above on the thesis.

Minor Program in African and African American Studies

The minor in African and African American Studies consists of five to seven courses, depending on whether two quarters of African Civilization (ANTH 20701-20702) or African Civilization in Africa (SOSC 26600-26700) are used to meet the general education requirement in civilization studies or to meet the minor program. If used in general education, the minor will consist of five courses related to African and African American Studies from the list below

(excluding AFAM 29900). If African Civilization (ANTH 20701-20702) or African Civilization in Africa (SOSC 26600-26700) has not been taken to meet the general education requirement, two quarters must be included in the minor for a total of seven courses.

Students choose courses in consultation with the undergraduate program chair. Credit toward the minor for courses taken at any other institution must be discussed with the undergraduate program chair in advance of registration.

Students must receive the undergraduate program chair’s approval of the minor program on a form obtained from their College adviser. This form must then be returned to their College adviser by the end of Spring Quarter of their third year.

Courses in the minor program may not be (1) double counted with the student’s major(s) or with other minors or (2) counted toward general education requirements. Courses in the minor must be taken for quality grades, and more than half of the requirements for the minor must be met by registering for courses bearing University of Chicago course numbers. Courses taken to complete a minor are counted toward electives.

Faculty

R. Austen (Emeritus), L. Berlant, D. Borges, C. Cohen, J. Cole, J. Comaroff, J. L. Comaroff, J. Dailey, S. Dawdy, M. Dawson, C. Fromont, J. Goldsby, J. A. Goldsmith, A. Green, T. Holt, D. Hutchinson, R. Jean-Baptiste, W. Johnson, L. Kruger, D. N. Levine (Emeritus), O. McRoberts, S. Mufwene, D. G. Norton, E. Osborn, S. Palmie, F. Richard, J. Saville, M.-R. Trouillot, R. von Hallberg, K. Warren

NOTE: The following courses meet the requirements for a major or minor in African and African American Studies. Specific configurations of these courses, as well as the possible substitution of others, must be approved by the student’s program adviser. The student’s program adviser and members of the Program Coordinating Committee can also suggest additional course offerings, and students can visit timeschedules.uchicago.edu. For more courses with substantial content related to race and ethnicity, see a listing compiled by the Center for the Study of Race, Politics & Culture (CSRPC) at csrpc.uchicago.edu/resources_courses.shtml. Courses in languages relevant to African studies are offered during the summer at the University of Indiana (Bloomington) Summer Cooperative African Language Institute (www.indiana.edu/~afrist/scali/). In addition to the College-sponsored civilization study abroad program in Cape Town during Winter Quarter, students in the College may apply for the Associated Colleges of the Midwest’s Autumn Quarter program in Tanzania or Winter Quarter program in Botswana. For more information, visit study-abroad.uchicago.edu.

Courses: African and African American Studies (AFAM)

29700. Readings in African and African American Studies. PQ: Consent of instructor and program adviser. Students are required to submit the College Reading and Research Course Form. Autumn, Winter, Spring.

29900. BA Thesis Preparation. *PQ: AFAM 29700. Consent of instructor and program adviser. Students are required to submit the College Reading and Research Course Form. Must be taken for a quality grade. Autumn, Winter, Spring.*

Courses: Anthropology (ANTH)

20701-20702. Introduction to African Civilization I, II. (=AFAM 20701-20702, CHDV 21401, HIST 10101-10102, SOSC 22500-22600) *Taking these courses in sequence is recommended but not required. R. Jean-Baptiste, Autumn; J. Cole, Winter.*

21201. Intensive Study of a Culture: Chicago Blues. *M. Dietler. Winter.*

21225. Intensive Study of a Culture: Louisiana. *S. Dawdy. Spring.*

21305/45300. Modern Readings in Anthropology: Explorations in Oral Narrative (The Folk Tale). *J. Fernandez. Spring.*

Courses: Comparative Race and Ethnic Studies (CRES)

22500/31700. Slavery and Unfree Labor. (=ANTH 22205/31700) *S. Palmie. Not offered 2010–11; will be offered 2011–12.*

22706. Slavery Shaped the Atlantic World. (=CRES 22706, HIST 22706) Over the course of nearly four hundred years, some ten million Africans were forcibly transported across the ocean and scattered through two continents, irrevocably transforming the Americas and their homeland. Similarly, societies throughout North and South America were forever changed as former slaves took up the challenge of emancipation and became citizens. This class is both an introduction to broad narratives of slavery and freedom, and an opportunity to learn about the daily lives and experiences of slaves and former slaves. It is taught through a combination of lecture and discussion. *J. Palmer. Winter.*

Courses: Economics (ECON)

22100/32100. Colonization, Servitude, and Slavery: The Early American Experience. *PQ: ECON 20000. D. Galenson. Winter.*

25500. Topics in Economic Growth and Development. *PQ: ECON 20200 and 21000. Autumn.*

27000. Introduction to International Economics. (=PBPL 27000) *PQ: ECON 20300 or consent of instructor. S. Korum. Winter.*

Courses: English (ENGL)

14600/34600. Dialect Voices in Literature. (=AFAM 24500, LING 24500/34500) *S. Mufwene. Autumn.*

25103. Black Women Writers of the 1940s and 1950s. (=AFAM 25103, GNDR 24702) *J. Goldsby. Spring.*

25910. Modernism, Imperialism, and Race. (=AFAM 25910) *M. Godfrey. Winter.*

27302. Emancipation and Literature. (=AFAM 27320) *K. Warren. Spring.*

27312. American Literature and American Segregation. (=CRES 27312, ENGL 27304, HIST 27011) Part history, part theory, and large part literature, this course aims to produce an interdisciplinary perspective on American segregation and the strategies of politically invested storytelling that emerged from it. We examine how American writers dramatized the experience of being a racialized individual during segregation and the contradictions inherent to a national pairing of enforced race hierarchy and professed democratic equality. We also discuss how the relationship between race and class emerges and changes in the years leading up to the Civil Rights Movement and how literature was put to the problematic political task of “making human” the African American figure under Jim Crow. Authors to be considered include but are not limited to: Ralph Ellison, George Schuyler, William Faulkner, Richard Wright, Gwendolyn Brooks, Zora Neale Hurston, Ann Petry, and Mark Twain. *R. Watson. Autumn.*

27600. Cinema in Africa. (=AFAM 27600) *L. Kruger. Winter.*

Courses: History (HIST)

20005. Colonial African History. (=AFAM 20005, CRES 20005) *E. Osborn. Spring.*

27301. Introduction to Black Chicago. (=AFAM 27305, CRES 27301) *A. Green. Autumn.*

27311. Antislavery in the Age of Atlantic Revolutions: Politics and Cultures of Antislavery in Comparative Scope, 1776–1848. (=CRES 27311, HMRT 27311, HIST 29003) This course examines the history of the struggles against the slave trade and slavery in the transatlantic world from the late eighteenth century to the nineteenth century. We focus on the “Age of the Atlantic Revolutions” as a critical catalyst by which antislavery was accelerated and transformed. Observing that a variety of experiments in liberty and citizenship were tested and implemented through interrelated revolutions, the course excavates a wide array of problems involved in the antislavery struggles: human rights, popular mobilization, violence, resistance, nationhood, capitalism, labor ideologies, colonialism, and racism. Students obtain a synthetic and comprehensive view of the processes that brought an end to colonial slavery, beyond the narrow perspectives predicated either on antislavery policy-making or on national boundaries. While a short lecture is given at the opening of every class, classes center around discussions grounded in assigned readings. *Y. Kwon. Autumn.*

Courses: Law, Letters, and Society (LLSO)

24300. American Law and the Rhetoric of Race. (=LAWS 59800, PLSC 22300) *D. Hutchinson. Spring.*

Courses: Music (MUSI)

23100/33100. Jazz. (=AFAM 23100) *PQ: Any 10000-level music course or the ability to read music. T. Jackson. Spring.*

Courses: Political Science (PLSC)

22150. Contemporary African American Politics. (=AFAM 22200, LLSO 25902) *C. Cohen. Spring.*

27000. Philosophy, Race, and Racism. (=AFAM 27000, HIST 27000, LLSO 27701) *R. Gooding-Williams. Winter.*

Courses: Religious Studies (RLST)

22800. African American Religion: Themes and Issues. (=AFAM 22800) *C. Evans. Spring.*

24601. Malcolm and Martin: Life and Belief. (=RLST 24601) *D. Hopkins. Winter.*

Courses: Social Sciences (sosc)

26600-26700-26800. African Civilization in Africa. *Winter.*