AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES (B.A.)

The major in African American Studies prepares students for a wide range of professional and career opportunities. Majors can continue to graduate (including doctoral level) studies in the humanities, social and behavioral sciences, or pursue professional programs in law, medicine, business, and journalism. Graduates who enter the job market are prepared for careers in human services and public health, education, public relations, community development, urban planning; and more generally for jobs in the public sector, in central cities and urban institutions, or jobs that involve cultural or intergroup relations as well as international affairs. In the context of metropolitan Detroit, African American Studies graduates will be better prepared to deal with the complexity and diversity of the city’s political and demographic realities as they assume important roles of leadership.

Admission Requirements

Admission requirements for this program are satisfied by the general requirements for undergraduate admission (http://bulletins.wayne.edu/undergraduate/general-information/admission) to the University.

Candidates must complete 120 credits in course work including satisfaction of the University General Education requirements (http://bulletins.wayne.edu/undergraduate/general-information/general-education) and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Group Requirements (http://bulletins.wayne.edu/undergraduate/college-liberal-arts-sciences/bachelors-degree-requirements), as well as the Departmental major requirements cited below. All course work must be completed in accordance with the regulations of the University (http://bulletins.wayne.edu/undergraduate/general-information/academic-regulations) and the College (http://bulletins.wayne.edu/undergraduate/college-liberal-arts-sciences/academic-regulations) governing undergraduate scholarship and degrees. A grade point average of 2.0 is required both in the African American Studies major and in General Education requirements for graduation.

Students with an interest in African American studies and majoring in anthropology, English, history, sociology, urban studies, and political science are encouraged to consider a second major in African American studies. Many African American Studies courses are cross listed, and African American Studies majors may receive credit for courses taken for another major.

Major Requirements

Majors must complete at least thirty-six credits in a prescribed course of study, including:

- AFS 3420/PS 3820 Pan Africanism: Politics of the Black Diaspora 4
- AFS 2210 (SS) Black Social and Political Thought 4
- AFS 3180 Black Social Movements 4
- AFS 3200 The African-American Film Experience 4
- AFS 5110 (WI) Black Women in America (Writing Intensive Requirement) 3

Select two of the following: 6-8

- AFS 2010 African American Culture: Historical and Aesthetic Roots
- AFS 2250 AfroLatino/a History and Culture
- AFS 3090 African American History 4
- AFS 3150 American Ethnicity 4
- AFS 3210 The African-American Experience 4
- AFS 3220 African American History of Religion 3

AFS 2390 (IC) Introduction to African-American Literature: Literature and Writing
AFS 2600 Race and Racism in America
AFS 3160 Black Urban History
AFS 3360 Black Workers in American History
AFS 3610 (FC) Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Foreign Culture: The Africans
AFS 4240 African Americans in Television
AFS 5310 Special Topics in African American Studies
AFS/SOC 5580 Law and the African American Experience
AFS/PSY 5700 The Psychology of African Americans
AFS electives 4-8

Internships

Internships are available in which students gain experience through placements in settings similar to those in which they will later be seeking professional roles. These include: community service agencies, community-based self-development organizations, public and private institutions, Black alternative organizations and other appropriate settings. Some students may also do a practicum directly with the Department of African American Studies, assisting in research, community relations, and in the organization, coordination and conduct of community extension and education service programs. The objective of this mode of study is to offer students the opportunity to synthesize diverse ideas, theories and methodologies with important and practical real world imperatives. Interested students should contact the department’s undergraduate advisor.

Summer Study Abroad

This travel program periodically visits Africa and/or Brazil. Through an integrated field/classroom/seminar experience, students are challenged to grow intellectually, as well as to increase their self-awareness and sensitivity to other cultures. For more information, consult the department advisor.