AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES, B.A.

Begin Campus: Any Penn State Campus

End Campus: University Park

PROGRAM CURRENTLY ON HOLD; NOT ACCEPTING NEW STUDENTS
Begin Date of Enrollment Hold: May 30, 2012

Program Description

This interdisciplinary major is designed to give students an integrated and critical understanding of the experiences and contributions of peoples of African descent. Students are encouraged to do research and evaluate the relationship between the political, social, and economic developments in Africa and the African Diaspora. Two options are available within the major and are described here.

African American Studies Option

This option provides students with the opportunity to explore the experiences of African Americans using theories and methods originating in the field along with those adopted from the various disciplines. Students are also made aware of the potential to apply knowledge to discern better approaches for solving social, political, and economic problems. The curriculum also promotes greater understanding of the relationship between African American and other ethnic groups in the shaping of American society and culture.

Focus Areas

The African American Studies Option has three focus areas, which are described below.

1. **History Perspective**: While stressing the interdisciplinary nature of the field, this focus allows students to concentrate on the historical experience of the African Americans, including their political, social, and economic relations with other ethnic groups, as well as the shifting historical contexts in which they have contested and shaped the evolution of American society.

2. **Social Sciences and Community Development**: This focus area allows students to concentrate on contemporary political and economic experiences of African Americans as well as on public policy issues that pertain to the economic, political, and social engagement of African Americans in the search for equality in American society.

3. **Cultural and Gender Perspective**: This focus area allows students to concentrate on culture and gender in historical and contemporary terms.

African Studies Option

This option provides students with the opportunity to examine the geographical, cultural, historical, political, and economic aspects of Africa.

Focus Areas

This option has two focus areas as described below.

1. **Humanities Perspective**: This focus area enables students to concentrate on the history and culture of African societies and the evolution of Africa in world history.

2. **Social Science Perspective**: This focus area enables students to concentrate on political and economic developments, including state building and ethnic relations, development strategies, and Africa’s position in the global system.

Law and Social Justice Option

This multi-disciplinary program would provide students with the opportunity to study the politics, culture, economics, and history of African Americans in our society and link this understanding with an in-depth study of criminal justice and the legal system. Issues that students will focus on will be areas such as, Are African Americans discriminated against in criminal justice decision-making? What is the historic connection between race and punishment in the US legal system? How do issues of class, race and gender impact policy decisions about crime and punishment? What is the socioeconomic impact of high incarceration rates on the African American community? The program is designed to encourage students to think systematically about the relationship among public policy, the criminal justice system, and shifting notions of social justice that have characterized debates over the workings and goals of the prison system in American life and thought.

Entrance to Major

In order to be eligible for entrance to this major, a student must:

1. attain at least a C (2.00) cumulative grade-point average for all courses taken at the University; and
2. have third-semester classification (http://www.registrar.psu.edu/registration/semester_classification.cfm).

READ SENATE POLICY 37-30: ENTRANCE TO AND CHANGES IN MAJOR PROGRAMS OF STUDY (http://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/37-00-entrance-to-a-college-or-major)

Degree Requirements

For the Bachelor of Arts degree in African and African American Studies, a minimum of 123 credits is required:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Education</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electives</td>
<td>9-18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor of Arts Degree Requirements</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Requirements for the Major</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Per Senate Policy 83-80.5, the college dean or campus chancellor and program faculty may require up to 24 credits of coursework in the major to be taken at the location or in the college or program where the degree is earned. For more information, check the Recommended Academic Plan for your intended program.

General Education

Connecting career and curiosity, the General Education curriculum provides the opportunity for students to acquire transferable skills necessary to be successful in the future and to thrive while living in interconnected contexts. General Education aids students in developing intellectual curiosity, a strengthened ability to think, and a deeper sense of aesthetic appreciation. These are requirements for all baccalaureate students and are often partially incorporated into the requirements of a program. For additional information, see the General Education Requirements (http://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-education/baccalaureate-degree-general-education-program) section of the Bulletin and consult your academic adviser.
The keystone symbol appears next to the title of any course that is designated as a General Education course. Program requirements may also satisfy General Education requirements and vary for each program.

**Foundations (grade of C or better is required.)**
- Quantification (GQ): 6 credits
- Writing and Speaking (GWS): 9 credits

**Knowledge Domains**
- Arts (GA): 6 credits
- Health and Wellness (GHW): 3 credits
- Humanities (GH): 6 credits
- Social and Behavioral Sciences(GS): 6 credits
- Natural Sciences (GN): 9 credits

**Integrative Studies (may also complete a Knowledge Domain requirement)**
- Inter-Domain or Approved Linked Courses: 6 credits

0-9 credits of these 45 credits are included in the Requirements for the Major.

**University Degree Requirements**

**First Year Engagement**
All students enrolled in a college or the Division of Undergraduate Studies at University Park, and the World Campus are required to take 1 to 3 credits of the First-Year Seminar, as specified by their college First-Year Engagement Plan.

Other Penn State colleges and campuses may require the First-Year Seminar; colleges and campuses that do not require a First-Year Seminar provide students with a first-year engagement experience.

First-year baccalaureate students entering Penn State should consult their academic adviser for these requirements.

**Cultures Requirement**
6 credits are required and may satisfy other requirements
- United States Cultures: 3 credits
- International Cultures: 3 credits

**Writing Across the Curriculum**
3 credits required from the college of graduation and likely prescribed as part of major requirements.

**Total Minimum Credits**
A minimum of 120 degree credits must be earned for a baccalaureate degree. The requirements for some programs may exceed 120 credits. Students should consult with their college or department adviser for information on specific credit requirements.

**Quality of Work**
Candidates must complete the degree requirements for their major and earn at least a 2.00 grade-point average for all courses completed within their degree program.

**Limitations on Source and Time for Credit Acquisition**
The college dean or campus chancellor and program faculty may require up to 24 credits of course work in the major to be taken at the location or in the college or program where the degree is earned. Credit used toward degree programs may need to be earned from a particular source or within time constraints (see Senate Policy 83-80 (http://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/#83-80)). For more information, check the Suggested Academic Plan for your intended program.

**B.A. Degree Requirements**

**Foreign Language** (0-12 credits): Student must attain 12th credit level of proficiency in one foreign language. See the Placement Policy for Penn State Foreign Language Courses (http://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/academic-information/advisingandplanning/degreeprogramtext).

**B.A. Fields** (9 credits): Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences, Arts, Foreign Languages, Natural Sciences, Quantification (may not be taken in the area of the student’s primary major; foreign language credits in this category must be in a second foreign language or beyond the 12th credit level of proficiency in the first language)

**Other Cultures** (0-3 credits): Select 3 credits from approved list. Students may count courses in this category in order to meet other major, minor, elective, or General Education requirements, except for the General Education US/IL requirement.

3 of these 24 credits are included in the Requirements for the Major, General Education, or Electives and 0-12 credits are included in Electives if foreign language proficiency is demonstrated by examination.

**Requirements for the Major**
This includes 0-9 credits of General Education courses: African American Studies Option – 0-3 credits of GA courses; 0-3 credits of GH courses; 0-3 credits of GS courses. African Studies Option – 0-3 credits of GH courses; 0-3 credits of GS courses. Law and Social Justice Option – 0-3 credits of GS courses.

A grade of C or better is required for all courses in the major. To graduate, a student enrolled in the major must earn at least a C grade in each course designated by the major as a C-required course, as specified by Senate Policy 82-44 (http://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/#82-44).

**Common Requirements for the Major (All Options)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AFR 110</td>
<td>Introduction to Contemporary Africa</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFAM 100</td>
<td>Living While Black: Themes in African American Thought and Experience</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFAM/HIST 211</td>
<td>Slavery and Freedom in the Black Atlantic</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC 207</td>
<td>Research Methods in Sociology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Requirements for the Option**

**Requirements for the Option: Require a grade of C or better**
Select an option

33 credits

**Requirements for the Option**

**African American Studies Option (33 credits)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFAM/WMNST</td>
<td>The African American Woman 101</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFAM/SOC/WMNST</td>
<td>Racism and Sexism 103</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
AFAM 401 Afro-American Studies Seminar 3

**Additional Courses**

*Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better*

Select 24 credits from one of the following three areas of concentration: 1

1. **History Perspective**
   - AFAM/RLST 147 The Life and Thought of Malcolm X
   - AFAM/RLST 146 The Life and Thought of Martin Luther King, Jr.
   - AFAM/HIST 210 Freedom's First Generation: African American Life and Work, 1865 to World War II
   - SOC 119 Race and Ethnic Relations
   - AFAM/SOC 409 Racial and Ethnic Inequality in America
   - AFAM 431 Black Liberation and American Foreign Policy
   - AFAM/HIST 465 The Post-World War II Civil Rights Movement
   - ENGL 461 The Vernacular Roots of African American Literature
   - ENGL 469 Slavery and the Literary Imagination
   - HIST 152 African American History
   - PLSC 474 Civil Liberties and Due Process

2. **Social Sciences and Community Development**
   - AFAM/WMNST 102 Women of Color: Cross-Cultural Perspective
   - AFAM/RLST 146 The Life and Thought of Martin Luther King, Jr.
   - AFAM/HIST 147 Freedom's First Generation: African American Life and Work, 1865 to World War II
   - SOC 119 Race and Ethnic Relations
   - CRIMJ 451 Race, Crime, and Justice
   - AFAM/SOC 409 Racial and Ethnic Inequality in America
   - AFAM 431 Black Liberation and American Foreign Policy
   - AFAM/HIST 465 The Post-World War II Civil Rights Movement
   - ECON 304 Intermediate Macroeconomic Analysis
   - ECON 436W Economics of Discrimination
   - EDTHP 447 Ethnic Minorities and Schools in the United States
   - PLSC 490 Policy Making and Evaluation

3. **Cultural and Gender Perspective**
   - AFAM/WMNST 102 Women of Color: Cross-Cultural Perspective
   - AFAM/RLST 145 African American Religions and Spirituality
   - AFAM/THEA 208 Workshop: Theatre in Diverse Cultures
   - COMM/WMNST 205 Gender, Diversity and the Media
   - ENGL 139 African American Literature
   - ENGL 235 From Folk Shouts and Songs to Hip Hop Poetry
   - MUSIC 7 Evolution of Jazz

SOC 119 Race and Ethnic Relations

AFAM/THEA 412 African American Theatre

AFAM 410 Spirit, Space, Survival: Contemporary Black Women

AFAM/CAS 422 Contemporary African American Communication

COMM 411 Cultural Aspects of the Mass Media

EDTHP 447 Ethnic Minorities and Schools in the United States

ENGL/WMNST 462 Reading Black, Reading Feminist

ENGL 463 African American Autobiography

ENGL 467 African American Novel II

ENGL 469 Slavery and the Literary Imagination

1 A minimum of 12 credits should be AAA S courses, and at least 12 of these credits must be at the 400 level or above.

**African Studies Option (33 credits)**

<table>
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<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AFR/HIST 191</td>
<td>Early African History</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFR/HIST 192</td>
<td>Modern African History</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AAAS 400</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFR/PLSC 454</td>
<td>Government and Politics of Africa</td>
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<td>Early African History</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFR/HIST 192</td>
<td>Modern African History</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AAAS 400</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFR/PLSC 454</td>
<td>Government and Politics of Africa</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Additional Courses**

*Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better*

Select 21 credits from one of the following two areas of concentration: 1

1. **Humanities Perspective**
   - AFR 202
   - CMLIT 3 Introduction to African Literatures
   - SWA 1 Elementary Swahili I
   - SWA 2 Elementary Swahili II
   - AAAS 404
   - AFAM 431 Black Liberation and American Foreign Policy
   - AFAM/HIST 465 The Post-World War II Civil Rights Movement
   - CMLIT 422 African Drama
   - CMLIT 423 African Novel
   - FR 458 African Literature of French Expression
   - HIST 479 History of Imperialism and Nationalism in Africa

2. **Social Science Perspective**
   - AFR 202
   - SWA 1 Elementary Swahili I
   - SWA 2 Elementary Swahili II
   - AAAS 404
   - AFAM 431 Black Liberation and American Foreign Policy
   - AFAM/HIST 465 The Post-World War II Civil Rights Movement
   - AFR 403 South Africa Today
   - ECON 304 Intermediate Macroeconomic Analysis
   - ECON 471 Growth and Development
African and African American Studies, B.A.

GEOG 444     African Resources and Development
PLSC 453     Political Processes in Underdeveloped Systems

1 A minimum of 12 credits should be AAA S courses, and at least 12 of these credits must be at the 400 level or above.

Law and Social Justice Option (33 credits)

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<tr>
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<td>Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFAM/HIST 210</td>
<td>Freedom's First Generation: African American Life and Work, 1865 to World War II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRIMJ/CRIM/</td>
<td>Criminology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC 12</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRIM 100</td>
<td>Introduction to Criminal Justice</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRIMJ/CRIM 113</td>
<td>Introduction to Law</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFAM 401</td>
<td>Afro-American Studies Seminar</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRIM 451</td>
<td>Race, Crime, and Justice</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better

Select 15 credits of the following: 15

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AFR 440</td>
<td>Globalization and Its Implications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFAM/LER/</td>
<td>Politics of Affirmative Action</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLSC 445Y</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFAM/HIST</td>
<td>Black Liberation and American Foreign Policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>431</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>AFAM/SOC</td>
<td>Racial and Ethnic Inequality in America</td>
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<tr>
<td>409</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFAM 465</td>
<td>The Post-World War II Civil Rights Movement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRIM 430</td>
<td>American Correctional System</td>
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<tr>
<td>CRIM 433</td>
<td>Sentencing</td>
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<tr>
<td>CRIM 435</td>
<td>Policing in America</td>
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<tr>
<td>CRIM 441</td>
<td>The Juvenile Justice System</td>
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<tr>
<td>CRIMJ/</td>
<td>Women and the Criminal Justice System</td>
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<tr>
<td>WMNST 453</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>CRIM/SOC 467</td>
<td>Law and Society</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRIM 490</td>
<td>Crime Policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 436W</td>
<td>Economics of Discrimination</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Academic Advising

The objectives of the university’s academic advising program are to help advisees identify and achieve their academic goals, promote their intellectual discovery, and encourage students to take advantage of both in-and out-of-class educational opportunities in order that they become self-directed learners and decision makers.

Both advisers and advisees share responsibility for making the advising relationship succeed. By encouraging their advisees to become engaged in their education, to meet their educational goals, and to develop the habit of learning, advisers assume a significant educational role. The advisee’s unit of enrollment will provide each advisee with a primary academic adviser, the information need to plan the chosen program of study, and referrals to other specialized resources.

READ SENATE POLICY 32-00: ADVISING POLICY (http://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/32-00-advising-policy)

University Park

Liberal Arts Academic Advising
814-865-2545
http://starfish.psu.edu
http://www.la.psu.edu/current-students/undergraduate-students/education/majors-and-minors

Contact

University Park

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http://www.afam.la.psu.edu