AFRICAN STUDIES, MINOR

Requirements for a minor may be completed at any campus location offering the specified courses for the minor. Students may not change from a campus that offers their major to a campus that does not offer their major for the purpose of completing a minor.

Program Description

The minor in African Studies is designed for students interested in exploring the political, historical, socioeconomic, and cultural aspects of Africa. The minor provides students with the opportunity to examine both the totality of Africa and/or specific geographical and cultural regions from several disciplinary perspectives.

What is African Studies?

Africa is a vast continent that is now transforming politically and economically at an unprecedented pace. Its rich history, resources and spirit of creativity makes it more than ever the continent of hope and opportunity that will see rapid development in the years to come! African Studies will help students develop their understanding of various aspects of the African continent, including topics such as Africa in World History, Africa and the Global Political Economy, Africa and International Relations, Africa and Development, peace studies, and conflict resolution. We also have courses that emphasize the diversities of culture, race, ethnicity, and religion on the continent. The program utilizes historical, cultural, geographical, economic, and political approaches to equip students with skills to undertake research on issues pertinent to Africa and to prepare themselves for careers in a range of professions as well for post-graduate studies.

You Might Like This Program If...

- You’re passionate about gaining skills to think critically, and speak and write articulately about Africa and its peoples.
- You’d like to explore the world through study-abroad opportunities to countries such as South Africa, Morocco, Ghana and Tanzania.
- You’d like to learn more from our faculty who actively teach, conduct research and publish in such topics as African history, politics, art, literature, economics, geography, linguistics, African feminism, demography and health.

Program Requirements

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<th>Requirement</th>
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<td>Requirements for the Minor</td>
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Requirements for the Minor

A grade of C or better is required for all courses in the minor, as specified by Senate Policy 59-10 (http://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/59-00-minors-and-certificates/#59-10).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AFR 110</td>
<td>Introduction to Contemporary Africa</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFR 191</td>
<td>Early African History</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFR 192</td>
<td>Modern African History</td>
<td>3</td>
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Additional Courses

Select 9 credits (including 6 credits of AFR courses at the 400 level) of the following:

- AFR 105 Environments of Africa: Geology and Climate Change
- AFR/WMNST 202
- AFR 209 Poverty in Africa
- AFR 403 South Africa Today
- AFR 405 African Studies Methodologies
- AFR/PLSC 434 War and Development in Africa
- AFR 440 Globalization and Its Implications
- AFR 443 Ethnic Conflict in Africa
- AFR/PLSC 454 Government and Politics of Africa
- AFR/PLSC 459 Culture and World Politics
- AFR/PLSC 464 Extractive Industries in Africa
- AFR 495 Internship
- AFR 496 Independent Studies
- AFR 499 Foreign Studies
- CMLIT 3 Introduction to African Literatures
- CMLIT 422 African Drama
- CMLIT 423 African Novel
- ECON 413W Economic Growth and the Challenge of World Poverty
- ECON 475W Migration and Development
- FR 458 African Literature of French Expression
- GEOG 429 Geographic Perspectives on Global Urbanization
- GEOG 444 African Resources and Development
- PLSC 481 Global Political Economy

Academic Advising

The objectives of the university’s academic advising program are to help advisees identify and achieve their academic goals, to promote their intellectual discovery, and to 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

Career Paths

Students with Liberal Arts degrees and minors in African Studies have found careers in a wide array of fields. These include US government,
international business firms, international think tanks, and other governmental and non-governmental organizations that operate in a wide array of activities in Africa including primary and secondary education, the arts, religion, drought mitigation, wildlife management, and community development. Some students continue on to Graduate School, so our program also aims to help train graduate students, who will have a comparative advantage for African Studies-related employment in academia, bilateral and multilateral agencies.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OPPORTUNITIES FOR GRADUATE STUDIES (http://afr.la.psu.edu/graduate)

Contact

University Park
AFRICAN STUDIES PROGRAM
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University Park, PA 16802
814-865-5406
jle1@psu.edu

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