

# AFRICAN STUDIES (AFR)

## AFR 105: Environments of Africa: Geology and Climate Change

3 Credits

Significant natural features of Africa as related to human endeavor; case studies include the Nile, climate change, and natural resources. AFR 105 Environments of Africa: Geology and Climate History (3) (GN;IL)(BA) This course meets the Bachelor of Arts degree requirements. "Environments of African: Geology and Climate History" investigates the interrelationships between geology, hydrology, land use and human development in several areas of Africa. We focus primarily on regions north of the equator, although there is a brief segment on South Africa mining. Specific topics include the Nile River (sources of the Nile, agricultural practices, effects of damming the Nile, hydropolitics), the Sahara and Sahel (salt mines, climate change, drought, water resources), and natural resources and their role in politics (gold, diamonds, oil, and gas). The theme of climate change cuts across the entire semester. The quantitative and analytical components of the course involve working through a combination of map exercises and data manipulations (flood stage, groundwater age, rainfall and temperature records). Writing exercises are conducted both individually (essays, analysis of readings) and in collaborative teams (climate change analysis). Readings for the course come from the popular scientific literature; current refereed research journals, and transcribed oral histories of African people. Faculty lectures will comprise ~30% of the course, and student presentations ~20%, with the remainder of the time devoted to in-class collaborative exercises. There are no pre-requisites for this course. It will be offered annually with a maximum enrollment of 100 students. The goals of the course are to (1) introduce the scientific study of Africa; (2) develop quantitative and scientific reasoning skills; (3) explore the relationship between human society and the natural world. The topics that we explore (e.g., global climate change, allocation of limited water resources) are important political issues that affect people in developed and developing countries throughout the world. It is crucial that the next generation of citizens be informed as to how scientific data is obtained, presented, and interpreted by scientists as well as politicians. Students will work individually and (more commonly) in teams to analyze real data from natural African systems, and will then report their findings to the class both orally and in writing. Examples of the data sets include 100-year records of monthly rainfall and temperature from stations throughout the continent, fossil suites from ancient lake cores in the modern Sahara, and historical writings of Nile flood levels from pre-Biblical times. Through these exercises students will gain an appreciation of the scope of geological time and change, and will be able to incorporate this new long-term perspective into identification and resolution of modern questions.

Bachelor of Arts: Natural Sciences  
International Cultures (IL)  
General Education: Natural Sciences (GN)

## AFR 110: Introduction to Contemporary Africa

3 Credits

Consideration of influences and forces shaping modern African society; analysis of current local and global problems and issues facing Africa.

Bachelor of Arts: Other Cultures  
Bachelor of Arts: Social and Behavioral Sciences

International Cultures (IL)  
General Education: Social and Behavioral Scien (GS)

## AFR 132: Afro-Hispanic Civilization

3 Credits

A general introduction to human and cultural elements of African origin in Spanish- and Portuguese-speaking countries of Latin America. SPAN 132 / AFR 132 / AFAM 132 Afro-Hispanic Civilization (3) (IL) (BA) This course meets the Bachelor of Arts degree requirements. The nations and peoples of Latin America have a unique, interesting history and cultural heritage that are rooted in the traditions, beliefs, experiences, values, and struggles of Native American, European, African and other populations. This course focuses on the presence and participation of African peoples and their descendants in the formation and development of societies and cultures in representative areas of the Caribbean, South America, and Central America and on the evolution, diversity, and richness of the African heritage therein. Course content includes the African background, the experience and impact of slavery, the social, cultural, and economic heritage of slavery, the role of race in Latin America, and Afro-Hispanic intellectual, literary, and artistic developments (e.g., aspects of folklore, music). The course aims to provide students with a general introduction to human and cultural elements of African origin within the Spanish- and Portuguese-speaking nations of the Americas so that they may be more knowledgeable of the meaning, significance and widespread influence of the African diaspora. It proposes to provide the student with a better understanding of Africa's contribution to Latin American identity, diversity, culture, and development; to promote appreciation for the values and practices of other cultures, and greater awareness of the relationships between the nations of the region and the United States.

Cross-listed with: AFAM 132, SPAN 132  
Bachelor of Arts: Humanities  
International Cultures (IL)

## AFR 150: Africa in Cinema

3 Credits

The study of the image of Africa as seen in fiction and non-fictional feature length films, ethnographic and documentary films.

International Cultures (IL)  
General Education: Humanities (GH)

## AFR 191: Early African History

3 Credits

Explores important economic and cultural transformations in the making of early African empires from 1 MBC to 1750. HIST 191 / AFR 191 Early African History (3) (GH;IL)(BA) This course meets the Bachelor of Arts degree requirements. The course is an introduction to the history of Africa south of the Sahara from the origins of humankind to roughly 1750. Since it is not possible to undertake a systematic survey of the period – the continent is too vast and our data too sparse – we will focus on a number of common themes in the cultural and historical development of African societies. We will start with an introduction to African cultures and the problems in studying them, move on to examine the evidence for the early origins of humans on the African continent, the agricultural revolution, and ancient African kingdoms,

empires and civilizations (including Egypt). We will then explore three interrelated themes in the history of Africa from the 16th-18th centuries: trade, state formation, and the spread of Islam. Finally, we will turn to an examination of the slave trade and its impact on Africa and the Americas. This is also a course in historical reconstruction and analysis. There are few documentary sources for this period and much of the data we have is fragmentary. The resulting history consists largely of long-term social changes rather than detailed narrative. We must thus learn to reconstruct history from what evidence is available, using general principles of African social, economic, and political organization that we will develop in class. Typically, students will be evaluated on the basis of a map quiz, short papers, exams that have both an identification and essay component, and participation in class discussions and debates. HIST 191 / AFR 191 provides an excellent foundation for both AFR 192 / HIST 192 (Modern African History) and HIST 479 (Imperialism and Nationalism in Africa). In addition to satisfying the GI requirement, AFR 192 / HIST 192 satisfies general credit requirements for the history major or minor, including the "non-western" component of the major. Non-majors may use this course to satisfy a general education humanities selection. The course also may be used to fulfill requirements for the African and African-American Studies major and the African Studies minor.

Cross-listed with: HIST 191  
Bachelor of Arts: Humanities  
Bachelor of Arts: Other Cultures  
International Cultures (IL)  
General Education: Humanities (GH)

#### AFR 192: Modern African History

3 Credits

Impact of the slave trade, expansion of Islam, colonial conquest, social and cultural transformations, resistance, nationalism, and independence.

Cross-listed with: HIST 192  
Bachelor of Arts: Humanities  
International Cultures (IL)  
General Education: Humanities (GH)

#### AFR 192H: Modern African History

3 Credits

This Honors course offers an overview of the history of Africa from 1750 to the present. The course introduces students to the diversity of Africa's geography, demography, and history and investigates the experience of modern history through specific, regionally distinct, examples. Students will learn about structures of power, society, and economy in the colonial and post-colonial era in comparative terms, and about a variety of cultural forms and expressions. The honors course takes time to go into greater depth in a few selected topics, with attention to primary sources, historical method, and historiographic trends.

Cross-listed with: HIST 192H  
Bachelor of Arts: Humanities  
Bachelor of Arts: Other Cultures  
International Cultures (IL)  
General Education: Humanities (GH)  
Honors  
GenEd Learning Objective: Global Learning

GenEd Learning Objective: Key Literacies

AFR 197: Special Topics

1-9 Credits/Maximum of 9

Formal courses given infrequently to explore, in depth, a comparatively narrow subject that may be topical or of special interest.

AFR 199: Foreign Studies

1-12 Credits/Maximum of 12

Courses offered in foreign countries by individual or group instruction.

International Cultures (IL)

AFR 202N: Women, Gender, and Feminisms in Africa

3 Credits

This introductory course provides students with a broad interdisciplinary overview of scholarly research and theory related to women and gender studies in Africa, using both historical and contemporary examples from across the continent. We will explore the complex, and oftentimes contradictory, meanings attached to gender and sexuality in various African contexts. For example, what does it mean to be a "good" woman in Uganda today? How does this definition change (or not) if she comes out as a lesbian? What if s/he identifies as a transgender man or rejects gender binaries altogether? What if gender did not matter, or even, did not exist? In addition to exploring these types of questions, we will also examine African feminist thought, paying close attention to the ways in which African feminisms are similar to and/or different from other forms of feminism worldwide. We will also consider what these movements looked like in practice. What strategies did African feminists utilize to promote social change? What challenges did they face? What victories resulted from their efforts? Although topics may vary from semester to semester, key themes include environmental activism, anti-war/peace activism, political activism, sex worker rights activism, activism to support peoples living with HIV/AIDS, and activism against harmful traditional practices. Finally, we will examine the ways in which African feminists have contributed to global debates and initiatives on women's rights and gender equity. Students in this course can expect to engage with diverse texts from the humanities (esp. history, literature, film studies, and philosophy), as well as from the social and behavioral sciences (esp. anthropology, geography, sociology, and political science).

Cross-listed with: WMNST 202N  
Bachelor of Arts: Humanities  
Bachelor of Arts: Other Cultures  
Bachelor of Arts: Social and Behavioral Sciences  
International Cultures (IL)  
General Education: Humanities (GH)  
General Education: Social and Behavioral Sciences (GS)  
General Education - Integrative: Interdomain  
GenEd Learning Objective: Crit and Analytical Think  
GenEd Learning Objective: Global Learning

## AFR 209: Poverty in Africa

3 Credits

The course examines the causes, consequences, and dynamics of poverty in African countries.

Cross-listed with: SOC 209  
International Cultures (IL)  
General Education: Social and Behavioral Scien (GS)

## AFR 294: Research Project

1-12 Credits/Maximum of 12

Supervised student activities on research projects identified on an individual or small-group basis.

## AFR 297: Special Topics

1-9 Credits/Maximum of 9

Formal courses given infrequently to explore, in-depth, a comparatively narrow subject which may be topical or of special interest.

## AFR 299: Foreign Studies

1-12 Credits/Maximum of 12

Courses offered in foreign countries by individual or group instruction.

International Cultures (IL)

## AFR 310: Language Rights, Policy, and Planning

3 Credits

This is a course on language rights, policy, and planning from individual, group, inter-ethnic, and national perspectives. Linguistic minorities are a consequence of colonization by European powers in different regions of the globe. Other effects of colonization and political conflicts include mass movement, migration, and the emergence of nationalism. In such contexts, minorities have made demands for language rights and used language policy and planning as strategies to realize demands for social justice. This course will examine how linguistic minorities secure opportunities to use their own languages and have them accommodated in official legislation as mother tongue, second, or foreign languages.

The course will adopt a global perspective and analyze language rights as well as language policy and planning in diverse regions of the globe, including but not restricted to, Africa, Asia, and South America. Analysis will primarily focus on how language policies can be carried out from different perspectives (e.g., literary, linguistic, and political) in different geographical regions. After examining how language policies operate in and influence society, the course will use sociopolitical ideologies to explore the nature of the relationship between language policies and language rights and the ways this relationship enables one to achieve an expanded understanding of the impact of language policies and language rights on local language practices.

Cross-listed with: APLNG 310, GLIS 310  
International Cultures (IL)

## AFR 335: African Art

3 Credits

Introduction to the visual arts of Africa, including contemporary African art and the influence of African art outside Africa. ARTH 335 / AFR 335 African Art (3)(GA;IL)(BA) This course meets the Bachelor of Arts degree requirements. The course will examine the arts of various African peoples in historical, religious, sociological and geographic contexts, providing an introduction to the many visual art forms of Africa including masquerade, costume, and indigenous architecture. While many of the arts in this field of study are from west and central Africa, the course will also include materials from southern and eastern Africa. Contemporary African art, African Diaspora arts, and the influence of African art on European art are important topics that may be included. In addition to the traditional format of a geographic organization of the material, students will explore thematic approaches. Each of the assignments requires completion of essays which draw upon the multiple course texts and readings. Exams include image identification and short essays.

Cross-listed with: ARTH 335  
Bachelor of Arts: Arts  
Bachelor of Arts: Other Cultures  
International Cultures (IL)  
General Education: Arts (GA)

## AFR 395: Internship

1-18 Credits/Maximum of 18

Supervised off-campus, nongroup instruction including field experiences, practica, or internships. Written and oral critique of activity required.

**Prerequisite:** prior approval of proposed assignment by instructor

## AFR 399: Foreign Studies

1-12 Credits/Maximum of 12

Courses offered in foreign countries by individual or group instruction.

International Cultures (IL)

## AFR 403: South Africa Today

3 Credits

A course examining the South African government's policy of apartheid: its history, why it exists, how it works, and the prospects for change.

**Prerequisite:** AAA S110

## AFR 405: African Studies Methodologies

3 Credits

Multidisciplinary research techniques for studying in and about Africa.

## AFR 434: War and Development in Africa

3 Credits

This course will examine the relationship between war and development in sub-Saharan Africa in the post colonial era. PLSC 434 / AFR 434 War and Development in Africa (3) (IL) This course will examine the relationship between development and war in sub-Saharan Africa in the modern era. Specifically, it will analyze the extent to which the processes

of state building, nation building, and international intervention have contributed to the incidence of both civil war and international conflict in Africa. We will begin with a review of several theoretical arguments on the causes of warfare in Africa and then turn to a discussion of these on African political development. This course complements present offerings in international relations and comparative politics in the PLSC department and can serve as an advanced undergraduate offering in the African Studies concentration in AFR. The course directly complements our present offerings in international conflict given that we don't have a regularly offered course that focuses on conflict in a specific region. In addition, it will augment our comparative politics offerings with an examination of prominent issues in comparative politics such as political development, democracy, and modernization. The course will fulfill the IL requirement and encourage students understanding of the historical background as well as the political, economic, and cultural factors that influence African politics. African conflicts are often viewed as "ethnic conflicts" and in this class students have an opportunity to assess the extent to which ethnic, linguistic, or religious factors influence the likelihood of conflict and contribute to development in African states. Students will also be required to write essays evaluating the contribution of a range of theoretical arguments on Africa's conflicts in order to assess the degree to which cultural more than political or economic factors contribute to their onset. Students will then have the opportunity to conduct more extensive research on a specific African case to develop their analyses further. These exercises will often require that students reevaluate their beliefs about social identities such as race (e.g. in Rwanda the difference between Tutsi and Hutu is often viewed as a "racial" difference between black Africans, which is at odds with most Western conceptions of race). They also require students to challenge stereotypes regarding the subordination of African values in conflicts to a simple concern with "tribe". Students will gain a broader knowledge and appreciation of the different values, traditions, and cultures evident in Africa and understand how these can both exacerbate and mitigate conflict. Evaluation in the course will consist largely of examination of the students' brief expository essays and larger case studies for which students will be encouraged to conduct original research. The course should be offered biannually with a class limit of about 40 students.

**Prerequisite:** PL SC014 , PL SC003 , AFR 110

Cross-listed with: PLSC 434

Bachelor of Arts: Social and Behavioral Sciences  
International Cultures (IL)

AFR 440: Globalization and Its Implications

3 Credits

This course explores the socioeconomic implications of globalization.

**Prerequisite:** AF AM100 or AFR 110 or PL SC003 or PL SC014 or PL SC020 or PL SC022

Cross-listed with: IB 440, PLSC 440

Bachelor of Arts: Social and Behavioral Sciences  
International Cultures (IL)  
United States Cultures (US)

AFR 443: Ethnic Conflict in Africa

3 Credits

This course explores the various causes and impacts of ethnic conflicts in the African context.

**Prerequisite:** AF AM100 , AFR 110 , PL SC001 , PL SC003 , PL SC007 , PL SC014 , PL SC017 , PL SC020 , or AFRAS301

Cross-listed with: PLSC 443

Bachelor of Arts: Other Cultures

Bachelor of Arts: Social and Behavioral Sciences

International Cultures (IL)

AFR 444: African Resources and Development

3 Credits

Ecological and cultural factors in the geography of Africa; natural resources and development. GEOG 444 / AFR 444 African Resources and Development (3) (BA) This course meets the Bachelor of Arts degree requirements. This course is designed to analyze the ecological, economic, political and cultural factors, which influence development in sub-Saharan Africa. The traditional system, colonialism, modernization, post-colonial philosophies are four conceptual artifacts used to address some of these issues. Within these broad frameworks, the course focuses on existing debates surrounding key development ideologies and narratives in the region, including, poverty, conservation, population, debt, food security, land reform, foreign intervention and global politics. The topics and texts for the course are chosen carefully to provide general factual material as well as exposure to the major discourses surrounding the region's development. The views of many Americans concerning Africa are often both unitary (Africa is a country) and unidimensional (Africa is a place of conflict, poverty, corruption and crisis). Assuming that a number of students are likely to join the class with this general background, the main objectives of the course will be : (i) to provide a broad geographic and historical tutorial to dispel myths and stereotypes about the region; (ii) to explore the literature, which analyzes the historical, geographic and political factors that underlie the region's present status in the global economy; and (iii) to gain insights into the intellectual and ideological dimensions of the "raging" debates surrounding issues like environment, conservation, population, corruption, and poverty in the region. By the end of the semester, students should have acquired the skills to accomplish the following goals: \*develop a "mental map" of the broad physiographic, ecological, economic and political zones (blocs) in the region; \*be able to discriminate between stereotype and reality on information pertaining to the region; \*be able to interpret and analyze the internal (national, regional) dynamics of the region's development; \*be able to interpret and analyze the global factors, which influence the environment, economy, and politics of the region; \*develop an informed background on the ideological narratives that guide policy in the region, for example, population, sustainable development, post-colonialism, "empire" (whether, American, European, Indian, Chinese, South African?).

**Prerequisite:** GEOG 010 or GEOG 020 or GEOG 030 or GEOG 123 or GEOG 124 or GEOG 130 or EARTH105 or AFR 105 or AFR 110

Cross-listed with: GEOG 444

Bachelor of Arts: Other Cultures

Bachelor of Arts: Social and Behavioral Sciences

AFR 446: Topics in African Art

3 Credits/Maximum of 9

Topics vary from "Arts of Eastern and Southern Africa" to "Art of West Africa."

**Prerequisite:** 3 credits of Art History

Cross-listed with: ARTH 446

Bachelor of Arts: Arts

Bachelor of Arts: Other Cultures  
International Cultures (IL)

AFR 454: Government and Politics of Africa

3 Credits

Contemporary African politics, institutions, and ideologies; patterns of change, social forces, and nation building in selected African states. PLSC 454 / AFR 454 Government and Politics of Africa (3) (IL)(BA)  
This course meets the Bachelor of Arts degree requirements. In this course, we will discuss the current democratization trend in Africa by focusing on the experiences of African countries. The course is divided into three sections. Part One considers a range of factors that affect politics in Africa. We will discuss in depth the following factors: colonialism, nationalism, the relationship between state and society, ruler-ship, the military, political parties, and economic development. Then, we will consider the experiences of our four cases, to gain a historical background. In part two, we will focus on democratic transitions. We will discuss the factors that enable transitions to occur, as well as the process that transitions follow. Then, we will consider four transitions: two that resulted in the installation of a democratic government (Nigeria in 1979, Sudan in 1986) and two that ended in continued authoritarianism (Angola in 1992, Kenya in 1978). Part three considers the prospects of democracy. We will discuss the probability of a democratic transition occurring in the near future. The goals of this class are four fold. First, students will gain detailed knowledge about four African countries. Second, we will learn how to compare countries. Third, students will have a better understanding of the democratization process in general, and will be able to explain or predict democratization beyond the four cases discussed in this class. Finally, the experiences of these four countries offer a deeper understanding of what democracy is and provide students with greater flexibility to fulfill requirements in either the African and African American Studies major or the Political Science/International Politics major. PLSC 454 / AFR 454 will be offered once per year with 35-50 seats per offering.

**Prerequisite:** 3 credits from: AFR 110 , PL SC003 , PL SC020 , or PL SC022  
Cross-listed with: PLSC 454  
Bachelor of Arts: Other Cultures  
Bachelor of Arts: Social and Behavioral Sciences  
International Cultures (IL)

AFR 459: Culture and World Politics

3 Credits

Role of culture in world politics.

**Prerequisite:** PL SC014  
Cross-listed with: PLSC 459  
Bachelor of Arts: Social and Behavioral Sciences  
International Cultures (IL)

AFR 464: Extractive Industries in Africa

3 Credits

Socioeconomic and environmental impacts of extractive industries in Africa.

**Prerequisite:** AFR 110 or at least one of the following: PL SC003 or PL SC014 or PL SC022  
Cross-listed with: PLSC 464

International Cultures (IL)

AFR 494: Research Project

1-12 Credits/Maximum of 12

Supervised student activities on research projects identified on an individual or small-group basis.

Honors

AFR 495: Internship

1-18 Credits/Maximum of 18

Supervised off-campus, nongroup instruction including field experiences, practica, or internships. Written and oral critique of activity required.

**Prerequisite:** prior approval of proposed assignment by instructor

AFR 496: Independent Studies

1-18 Credits/Maximum of 18

Creative projects, including research and design, which are supervised on an individual basis and which fall outside the scope of formal courses.

AFR 497: Special Topics

1-9 Credits/Maximum of 9

Formal courses given infrequently to explore, in depth, a comparatively narrow subject which may be topical or of special interest.

AFR 499: Foreign Studies

1-12 Credits/Maximum of 12

Courses offered in foreign countries by individual or group instruction.

International Cultures (IL)