Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of General Studies in African and African-American Studies

The Department of African & African-American Studies (AAAS) will provide you with a unique center for studying the relationships among and between all people of African descent. In order to fulfill the mission of the AAAS department, you will investigate the connections between US and global histories, culture, and social and economic systems. Black Studies, or Africana Studies more broadly, is an interdisciplinary and multi-disciplinary approach to studying the experiences of African people, and African-descended people across the Diaspora. It grew most directly out of campus demands made by black students, and their allies and supporters, during the mass protest movement of the late 1960's and early 1970's.

From the outset, the goal of Africana Studies was to transform higher education, chiefly by addressing the lack of faculty and staff diversity; altering traditional curricula limited by Eurocentric paradigms; linking academic teachings and scholarship with social and civic engagement; and raising critical questions about the overall missions of higher education.

The department area of emphasis include art and culture, religion and rhetoric, families, gender and sexuality; and political economy. Through scholarship, teaching, campus and community service, and public programming, the department promotes not only critical thinking and creative problem-solving, but also expands our understanding of citizenship in a rapidly changing, multiracial, global society.

The Department also draws strength and vitality from three other units: the Kansas African Studies Center (http://kasc.ku.edu), The Langston Hughes Center (https://langstonhughes.ku.edu) and the Institute for Haitian Studies. (http://haitianstudies.ku.edu)

Graduation requirements and regulations for every academic program are provided in this catalog. Degree requirements and course descriptions are subject to change. In most cases, you will use the catalog of the year you entered KU (see your advisor for details). Other years' catalogs»

Undergraduate Admission

Admission to KU

All students applying for admission must send high school and college transcripts to the Office of Admissions. Unless they are college transfer students with at least 24 hours of credit, prospective students must send ACT or SAT scores to the Office of Admissions. Prospective first-year students should be aware that KU has qualified admission requirements that all new first-year students must meet to be admitted. Consult the Office of Admissions (http://admissions.ku.edu) for application deadlines and specific admission requirements.

Visit the Office of International Student and Scholar Services (http://www.iss.ku.edu) for information about international admissions.

Students considering transferring to KU may see how their college-level course work will transfer on the Office of Admissions (http://credittransfer.ku.edu) website.

Admission to the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Admission to the College is a different process from admission to a major field. Some CLAS departments have admission requirements. See individual department/program sections for departmental admission requirements.

First- and Second-Year Preparation

Students in the African studies concentration should enroll in AAAS 103 and AAAS 105 in the first year and AAAS 305 in the sophomore year. Students in the African-American studies concentration should enroll in AAAS 104 and AAAS 106 in the first year and AAAS 306 in the sophomore year. Students in the Arabic and Islamic Studies concentration should enroll in AAAS 102 in the first year and AAAS 349 in the sophomore year. For the B.A. degree in all concentrations, enrollment in a second language should begin no later than the sophomore year.

For further advising, contact the main office, 9 Bailey Hall, 785-864-3054, afs@ku.edu (celang@ku.edu), or Professor Clarence Lang, celang@ku.edu, 785-864-5569.

Requirements for the B.A. or B.G.S. Major African Studies Concentration

Majors choosing this concentration must complete a course in each of the following areas:

African Language Proficiency (0)
Satisfied by one of the following. Required for BA only.
- AMHR 220 Intermediate Amharic II
- ARAB 220 Intermediate Arabic II
- HAIT 240 Intermediate Haitian II
- HAUS 220 Intermediate Hausa II
- KISW 220 Intermediate Kiswahili II
- WOLO 220 Intermediate Wolof II
or an approved African-related language

African Studies Core Knowledge & Skills (12)
Majors choosing this option must complete each of the following categories:
- Introduction to Africa. Satisfied by the following:
  - AAAS 103 Introduction to Africa 3
- Introduction to African History. Satisfied by the following:
  - AAAS 105 Introduction to African History 3
- African Traditional Religion & Thought. Satisfied by the following:
  - AAAS 300 African Traditional Religion and Thought 3
- Modern African History. Satisfied by the following:
  - AAAS 305 Modern Africa 3

African Studies Required Electives (15)
Select five of the following at the 300+ level:
- AAAS 301 Haiti: Culture and Identity 15
- AAAS 302 Contemporary Haiti
African and African-American Studies Major –
African Studies Concentration Hours & Major GPA

While completing all required courses, majors must also meet each of the following hour and grade-point average minimum standards:

**Major Hours**
Satisfied by 33 hours of major courses.

**Major Hours in Residence**
Satisfied by a minimum of 15 hours of KU resident credit in the major.

**Major Junior/Senior (300+) Hours**
Satisfied by a minimum of 27 hours from junior/senior (300+) courses in the major.
Major Junior/Senior (300+) Graduation GPA

Satisfied by a minimum of a 2.0 KU GPA in junior/senior courses (300+) in the major. GPA calculations include all junior/senior courses in the field of study including F's and repeated courses. See the Semester/Cumulative GPA Calculator.

African-American Studies Concentration

African-American Studies Core Knowledge & Skills (18)

AAAS 104 introduction to African-American Studies 3
AAAS 106 The Black Experience in the Americas 3
AAAS 300 African Traditional Religion and Thought 3
AAAS 306 The Black Experience in the U.S. Since Emancipation 3
AAAS 550 Senior Seminar in: 3
or AAAS 690 Investigation and Conference

African-American Studies Required Electives (15)

Select five of the following at the 300+ level: 15

AAAS 317 African American Women: Colonial Era to the Present 3
AAAS 323 African-American Studies In: 3
AAAS 330 Black Leadership 3
AAAS 388 The Black Woman 3
AAAS 400 Readings in: 3
AAAS 415 Women and Islam 3
AAAS 420 Intercultural Communication: The Afro-American 3
AAAS 440 The Afro-American Family: A Psychological Approach 3
AAAS 445 Arab Thought and Identity 3
AAAS 460 Topics and Problems in African and African-American Studies 3
AAAS 501 Regional History: 3
AAAS 502 Directed Language Study: 3
AAAS 503 Directed Language Study: 3
AAAS 504 Directed Language Study: 3
AAAS 505 Directed Language Study: 3
AAAS 510 Global Ethnic and Racial Relations 3
AAAS 511 The Civil Rights Movement 3
AAAS 512 African and Western Cosmologies 3
AAAS 522 African and African-American Religion: 3
AAAS 523 African-American Studies in: 3
AAAS 525 Social History of Black Aging in America 3
AAAS 534 The Rhetoric of Black Americans 3
AAAS 584 Black American Literature 3
AAAS 585 Race and the American Theatre 3
AAAS 611 History of the Black Power Movement 3
AAAS 630 The Life and Intellectual Thought of W.E.B. Du Bois 3
AAAS 650 Sufism 3

1 AAAS 496, AAAS 550, and AAAS 690 may not be taken until AAAS 300, AAAS 305, and AAAS 306 (as appropriate) have been passed, subject to other stipulations in the catalog.

B.A. majors with a Haitian emphasis also must take 16 hours of an African language.

African and African-American Studies Major – African-American Studies Concentration

Hours & Major GPA

While completing all required courses, majors must also meet each of the following hour and grade-point average minimum standards:

Major Hours

Satisfied by 33 hours of major courses.

Major Hours in Residence

Satisfied by a minimum of 15 hours of KU resident credit in the major.

Major Junior/Senior (300+) Hours

Satisfied by a minimum of 27 hours from junior/senior courses (300+) in the major.

Major Junior/Senior (300+) Graduation GPA

Satisfied by a minimum of a 2.0 KU GPA in junior/senior courses (300+) in the major. GPA calculations include all junior/senior courses in the field of study including F's and repeated courses. See the Semester/Cumulative GPA Calculator.

African and African-American Studies Concentration

African and African-American Studies Core Knowledge & Skills (21)

AAAS 103 Introduction to Africa 3
or AAAS 105 Introduction to African History 3
AAAS 106 The Black Experience in the Americas 3
AAAS 300 African Traditional Religion and Thought 3
AAAS 305 Modern Africa 3
AAAS 306 The Black Experience in the U.S. Since Emancipation 3
or AAAS 690 Investigation and Conference

African and African-American Studies Required Electives (15)

Select five of the following at the 300+ level: 15

AAAS 302 Contemporary Haiti 3
AAAS 303 Peoples and Cultures of North Africa and the Middle East 3
AAAS 317 African American Women: Colonial Era to the Present 3
AAAS 301 Haiti: Culture and Identity 3
AAAS 320 African Studies In: 3
AAAS 323 African-American Studies In: 3
AAAS 330 Black Leadership 3
AAAS 332 Introduction to African Literature
AAAS 333 Introduction to Caribbean Literature
AAAS 334 Introduction to African Dance Theatre
AAAS 335 Introduction to Southern African Literature
AAAS 336 Introduction to African Literature, Honors
AAAS 340 Women in Contemporary African Literature
AAAS 345 Popular Culture in Africa: Spiritual Thrills, Romance and Sexualities
AAAS 349 Islam
AAAS 351 Africa's Human Geographies
AAAS 355 African Theatre and Drama
AAAS 370 Introduction to the Languages of Africa
AAAS 372 Religion, Power, and Sexuality in Arab Societies
AAAS 376 West African Art
AAAS 388 The Black Woman
AAAS 400 Readings in: _____
AAAS 415 Women and Islam
AAAS 420 Intercultural Communication: The Afro-American
AAAS 429 Postcolonial Theatre and Drama
AAAS 432 Francophone African Literature
AAAS 433 Islamic Literature
AAAS 434 African Women Writers
AAAS 435 Muslim Women’s Autobiography
AAAS 440 The Afro-American Family: A Psychological Approach
AAAS 445 Arab Thought and Identity
AAAS 450 Popular Culture in the Muslim World
AAAS 460 Topics and Problems in African and African-American Studies
AAAS 470 Language and Society in Africa
AAAS 501 Regional History: _____
AAAS 502 Directed Language Study: _____
AAAS 503 Directed Language Study: _____
AAAS 504 Directed Language Study I: _____
AAAS 505 Directed Language Study II: _____
AAAS 510 Global Ethnic and Racial Relations
AAAS 511 The Civil Rights Movement
AAAS 512 African and Western Cosmologies
AAAS 520 African Studies in: _____
AAAS 522 African and African-American Religion: _____
AAAS 523 African-American Studies in: _____
AAAS 525 Social History of Black Aging in America
AAAS 527 Popular Culture in Africa
AAAS 532 Studies in Islam
AAAS 534 The Rhetoric of Black Americans
AAAS 542 The History of Islam in Africa
AAAS 543 Language and Culture in Arabic-Speaking Communities
AAAS 545 Unveiling the Veil
AAAS 551 Environmental Issues in Africa
AAAS 552 Classical Islamic Literature
AAAS 553 Geography of African Development
AAAS 554 Contemporary Health Issues in Africa
AAAS 555 African Film
AAAS 560 Race, Gender, and Post-Colonial Discourses
AAAS 561 Liberation in Southern Africa
AAAS 565 Gender, Culture, and Migration
AAAS 574 Slavery in the New World
AAAS 578 Central African Art
AAAS 584 Black American Literature
AAAS 585 Race and the American Theatre
AAAS 598 Sexuality and Gender in African History
AAAS 600 Politics in Africa
AAAS 611 History of the Black Power Movement
AAAS 630 The Life and Intellectual Thought of W.E.B. Du Bois
AAAS 650 Sufism
AAAS 657 Gender in Islam and Society
AAAS 662 Gender and Politics in Africa
AAAS 663 The Anthropology of Islam
AAAS 676 West African Art
AAAS 677 African Design
AAAS 679 African Expressive Culture: _____
AAAS 680 Introduction to Modern Africa

African and African-American Studies Major – African and African-American Studies Concentration Hours & Major GPA

While completing all required courses, majors must also meet each of the following hour and grade-point average minimum standards:

**Major Hours**

Satisfied by 39 hours of major courses.

**Major Hours in Residence**

Satisfied by a minimum of 15 hours of KU resident credit in the major.

**Major Junior/Senior (300+) Hours**

Satisfied by a minimum of 30 hours from junior/senior courses (300+) in the major.

**Major Junior/Senior (300+) Graduation GPA**

Satisfied by a minimum of a 2.0 KU GPA in junior/senior courses (300+) in the major. GPA calculations include all junior/senior courses in the field of study including F’s and repeated courses. See the Semester/Cumulative GPA Calculator.

Arabic and Islamic Studies Concentration

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AAAS 102</td>
<td>Arabic and Islamic Studies</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AAAS 349/REL 350</td>
<td>Islam</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AAAS 433</td>
<td>Islamic Literature</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AAAS 543</td>
<td>Language and Culture in Arabic-Speaking Communities</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AAAS 550</td>
<td>Senior Seminar in: _____</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AAAS 496</td>
<td>Field Experience</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
or AAAS 690  Investigation and Conference
Select five courses numbered above 300, including, but not limited to the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AAAS 320</td>
<td>African Studies In: _____</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AAAS/ANTH 303</td>
<td>Peoples and Cultures of North Africa and the Middle East</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AAAS/ANTH 372</td>
<td>Religion, Power, and Sexuality in Arab Societies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AAAS 415</td>
<td>Women and Islam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AAAS 432</td>
<td>Francophone African Literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AAAS 435</td>
<td>Muslim Women’s Autobiography</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AAAS 445</td>
<td>Arab Thought and Identity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AAAS/REL 450</td>
<td>Popular Culture in the Muslim World</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AAAS 504</td>
<td>Directed Language Study I: _____</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AAAS 505</td>
<td>Directed Language Study II: _____</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AAAS 542</td>
<td>The History of Islam in Africa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AAAS 545</td>
<td>Unveiling the Veil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AAAS 552</td>
<td>Classical Islamic Literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AAAS/REL 650</td>
<td>Sufism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AAAS/ANTH 657</td>
<td>Gender in Islam and Society</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AAAS/ANTH 663</td>
<td>The Anthropology of Islam</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

B.A. majors in this concentration also must take 16 hours of an African language (Amharic, Arabic, Hausa, Kiswahili, or Wolof).

**Fields of Emphasis**

In each concentration, at least 3 elective courses and AAAS 496 and AAAS 690 must relate to the student’s emphasis and be so certified by the advisor. Examples are arts and culture; language and linguistics; social, political and economic development; women; Africa and the Diaspora, Caribbean and Haitian studies. The department keeps a list of fields and courses appropriate to them.

**Note:** Consult the major advisor during pre-enrollment advising each semester. Prospective majors should consult the department as early as possible. The department may require a student to take and pass a preparatory course not already taken before enrolling for a given elective. The department has guidelines for substitutions at all levels, pre-major and major. Each substitution must be approved.

**African and African-American Studies Major – Arabic and Islamic Studies Concentration Hours & Major GPA**

While completing all required courses, majors must also meet each of the following hour and grade-point average minimum standards:

**Major Hours**

Satisfied by 33 hours of major courses.

**Major Hours in Residence**

Satisfied by a minimum of 15 hours of KU resident credit in the major.

**Major Junior/Senior (300+) Hours**

Satisfied by a minimum of 30 hours from junior/senior courses (300+) in the major.

**Major Junior/Senior (300+) Graduation GPA**

Satisfied by a minimum of a 2.0 KU GPA in junior/senior courses (300+) in the major. GPA calculations include all junior/senior courses in the field of study including F’s and repeated courses. See the Semester/Cumulative GPA Calculator.

**Fieldwork**

Field experience is a junior/senior option for majors. Fieldwork may be done anywhere in the U.S. or abroad. Careful arrangements must be made long in advance. Consult the department a full semester before enrollment.

**Double Majors**

African and African-American studies majors are encouraged to take a second major in a related or compatible field. Because the major is interdisciplinary, a second major is relatively easy to achieve in the usual period of undergraduate study.

Sample 4-year plans for the BA degree in African and African-American Studies with the following concentrations can be found here: African and African-American Studies (http://catalog.ku.edu/ liberal-arts-sciences/african-studies/ba-bgs/ba-african-american-studies) , African Studies (http://catalog.ku.edu/liberal-arts-sciences/african-studies/ba-bgs/ba-african-studies) , African-American Studies (http://catalog.ku.edu/liberal-arts-sciences/african-studies/ba-bgs/ba-african-american-studies), and African and Islamic Studies (http://catalog.ku.edu/liberal-arts-sciences/ african-studies/ba-bgs/ba-arabic-islamic-studies) or by using the left-side navigation.


**Departmental Honors**

For graduation with honors, an undergraduate must maintain a minimum overall grade-point average of 3.25 and of 3.5 in the major and must complete 3 additional hours by enrolling in AAAS 695. AAAS 695 is evaluated by a committee composed of the instructor plus two other faculty members approved by the chair. An affirmative recommendation
by this committee is essential to graduation with honors, provided that the other requirements have been met. A student who plans to graduate with honors must file a declaration of intent form with the departmental honors coordinator, preferably during his or her junior year, but no later than at enrollment for the final undergraduate semester.

The department encourages majors in the African studies and Arabic and Islamic studies concentrations to spend a semester or an academic year in Africa. Similarly, majors in the African-American studies concentration may spend a semester or an academic year in the Caribbean. Consult the department and the Office of Study Abroad (http://www.studyabroad.ku.edu).