

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. 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 International Support 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 the University Registrar (<https://registrar.ku.edu/credittransfer/>) website.

African & African-American Studies Major Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
African Language Proficiency (required for BA degree only)		
Students pursuing the AAAS BA degree must complete proficiency in an approved African language. Satisfied by one of the following:		
ARAB 220	Intermediate Arabic II	
HAIT 240	Intermediate Haitian II	
KISW 220	Intermediate KiSwahili II	
WOLO 220	Intermediate Wolof II	
or other approved African language		

Students pursuing the either the BA or BGS degree must complete the following requirements:

Code	Title	Hours
Introduction to African & African-American Studies		6
Choose one course from two areas:		
Arabic & Islamic Studies		
AAAS 102	Arabic and Islamic Studies	
African Studies		
AAAS 103	Introduction to Africa	
AAAS 105/ HIST 104	Introduction to African History	
AAAS 160	Introduction to West African History	
African-American Studies		
AAAS 104	Introduction to African-American Studies	
AAAS 106/ HIST 109	The Black Experience in the Americas	
African and African-American Studies Core Knowledge & Skills		
Historical Context (choose one course from the following):		3
AAAS 300	African Traditional Religion and Thought	
AAAS 305	Modern Africa	
or AAAS 307Modern Africa, Honors		
AAAS 306/ HIST 359	The Black Experience in the U.S. Since Emancipation	
AAAS 310	Introduction to Black Education in the US	
AAAS 543	Language and Culture in Arabic-Speaking Communities	
Contemporary Context (choose one course from the following):		3
AAAS 325	Popular Black Music	
AAAS 326	Social Media & African Popular Culture	
AAAS 327	African American Culture	
AAAS 353	Modern and Contemporary African Art	
AAAS 415	Women and Islam	
AAAS 470	Language and Society in Africa	
Required Electives		15

Select five of the following courses not fulfilling a requirement above. One course may be numbered 100-299 for this requirement; the rest must be 300 or higher. Two courses may be Advanced Language courses.

AAAS 177	First Year Seminar: _____	AAAS/REL 450	Popular Culture in the Muslim World
AAAS 301	Haiti: Culture and Identity	AAAS 460	Topics and Problems in African and African-American Studies
AAAS 302	Contemporary Haiti	AAAS/LING 470	Language and Society in Africa
AAAS/ANTH 303	Peoples and Cultures of North Africa and the Middle East	AAAS 502	Directed Language Study: _____
AAAS 305/ HIST 300	Modern Africa or AAAS 307 Modern Africa, Honors or HIST 307 Modern Africa, Honors	AAAS 503	Directed Language Study: _____
AAAS 306/ HIST 359	The Black Experience in the U.S. Since Emancipation	AAAS 504	Directed Language Study I: _____
AAAS/AMS/ HIST 316	Ministers and Magicians: Black Religions from Slavery to the Present	AAAS 505	Directed Language Study II: _____
AAAS 320	African Studies In: _____	AAAS 511	The Civil Rights Movement
AAAS 322	Legal Issues and the African American	AAAS 520	African Studies in: _____
AAAS 323	African-American Studies In: _____	AAAS 523	African-American Studies in: _____
AAAS 325	Popular Black Music	AAAS 534	The Rhetoric of Black Americans
AAAS 327	African American Culture	AAAS/HA 536	Islamic Art and Architecture in Africa
AAAS 330/ AMS 340	Black Leadership	AAAS/LING 543	Language and Culture in Arabic-Speaking Communities
AAAS 332/ ENGL 326	Introduction to African Literature	AAAS/GEOG 553	Geography of African Development
AAAS 333/ ENGL 339	Introduction to Caribbean Literature	AAAS 555	African Film
AAAS 340	Women in Contemporary African Literature	AAAS/POLS/ HIST 561	Liberation in Southern Africa
AAAS 344	Black Feminist Theory	AAAS/HIST 574	Slavery in the New World
AAAS 349/ REL 350	Islam	AAAS/GEOG 583	Migration, Diasporas and Development
AAAS/GEOG 351	Africa's Human Geographies	AAAS 584	Black American Literature
AAAS/HA 353	Modern and Contemporary African Art	AAAS/WGSS/ HIST 598	Sexuality and Gender in African History
AAAS 355/ THR 326	African Theatre and Drama	AAAS 600	Politics in Africa or AAAS 365 Politics in Africa or POLS 365 Politics in Africa
AAAS 356/ THR 327	African-American Theatre and Drama	AAAS 630	The Life and Intellectual Thought of W.E.B. Du Bois
AAAS/LING 370	Introduction to the Languages of Africa	AAAS 657	Women and Gender in Islam
AAAS/ANTH 372	Religion, Power, and Sexuality in Arab Societies	Advanced Language Courses	
AAAS 388	The Black Woman	ARAB 310	Advanced Arabic I
AAAS 415	Women and Islam	ARAB 320	Advanced Arabic II
AAAS 420/ COMS 447	Intercultural Communication: The Afro-American	ARAB 401	Readings in Arabic I
AAAS/THR 429	Postcolonial Theatre and Drama	ARAB 402	Readings in Arabic II
AAAS/FREN 432	Francophone African Literature	KISW 310	Advanced KiSwahili I
AAAS 433	Islamic Literature	KISW 320	Advanced KiSwahili II
AAAS 435	Muslim Women's Autobiography	KISW 401	Readings in KiSwahili I
AAAS/SOC/ AMS 437	Global Ethnic and Racial Relations	KISW 402	Readings in KiSwahili II
		WOLO 310	Advanced Wolof I
		WOLO 320	Advanced Wolof II
		Capstone Requirements	
		Students must complete both of the following:	
		AAAS 496	Field Experience
		or AAAS 690	Investigation and Conference
		AAAS 550	Senior Seminar in: _____
		Total Hours	33

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.

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 (<https://sis.ku.edu/gpa-calculator/>).

Sample 4-year plans for the BA degree in African and African-American Studies here (<https://catalog.ku.edu/liberal-arts-sciences/african-studies/ba-bgs/ba-african-and-african-american-studies/>) or by using the left-side navigation.

Sample 4-year plans for the BGS degree in African and African-American Studies can be found here (<https://catalog.ku.edu/liberal-arts-sciences/african-studies/ba-bgs/bgs-african-and-african-american-studies/>) or by using the left-side navigation.

At the completion of this program, students will be able to:

- Grasp breadth of knowledge in Africa and its diaspora in the Americas and integrate acquired knowledge to analyze ideas and events through an interdisciplinary approach.
- Demonstrate knowledge of theories, methodologies and practices in the discipline in articulate written, oral or visual form, with appropriate emphasis on interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary approaches and the ability to integrate disparate knowledges.
- Civic engagement has been a longstanding learning goal in AAAS. Students learn to demonstrate a sense of civic responsibility in African and African-American related public issues.
- Engage with communities of the African diaspora through research, service learning, community action, or a dialogue on a relevant topic in the field.

Departmental Honors

For graduation with honors, an undergraduate must maintain a minimum grade-point average 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/>).