

AFRICANA STUDIES MAJOR

Africana Studies offers a broad course of interdisciplinary study relating to Africa, people of African descent, and the many different contexts of the African Diaspora around the world. Drawing on diverse methodologies and academic disciplines, Africana Studies teaches students to think analytically and critically about global Black experiences across space and time. Africana Studies also trains students to make intellectual connections among global, national, and local contexts. Building on the university's strengths in the social sciences, behavioral sciences, and humanities, Africana Studies provides an intellectual center for teaching, research, and community engagement that prepares students to function effectively in a multicultural society and diverse international environments.

Students graduating with a degree in Africana Studies are well prepared with the cultural resources and tools needed to pursue most professional careers. Recent graduates have enrolled in graduate school, launched for-profit and not-for-profit businesses, and conducted relief work in various African countries. Others have pursued professional careers in medicine, social work, and law.

Students should note that more than half of the courses which count toward the Africana Studies Major are based in other Departments, Programs and Schools across the University. Students may take a wide range of electives in departments such as Art History, Communication, French, Music, Political Science or Psychology for example in order to complete the Africana Studies Major.

Catalog addenda note: The Department of Africana Studies pages were added to the catalog on 8/26/2025. Previously, this content was housed under Interdisciplinary Programs and Coordinate Majors.

Requirements

Ten courses (minimum of 30 credits) are required for the major. The major consists of the following:

Course ID	Title	Credits
Introductory Course		
AFRS 2000	Introduction to Africana Studies ¹	3
Elective Courses ^{2,3}		
Geographic Distribution:		
Select at least two courses in African Studies		6
Select at least two courses in African Diaspora Studies		6
Africana Studies Program Electives:		
Select at least one elective course which is based in the Africana Studies Program with the AFRS course designation. Usually this course will be taken at the 3000 level. However, an upper level AFRS 4000 level class may also fill this requirement.		3
Upper Level Courses:		
Select at least four Upper Level courses at the 4000 level or higher. These courses may be 4000-level courses based in the Africana Studies Program OR 4000 and 6000 level courses based in other Departments and Programs, so long as those upper level courses have been approved for credit in the Africana Studies Major. ⁴		12
Total Credit Hours		30

- ¹ This course is offered every semester.
Note: Students are strongly encouraged to take this course during the first-year or sophomore year of study, however it may be taken by any student including Juniors and Seniors.
- ² **Limits:** A maximum of six credits in Dance courses may count toward the major.
- ³ **Language Courses:** Language classes at any level in Arabic, Haitian Creole, Swahili, Twi, Xhosa, Yoruba and Zulu may all be counted for elective credit in the Africana Studies Major.
- ⁴ A maximum of three electives (nine credits) at the 1000 or 2000 levels may be counted toward major.

Students must ensure that at least four of the electives (twelve credits) are at the 4000-level or higher and no more than three electives (nine credits) are at the 1000- or 2000-levels. Students must fulfill the distribution component of at least two courses (six credits) in African studies and two courses (six credits) in African Diaspora studies. Students should try to choose elective courses from both the humanities as well as the social or behavioral sciences. A maximum of six dance credits may count toward the major.

Africa Electives

Course ID	Title	Credits
AFRS 3200	Issues in African Studies	3
AFRS 3460	Senegal and New Orleans in the Atlantic World	3

ANTH 3110	Cultures of Sub-Saharan Africa	3
ANTH 3480	African Modernities	3
ANTH 4150	African Prehistory	3
ANTH 6720	Spoken Yoruba	3
DANC 1910	African Dance I	2
DANC 2910	African Dance II	2
ENLS 4300	African Literature	3
HISB 1140	Freshman Seminar-Africa	3
HISB 1300	African Hist To 1800	3
HISB 1310	Africa Since 1800	3
HISB 2120	History of Western Africa	3
HISB 2130	History of Southern Africa	3
HISB 2140	History of Eastern Africa	3
HISB 3240	Human Rights/Genocide-Africa	3
HISB 3250	Archiving Africa	3
HISB 3910	Special Topics	1-3
HISB 4210	Hist of Development in Africa	3,4
HISB 4910	Special Topics	1-3
HISB 6070	Gender in African History	4
HISB 6110	Slavery/Emancipation in Africa	4
POLC 3200	African Politics	3
PSDV 4200	Women & Development in Africa	3-4
SWHL 1010	Swahili I	3
SWHL 1020	Swahili II	3
SWHL 2030	Swahili III	3
YRBA 1010	Elementary Yoruba I	4
YRBA 1020	Elementary Yoruba II	4

African Diaspora Electives

Course ID	Title	Credits
AFRS 3300	Issues in Africana Diaspora Studies	3
AFRS 3450	Race and Performance in Brazil	3
AFRS 3470	Migration, Race, and Identity in the Dominican Republic	3
AFRS 4400	Afro-Brazilians	3
ANTH 3520	Diaspora Yoruba	3
ARHS 3871	Introduction to African American Art and Visual Culture, c. 1700-1940	3
ARHS 3872	Art of the African Diaspora, c. 1925 to Present	3
ARHS 6874	Race and the Art of Empire	3,4
ARHS 6875	Race and National Mythologies in American Art and Visual Culture	3,4
ARHS 6877	Contested Vision Civil War I	3
ARHS 6878	Contested Vision Civil War II	4
DANC 1920	Brazilian Dance	2
DANC 1950	Jazz Dance I	2
DANC 2950	Jazz Dance II	2
DANC 3240	US/Caribe Social Dance	3
DANC 3950	Jazz Dance III	2
DANC 3960	Jazz: Newc Sum Danc Fest	2
DANC 4950	Jazz Dance IV	2
ENLS 4430	Caribbean Literature	3
ENLS 4440	Black Cultural Studies	3
FREN 3050	Literature In Exile	3

HACR 1010	Elementary Haitian Creole I	4
HACR 1020	Elementary Haitian Creole II	4
HACR 2030	Intermediate Haitian Creole	4
HISL 1720	Intro Caribbean History	3
HISU 2690	Intro Afro-American History	3
HISU 2700	Modern African-American	3
HISL 3200	History of Voodoo	3
HISL 3361	Slave Rebellions	3 or 4
HISU 3360	Slavery Pub Hist & Pub Memory	3
HISU 3440	African Amer Religious History	3
HISU 4580	Slavery & Freedom Antebellum S	3
HISL 4740	Caribbean Cultural History	3
HISU 6540	African-American Culture	3
HISL 6750	Africans In The Americas	3
HISL 6780	Caribbean Hist: Major Themes	3
MUSC 1530	Black American Music Theory	3
MUSC 1900	Music in New Orleans	3
MUSC 3340	History of Jazz	3
MUSC 3440	Black Music, Black Lives	3
MUSC 6340	Seminar In Jazz	3
MUSC 7060	Musical Cultures - New Orleans	3
POLA 4250	Politics of Poverty Policy	3
PSYC 3310	Intro to African American Psychology	3
PSYC 4610	Black Youth Development Psychology	4
SOCI 6340	Race & Ethnicity in Latin Amer	3
SPAN 4160	Afro-Latin American Literature	3
THEA 4750	African American Theatre Histo	3

Other Electives

The following courses do not meet the GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION requirements for African or African Diaspora credits. But all of these courses may be taken as general electives to fulfill the requirements of the major. (Most of these courses include coverage of both the African continent and the African diaspora around the world. This is the reason they do not fulfill Geographic Distribution Requirements.) Students may also petition to count any course related to African Studies or African Diaspora Studies, whether offered at Tulane or taken at another university, as a part of their major curriculum. Such petitions will be considered by the Program Director in consultation with Africana Studies Program faculty.

Course ID	Title	Credits
AFRS 3400	Black Cities	3
AFRS 4560	Internship	1-3
AFRS 4570	Internship	1-3
AFRS 4810	Special Topics	3
AFRS 4830	Special Topics	3
AFRS 4910	Independent Study	1-3
AFRS 4920	Independent Study	1-3
AFRS 4990	Honors Thesis	3
AFRS 5000	Honors Thesis	4
ARHS 6876	Interracial Themes in Western Art and Visual Culture	3
COMM 3500	British Cultural Studies	3
DANC 4900	Building Comm Thru Arts	3,4
ENLS 4820	Col/ Postcolonial Discourse	3
FREN 3040	African and Caribbean Literature	3
FREN 3050	Literature In Exile	3
FREN 4800	Survey of Francophone Literature	3

HACR 2810	Special Projects	3
HACR 2820	Special Projects	3
HISB 4250	Topics in the History of the Atlantic Slave Trade	3
PORT 4510	Luzo-Brazilian Cities	3
SOCI 6130	Race, Crime and Control	3

Contact

For more information, contact the School of Liberal Arts. (<https://liberalarts.tulane.edu/africana-studies/>)