African and African American Studies

The African and African American Studies major and minor have been incorporated into a new program in Comparative Race and Ethnic Studies. Students interested in African and African American Studies should consider the Comparative Race and Ethnic Studies major and minor sponsored by the Center for the Study of Race, Politics, and Culture and the Committee on African and African American Studies. Students who matriculated before July 2009 may elect to complete the African and African American Studies major or minor as planned or transfer to the new programs instead. Those students should consult with the student affairs administrator for Comparative Race and Ethnic Studies (5733 S. University Ave., Rm. 206).

Program of Study

The BA program in African and African American Studies provides an interdisciplinary curriculum for College students to examine the histories, languages, societies, cultures, and the material, artistic, and literary expressions of peoples of Africa and the African diaspora. Students have considerable flexibility in developing a concentration within the major: students may choose to focus on a particular geographic region, intellectual question or theme, or disciplinary perspective.

Students in other fields of study may also complete a minor in African and African American Studies. Information follows the description of the major.

Program Requirements

Students are encouraged to meet the general education requirement in the social sciences before declaring their major, but otherwise they must do so during their first year in the program. Students are also encouraged to consult with the undergraduate program chair in charting and fulfilling their course of study.

The major requires a BA thesis and ten courses distributed according to the following guidelines:

**Two introductory courses dealing with African and African American history.** These must include African Civilization (ANTH 20701-20702) or African Civilization in Africa (SOSC 26600-26700). Because the African civilization sequence is used to meet a requirement in the major, students must take another civilization sequence to meet their general education requirement.

**Six courses in the social sciences and/or the humanities relevant to African and African American studies.** The courses require approval by the undergraduate program chair and should contribute to the overall coherence and integrity of a student’s program of study. With the approval of the undergraduate chair, courses
African and African American Studies (sscd)  

in a language such as Arabic, French, Portuguese, or Swahili may be used to meet this requirement.

Two courses, taken during the student’s final year, to prepare a BA thesis. Students are required to write the BA thesis under the supervision of a faculty member approved by the undergraduate program chair. The undergraduate program chair must approve the proposed paper topic by the end of Autumn Quarter of the student’s year of graduation.

This program may accept a BA paper or project used to satisfy the same requirement in another major if certain conditions are met and with the consent of the other program. Approval from both program chairs is required. Students should consult with the chairs by the earliest BA proposal deadline (or by the end of third year, if neither program publishes a deadline). A consent form, to be signed by both chairs, is available from the College adviser. It must be completed and returned to the College adviser by the end of Autumn Quarter of the student’s year of graduation.

Each student in the program has an adviser who is a member of the program faculty, listed below, or a lecturer appointed for his or her special knowledge of African or African American subjects.

Summary of Requirements

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<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 ANTH 20701-20702 (African Civilization) or SOSC 26600-26700 (African Civilization in Africa)</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 approved courses with relevant African or African American content in the social sciences and/or humanities (language courses may be used)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 reading course (AFAM 29700)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 BA thesis (AFAM 29900)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>10</td>
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Grading. All courses must be taken for a quality grade.

Honors. The BA with honors is awarded to all students who meet the following requirements: a GPA of at least 3.25 overall and 3.5 in the major, and a grade of A- or above on the thesis.

Minor Program in African and African American Studies

The minor in African and African American Studies consists of five to seven courses, depending on whether two quarters of African Civilization (ANTH 20701-20702) or African Civilization in Africa (SOSC 26600-26700) are used to meet the general education requirement in civilization studies or to meet the minor program. If used in general education, the minor will consist of five courses related to African and African American Studies from the list below.
African and African American Studies (sscd) (excluding AFAM 29900). If African Civilization (ANTH 20701-20702) or African Civilization in Africa (SOSC 26600-26700) has not been taken to meet the general education requirement, two quarters must be included in the minor for a total of seven courses.

Students choose courses in consultation with the undergraduate program chair. Credit toward the minor for courses taken at any other institution must be discussed with the undergraduate program chair in advance of registration.

Students must receive the undergraduate program chair’s approval of the minor program on a form obtained from their College adviser. This form must then be returned to their College adviser by the end of Spring Quarter of their third year.

Courses in the minor program may not be (1) double counted with the student’s major(s) or with other minors or (2) counted toward general education requirements. Courses in the minor must be taken for quality grades, and more than half of the requirements for the minor must be met by registering for courses bearing University of Chicago course numbers. Courses taken to complete a minor are counted toward electives.

Faculty

NOTE: The following courses meet the requirements for a major or minor in African and African American Studies. Specific configurations of these courses, as well as the possible substitution of others, must be approved by the student’s program adviser. The student’s program adviser and members of the Program Coordinating Committee can also suggest additional course offerings, and students can visit timeschedules.uchicago.edu. For more courses with substantial content related to race and ethnicity, see a listing compiled by the Center for the Study of Race, Politics & Culture (CSRPC) at csrcp.uchicago.edu/resources_courses.shtml. Courses in languages relevant to African studies are offered during the summer at the University of Indiana (Bloomington) Summer Cooperative African Language Institute (www.indiana.edu/~afrist/scali/). In addition to the College-sponsored civilization study abroad program in Cape Town during Winter Quarter, students in the College may apply for the Associated Colleges of the Midwest’s Autumn Quarter program in Tanzania or Winter Quarter program in Botswana. For more information, visit study-abroad.uchicago.edu.

Courses: African and African American Studies (AFAM)

29700. Readings in African and African American Studies. PQ: Consent of instructor and program adviser. Students are required to submit the College Reading and Research Course Form. Autumn, Winter, Spring.
29900. BA Thesis Preparation. PQ: AFAM 29700. Consent of instructor and program adviser. Students are required to submit the College Reading and Research Course Form. Must be taken for a quality grade. Autumn, Winter, Spring.

Courses: Anthropology (anth)

20701-20702. Introduction to African Civilization I, II. (=AFAM 20701-20702, CHDV 21401, HIST 10101-10102, SOSC 22500-22600) Taking these courses in sequence is recommended but not required. R. Jean-Baptiste, Autumn; J. Cole, Winter.


Courses: Comparative Race Studies (crpc)


Courses: Economics (econ)


25500. Topics in Economic Growth and Development. PQ: ECON 20200 and 21000. Autumn.


Courses: English (engl)


Courses: History (hist)


27301. Introduction to Black Chicago. (=AFAM 27305, CRPC 27301) A. Green. Autumn.

Courses: Law, Letters, and Society (llso)


Courses: Music (musi)

23100/33100. Jazz. (=AFAM 23100) PQ: Any 10000-level music course or the ability to read music. T. Jackson. Spring.

Courses: Political Science (plsc)


Courses: Religious Studies (rlst)


Courses: Social Sciences (sosc)