The African and African American Studies Program (AAAS) at The University of Memphis is a challenging, interdisciplinary curriculum designed to help you analyze the historical and contemporary issues associated with the African and African American experience. You will compare, evaluate, and finally synthesize various disciplinary approaches in order to achieve a sophisticated understanding of the history and contemporary dynamics of African, American, and European cultures.

AAAS offers a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) degree, as well as a minor that can enhance majors in literature, history, sociology, political science, and many other disciplines.

What does a program in AAAS look like?

That depends—on you! There are three required core courses, presenting the theoretical framework and methodology for a cultural approach to the African and African American experience. After that, you can choose one of three specializations: the Humanities, the Social and Behavioral Sciences, or the Arts. This specialization will focus the design of your individual program around courses in the following departments:

Anthropology; Art History; Communications; Criminology and Criminal Justice; Earth Sciences; Economics; English; History; Music History; Philosophy; Political Science; Psychology; and Sociology.

More about careers …

AAAS students develop skills that employers in many fields need:

- Analytic skills, to formulate and solve problems
- Argumentative skills, to construct useful analogies and elicit hidden assumptions
- Research skills, to integrate diverse data
- Communications skills, to express thoughts clearly and precisely in both oral and written discourse

... and Opportunities

- You can participate in one or more exciting study abroad experiences that relate to the major.
- You can join the African Students Association or the Black Students Association, active communities of students whose activities and events will give you unique educational and social experiences.
- A degree in AAAS will be valuable for any career for which a sophisticated understanding of the complex and ever-changing situations of Africans and African Americans is important.
- Specific career opportunities are available on the website: www.memphis.edu/aaas/career-opportunities/index.php
AFRICAN and AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES
PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

A. University General Education Program (41 hours)
See the Undergraduate Catalog for the University General Education Program requirements.

B. College and Degree (B.A.) Requirements (6-9 hours)
The College and Bachelor of Arts requirements are in addition to the University General Education requirements and are listed in the Undergraduate Catalog.

C. The Major (30 hours)
1. Major Core (18 hours):
Completion of AAAS 2100, 3100 (or one of the following: ANTH 4010, CJUS 3130, COMM 3330, SOCI 3322, and 4100; and one course selected from each concentration (9 hours).
2. Concentration (12 hours):
a. Humanities: AAAS 4351; ENGL 3325, 3326, 4372, 4373, 4374, 4521; HIST 3233, 3273, 3274, 3281, 3282, 3670, 3840, 3881, 4022, 4050-69 (Special Topics related to African American experience), 4222, 4283, 4288, 4289, 4853, 4871, 4879, 4880, 4882; PHIL 3452, 3741.
b. Social and Behavioral Sciences: AAAS 4251; ANTH 3242, 3282, 3511, 4051, 4120, 4220, 4352, 4411, 4412, 4571; 4660, 4661, 4662, CJUS 3510, 4460; ESCI 4431; ECON 4740; POLS 3306, 3320, 3325, 3330, 3415, 3420, 4101, 4222, 4317, 4415, 4416, 4511; SOCI 3112, 3311, 3401, 3420, 3422, 3432, 4420, 4442, 4460, 4631.
c. The Arts: AAAS 4451; ARTH 4112, 4113, 4181, 4183, 4185, 4660, 4662; COMM 3360, 3361, 4341, 4364, 4373, 4375; MUHL 4800, 4801, 4804, 4805, 4806, 4807; THEA 4559.

D. Electives
Electives may be chosen to bring the total number of hours to 120.

African and African American Studies Minor
Completion of 18 semester hours including AAAS 2100, 3100, and 12 hours of electives from the following groups with at least 3 hours from each group.
a. Humanities: AAAS 4351; ENGL 3325, 3326, 4372, 4373, 4374, 4521; HIST 3233, 3273, 3274, 3281, 3282, 3670, 3840, 3881, 4022, 4050-69 (Special Topics related to African American experience), 4222, 4283, 4288, 4289, 4853, 4871, 4879, 4880, 4882; PHIL 3452, 3741.
b. Social and Behavioral Sciences: AAAS 4251; ANTH 3242, 3282, 3511, 4051, 4120, 4220, 4352, 4411, 4412, 4571; 4660, 4661, 4662, CJUS 3510, 4460; ESCI 4431; ECON 4740; POLS 3306, 3320, 3325, 3330, 3415, 3420, 4101, 4222, 4317, 4415, 4416, 4511; SOCI 3112, 3311, 3401, 3420, 3422, 3432, 4420, 4442, 4460, 4631.
c. The Arts: AAAS 4451; ARTH 4112, 4113, 4181, 4183, 4185, 4660, 4662; COMM 3360, 3361, 4341, 4364, 4373, 4375; MUHL 4800, 4801, 4804, 4805, 4806, 4807; THEA 4559.

AAAS COURSE DESCRIPTIONS


AAAS 3100. Research Methodology in African and African American Studies. (3). Students design research project focusing on African and African American experiences and issues.

AAAS 4100. Seminar in African and African American Studies. (3). Capstone course to provide an integrated and interdisciplinary understanding of the black experience which arises from culture, society, and the natural world.

AAAS 4251. African Religions in the Diaspora. (3). Transplantation of African religions to the Western hemisphere; change in religions over time; African religious thought; retention, adaptation, hybridity in religious movements.

AAAS 4351. Ghanaian History and Culture. (3). Study of the history and cultures of Ghana.

AAAS 4451. Rhetoric of Hip Hop. (3) Movement of hip-hop from its original expressions of a hidden sub-culture to its widespread acceptance in mainstream American culture.

AAAS 4501. Internship. (3-6). Supervised internship working with public and private institutions.

AAAS 4901. Independent Study. (1-3). Readings and writing assignments designed to further understanding of specialized areas within African and African American Studies. May be taken for a maximum of 6 hours credit when topic varies.

AAAS 4990-4999. Special Topics in African and African American Studies. (3). Topics are varied varies.

NOTE: The courses listed above are only those with the AAAS prefix. There are many other courses related to African and African American studies offered in individual departments, and listed above under the program requirements.
# AFRICAN AND AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES
## SAMPLE FOUR-YEAR PLAN

### Freshman Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 1010</td>
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<tr>
<td>GE MATH 3-4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elective</td>
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<tr>
<td>BA Foreign Language 2010</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AAAS 2100</td>
<td>3</td>
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**Semester Totals**  
15-16 hrs.  
15 hrs.

### Sophomore Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 2201 or 2202</td>
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<tr>
<td>GE Social/Behavioral Science</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AAAS 3100</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GE Nat. Science w/lab</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elective</td>
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**Semester Totals**  
16 hrs.  
16 hrs.

### Junior Year

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Course</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AAAS Humanities Core Elective</td>
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<tr>
<td>GE Social/Behavioral Science</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>GE History</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMM 2381</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AAAS Concentration Elective</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Semester Totals**  
15 hrs.  
15 hrs.

### Senior Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AAAS Concentration Elective</td>
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<tr>
<td>UD Elective</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Semester Totals**  
15 hrs.  
13 hrs.

**GE = General Education Requirements**  
**BA = Bachelor of Arts college requirements**  
**UD = Upper division**

Foreign Language Requirement – See the [Undergraduate Catalog](http://catalog.memphis.edu)

Degree hours = 120  
42 Upper Division hours required for graduation

No more than 2 hours of physical education courses may be counted toward a degree.

Residence – 30 of the last 60 hours must be taken at University of Memphis; at least 60 hours must be at a four-year institution; transfer students must earn at least 6 hours of a major at UM and at least 3 hours of a minor at UM
Why major in African and African American Studies?

In 1901, Dr. W.E.B. DuBois noted that the twentieth century's most critical issue would continue to be the problem of the "color line," and "the relation of the darker to the lighter races of men in Asia and Africa, in America and the islands of the sea." DuBois' assessment continues to be true for the twenty-first century and is a key reason for majoring in African and African American Studies.

African and African American Studies helps to develop an understanding of:

1. the histories and cultures of African and African American peoples in the Diaspora;
2. the impact of race and ethnicity in American society;
3. how race and ethnicity have interacted with class, gender, sexuality and other factors to shape American institutions.

Is African and African American Studies only for African and African American Students?

While the focus of this program is on African and African American peoples, these courses are not limited to African and African American students. African and African American Studies is for students of all national, ethnic and religious backgrounds.

African and African American studies should be viewed in the context of world and human history. The historical and contemporary development of African and African American people, like that of people of European and Asian descent, is relevant and significant to human history in general.

For more information, please contact:

Dr. Ladrica Menson-Furr, Director and Advisor
African and African American Studies
lmnsnfrr@memphis.edu

Interdisciplinary Studies Office
Scates Hall 107
901-678-3550

African and African American Studies Website:
http://www.memphis.edu/aaas

Other University Resources:

The University of Memphis
http://www.memphis.edu

The College of Arts and Sciences
http://www.memphis.edu/cas

UM Career Services
http://www.memphis.edu/careerservices/

The University of Memphis is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action University. It is committed to education of a non-racially identifiable student body.