

AFRICANA STUDIES (BA)

Department Website (<http://as.nyu.edu/africanastudies/>)

NYSED: 19611 HEGIS: 2211.00 CIP: 05.0201

Program Description

The program in Africana studies at New York University, part of the Department of Social and Cultural Analysis (SCA), is a multi-continental and interdisciplinary program devoted to scholarship on the histories, political and cultural movements, literatures, institutions, economies, and identities of Africans and the African Diaspora across the globe. Africa's own overlapping modernities and the transnational migrations of its peoples—whether forced or voluntary—have complicated the meanings of “black” and “African” identities and experiences, prompting us to rethink the geographical boundaries and conceptual paradigms surrounding the production of knowledge about Africa and its diasporic communities in the 21st century. Accordingly, the program is a site for cross-cultural teaching and research in the histories, cultures, economies, politics, and practices of African Diasporas in Africa, the Americas (North and South), the Caribbean, Europe, the Asia-Pacific region, and the Middle East.

NYU's study away center in Ghana offers a rare opportunity for undergraduates to study in Africa. A range of Africana studies courses has been developed and is offered at NYU Accra (<https://www.nyu.edu/accra.html>). The program maintains close relationships with the community programming and research activities of NYU's Institute of African-American Affairs and Africa House. Africana studies offers programs leading to BA and MA degrees, as well as a suite of joint MA programs with journalism, economics, and museum studies.

Honors Program

Majors who have completed 48 credits of graded work in CAS and have a 3.65 GPA or higher (both overall and in the major) are encouraged to register for Senior Honors Seminar (SCA-UA 92) in the fall semester of their senior year. Upon successful completion of the seminar requirement, students will be eligible to register for Senior Honors Thesis (SCA-UA 93) in the spring. For more information on the honors program, please visit the department's Honors Program website (<https://as.nyu.edu/departments/sca/current-students/honors-program.html>).

Study Away in Ghana

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Admissions

New York University's Office of Undergraduate Admissions supports the application process for all undergraduate programs at NYU. For additional information about undergraduate admissions, including application requirements, see How to Apply (<https://www.nyu.edu/admissions/undergraduate-admissions/how-to-apply.html>).

Program Requirements

The Africana studies major requires nine 4-credit courses (36 credits) completed with a grade of C or better (courses graded Pass/Fail do not count) as outlined below.

Course	Title	Credits
General Education Requirements		
First-Year Seminar		4
EXPOS-UA 1	Writing as Inquiry	4
Foreign Language ¹		16
Quantitative Reasoning		4
Physical Science		4
Life Science		4
Texts and Ideas		4
Societies and the Social Sciences		4
Major Requirements		
<i>Introductory Courses</i>		
SCA-UA 101	Social and Cultural Analysis 101	4
CORE-UA 534	Cultures & Contexts: The Black Atlantic (only when taught by SCA faculty)	4
<i>Major Elective Courses</i>		
Select six designated Africana studies electives ²		24
<i>Research Course</i>		
SCA-UA 90	Advanced Research Seminar	4
Electives		
Other Elective Credits		48
Total Credits		128

¹ The foreign language requirement is satisfied upon successful completion through the Intermediate level of a language. This may be accomplished in fewer than 16 credits, but those credits must then be completed as elective credit.

² Four of the six courses must be taught by SCA faculty. One African language course can count as an elective if taught by SCA faculty.

Language and Linguistic Competency

The type of rigorous intercultural study promoted within the Department of Social and Cultural Analysis requires students to recognize the complex modes of communication at work both within and across different social groups. Studying the modern incarnation of these languages also reveals the cross-cultural and historical forces that have shaped them. The department therefore strongly encourages its students to develop advanced skills in Swahili, Twi, Yoruba, and/or any of the indigenous languages spoken in Africa, or creole languages (e.g., Haitian Creole) spoken throughout the African Diaspora. This can be achieved by any of the following means: taking elective courses in sociolinguistics; studying these languages beyond the minimum level required by the College of Arts and Science; pursuing community-based internship fieldwork necessitating the development and use of specific language skills; or undertaking study or research away, especially at the NYU Accra site, in contexts entailing the exercise of key language or linguistic capabilities.

Sample Plan of Study

Course	Title	Credits
1st Semester/Term		
CORE-UA 534	Cultures & Contexts: The Black Atlantic (must be taught by SCA faculty)	4
Foreign Language I		4
First-Year Seminar		4
Other Elective Credits		4
Credits		16
2nd Semester/Term		
SCA-UA 101	Social and Cultural Analysis 101	4
Foreign Language II		4
Texts and Ideas		4
EXPOS-UA 1	Writing as Inquiry	4
Credits		16
3rd Semester/Term		
Major Elective (#1 of 6) ¹		4
Quantitative Reasoning		4
Foreign Language III		4
Other Elective Credits		4
Credits		16
4th Semester/Term		
Major Elective (#2 of 6) ¹		4
Societies and the Social Sciences		4
Foreign Language IV		4
Other Elective Credits		4
Credits		16
5th Semester/Term		
Major Elective (#3 of 6) ¹		4
Physical Science		4
Other Elective Credits		4
Other Elective Credits		4
Credits		16
6th Semester/Term		
Major Elective (#4 of 6) ¹		4
Major Elective (#5 of 6) ¹		4
Life Science		4
Other Elective Credits		4
Credits		16
7th Semester/Term		
Major Elective (#6 of 6) ¹		4
Other Elective Credits		4
Other Elective Credits		4
Other Elective Credits		4
Credits		16
8th Semester/Term		
SCA-UA 90	Advanced Research Seminar	4
Other Elective Credits		4
Other Elective Credits		4
Other Elective Credits		4
Credits		16
Total Credits		128

¹ Chosen from designated African Studies Electives; of the six Major Elective courses, four must be taught by SCA faculty.

1. Critical thinking tools for the analysis of social, cultural, and political formations.
2. Familiarity with theories for the study of race, class, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, space, and nation.
3. Proficiency in written and oral communication.
4. The ability to produce original research on topics relevant to the major using textual/literary, archival, ethnographic, and/or quantitative research methods.
5. Engagement and familiarity with primary texts in Africana Studies.

Policies

Program Policies

Policy on Double Counting of Courses

Major

Majors may share (double count) two courses with a second major, with permission from the other department/program.

Minor

Minors may share (double count) one course with a major or a second minor, with permission from the other department/program.

NYU Policies

University-wide policies can be found on the New York University Policy pages (<https://bulletins.nyu.edu/nyu/policies/>).

College of Arts and Science Policies

A full list of relevant academic policies can be found on the CAS Academic Policies page (<https://bulletins.nyu.edu/undergraduate/arts-science/academic-policies/>).

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of program requirements, students are expected to have developed: