

Africana Studies Major and Minor

<https://www.africanastudies.pitt.edu/undergraduate>

Revised: 08/2025

Africana Studies is the study, research, interpretation, and dissemination of knowledge concerning African American, African, and Caribbean affairs and culture. Using the tools of the social sciences and humanities, Africana Studies examines the structure, organization, problems, and perspectives of Blacks in Africa and the African Diaspora. Africana Studies also stresses analytical interpretations and policy prescriptions for social change in African American communities and in various African and Caribbean nations. The term Africana incorporates the three-tier interdisciplinary thrust of the department: African, African American, and Caribbean social sciences and humanities.

Africana Studies prepares social science majors for advanced graduate studies in international affairs, education, social work, social policy studies, and legal and professional training. In the humanities, preparation in the creative arts and literature gears students to practical development in such fields as communication, teaching, theater, and dance. Africana Studies occupies a central role in understanding modern American life and African and Caribbean linkages. As an interdisciplinary major, Africana Studies offers intellectual paradigms for the multicultural approach to historical, political, and economic reality. It is also critical and corrective of the inadequacies, omissions, and distortions of mainstream American education leading into the 21st century. Africana Studies is committed to producing liberally educated women and men with a lifetime dedication to working on African American, African, and Caribbean affairs. For more information on the major and the Department of Africana Studies, see the [department's web](#) site.

Students are urged to meet with the departmental advisor no later than the beginning of the junior year to confirm a plan of study. The Africana studies major requires a total of 30 credits to complete.

Required courses for the Africana Studies major

The Africana Studies major requires the completion of 30 credits, which includes core courses and elective courses.

Core courses

AFRCNA 0031 Introduction to Africana Studies
AFRCNA 0127 Introduction to Africa
AFRCNA 0787 Black Consciousness
AFRCNA 1768 Africana Senior Research Seminar

Upper-Level Electives

A minimum of three courses (9 credits) must be taken in upper-level AFRCNA courses (1000-level or higher). Courses from outside of the Department of Africana Studies that are not cross-listed will have to be approved by the Director of Undergraduate Studies before they can be used as electives for the major. Please contact the major advisor for a full list of elective courses.

Remaining Electives

A minimum of three courses (9 credits) must be taken in additional elective AFRCNA courses. Courses from outside of the Department of Africana Studies that are not cross-listed will have to be approved by the Director of Undergraduate Studies before they can be used as electives for the major. Please contact the major advisor for a full list of elective courses.

Grade requirements

A minimum GPA of 2.0 in departmental courses is required for graduation.

Satisfactory/No Credit option

No course that counts toward the major can be taken on an S/NC basis.

Writing (W) requirement

Students must complete at least one W-course in the major. AFRCNA 1768 may be used to fulfill this requirement.

Honors major requirements

In order to qualify for honors in the Africana Studies major, a student will have to achieve a 3.25 overall GPA and a 3.75 department GPA. The student seeking Honors will also be required to submit a faculty supervised research paper, portfolio, or report mentored by a department faculty member and approved by a committee of three faculty members, including the mentor.

Advising

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Director of Undergraduate Studies

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Checklist for the Africana Studies major (30 credits)

_____ AFRCA 0031 Introduction to Africana Studies
_____ AFRCA 0127 Introduction to Africa
_____ AFRCA 0787 Black Consciousness
_____ AFRCA 1768 Africana Senior Research Seminar
_____ AFRCA _____ (elective)
_____ AFRCA _____ (elective)
_____ AFRCA _____ (elective)
_____ AFRCA 1 _____ (upper-level elective)
_____ AFRCA 1 _____ (upper-level elective)
_____ AFRCA 1 _____ (upper-level elective)

Checklist for the Africana Studies minor

Option 1: African Culture and Society track (15 credits)

Core Course:

AFRCNA 0031 Introduction to Africana Studies

Select two of the following lower-level courses:

AFRCNA 0127 Introduction to Africa
AFRCNA 0212 West African Dance
AFRCNA 0242 Africana Urban Woman
AFRCNA 0318 History of Africa Before 1800
AFRCNA 0508 Swahili Language Culture and Immersion
AFRCNA 0522 Introduction to African Literature
AFRCNA 0524 Swahili 2
AFRCNA 0536 20th Century African American Woman History
AFRCNA 0586 Early African Civilizations
AFRCNA 0787 Black Consciousness
AFRCNA 0805 Black Performance Aesthetics

Select two of the following upper-level courses:

AFRCNA 1021 History of the African Diaspora
AFRCNA 1024 West African Culture and Society
AFRCNA 1030 Introduction to African Politics
AFRCNA 1083 Special Topics
AFRCNA 1108 African American Folk Culture
AFRCNA 1240 African Literature and Society
AFRCNA 1306 World Literature in English
AFRCNA 1309 Women of African and African Diaspora
AFRCNA 1310 Cultures of Africa
AFRCNA 1331 African Liberation Movement
AFRCNA 1334 Music in Africa
AFRCNA 1347 Francophone Africana Literature
AFRCNA 1418 From Vodou to Santeria: Religions of the West African Diaspora
AFRCNA 1510 Health in the African Diaspora
AFRCNA 1655 African Cinemas/Screen Griots
AFRCNA 1656 History of Africa Since 1800
AFRCNA 1661 Political Economy of Africa
AFRCNA 1704 Africana World Literature
AFRCNA 1720 West Africa in the Era of the Slave Trade
AFRCNA 1725 Social and Health Issues in East Africa
AFRCNA 1904 Rebel and Revolution

Option 2: African-American and African Diaspora Culture and Society track (15 credits)

Core Course:

AFRCNA 0031 Introduction to Africana Studies

Select two of the following lower-level courses:

AFRCNA 0120 African American Experience Sports
AFRCNA 0150 African American Literature
AFRCNA 0212 West African Dance
AFRCNA 0242 Africana Urban Woman
AFRCNA 0311 Introduction to the African American Family
AFRCNA 0313 The Black Church
AFRCNA 0316 Introduction to African American Theater
AFRCNA 0352 African American Dance
AFRCNA 0385 Caribbean History
AFRCNA 0400 COVID-19, Racism and Public Health
AFRCNA 0434 Psychological Experience African American Female
AFRCNA 0454 Man/Woman Literature
AFRCNA 0517 Introduction to African American Poetry
AFRCNA 0536 20th Century African American Woman History
AFRCNA 0628 Afro-Latin America
AFRCNA 0629 African American History 1877
AFRCNA 0630 African American History Since 1865
AFRCNA 0639 History of Jazz
AFRCNA 0787 Black Consciousness
AFRCNA 0805 Black Performance Aesthetics

Select two of the following upper-level courses:

AFRCNA 1012 Early 20th Century Black Social Movement
AFRCNA 1021 History of the African Diaspora
AFRCNA 1026 African Presence in Latin American Lit/Culture
AFRCNA 1033 African Americans and Mass Media
AFRCNA 1083 Special Topics
AFRCNA 1108 African American Folk Culture
AFRCNA 1245 Studio in African American Poetry and Poetics
AFRCNA 1250 Black Europe
AFRCNA 1306 World Literature in English
AFRCNA 1309 Women of African and African Diaspora
AFRCNA 1330 Science and Technology in Africana Context
AFRCNA 1335 African-American Music in the United States
AFRCNA 1347 Francophone Africana Literature
AFRCNA 1349 Contemporary Caribbean Literature
AFRCNA 1353 Comparative Dance Expression
AFRCNA 1402 Learning Paradigms African American Child Development
AFRCNA 1415 Religion and Race
AFRCNA 1418 From Vodou to Santeria: Religions of the West African Diaspora
AFRCNA 1450 Africana Cultural Memory
AFRCNA 1510 Health in the African Diaspora
AFRCNA 1522 Sex and Racism
AFRCNA 1535 Dimensions of Racism
AFRCNA 1537 Race and the Criminal Justice System
AFRCNA 1538 History of Black Pittsburgh
AFRCNA 1555 Afro Caribbean Dance
AFRCNA 1616 African American Women Writers
AFRCNA 1628 Afro-Latinos in the United States
AFRCNA 1704 Africana World Literature
AFRCNA 1710 African American Health Issues
AFRCNA 1904 Rebels and Revolution