



# 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)

- \_\_\_\_\_ AFRCNA 0031 Introduction to Africana Studies
- \_\_\_\_\_ AFRCNA 0127 Introduction to Africa
- \_\_\_\_\_ AFRCNA 0787 Black Consciousness
- \_\_\_\_\_ AFRCNA 1768 Africana Senior Research Seminar
- \_\_\_\_\_ AFRCNA \_\_\_\_\_ (elective)
- \_\_\_\_\_ AFRCNA \_\_\_\_\_ (elective)
- \_\_\_\_\_ AFRCNA \_\_\_\_\_ (elective)
- \_\_\_\_\_ AFRCNA 1 \_\_\_\_\_ (upper-level elective)
- \_\_\_\_\_ AFRCNA 1 \_\_\_\_\_ (upper-level elective)
- \_\_\_\_\_ AFRCNA 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 20<sup>th</sup> Century African American Woman History
- AFRCNA 0586 Early African Civilizations
- AFRCNA 0787 Black Consciousness
- AFRCNA 0805 Black Performance Aesthetics
- AFRCNA 0885 Senegal: Intersections of Culture, History, Religion & Dance

#### 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 1410 Traditional Medicine: Health and Healing
- 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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
- AFRCNA 0885 Senegal: Intersections of Culture, History, Religion & Dance

## Select two of the following upper-level courses:

- AFRCNA 1012 Early 20<sup>th</sup> 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 1410 Traditional Medicine: Health and Healing
- 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