

AFRICA AND THE AFRICAN DIASPORA

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Throughout history, African and African American peoples have played a central role on the world's stage, and they continue to offer perspectives critical to understanding the post-modern world. The Africa/African diaspora experience has been most commonly expressed and understood through its history, arts, religion, and politics, and the program draws expertise from an array of disciplines. As students explore the values and lifestyles deriving from communities of African heritage, they gain a fuller understanding of the significance of these global communities' contributions to the larger world.

Overview of the Concentration

The Africa and the African Diaspora concentration integrates studies of African history and culture, the forced movement of African peoples to the New World, and the consequences of slavery and post-slavery relations in the United States. The concentration in Africa and the African Diaspora provides students with the opportunity to study the ways in which Africans and peoples of African descent understand and interpret their interactions with global cultures and traditions.

Intended Learning Outcomes for the Program

Requirements

Requirements for the Concentration

The concentration requires a minimum of five courses. Students are strongly advised to enroll in the interdisciplinary seminar, AFAD 231 Africa and the Americas: The Diaspora Experience, during their first or sophomore year. One independent study may be counted toward the concentration.

Students are also encouraged to include study abroad or away in their concentration planning. See the program director for information on the programs available in Namibia, South Africa, Ghana, and Tanzania, as well as in the British and French Caribbean.

Code	Title	Credits
Foundational course		
AFAD 231	Africa and the Americas: The Diaspora Experience	1.00
Four other courses related to Africa and the African Diaspora¹		4.00
AFAD 294	Academic Internship	
AFAD 298	Independent Study	
AFAD 394	Academic Internship	
AFAD 396	Directed Undergraduate Research	
AFAD 398	Independent Research	
ENGL 108	The Hero and the Trickster in Post-Colonial Literature	

ENGL 205	American Racial and Multicultural Literatures
ENGL 207	Women of the African Diaspora
ENGL 399	The Major Seminar
FREN 271	The Francophone World
FREN 372	Topics in Francophone Studies
FREN 373	Genre Studies
HIST 151	Slavery in African History
HIST 165	Slavery in the Americas
HIST 181	Civil Rights and Revolution
HIST 256	Slavery in West Africa: Ghana (study abroad)
HIST 277	African American History
HIST 288	America in the Civil War and Reconstruction Era
HIST 291	Introduction to African History
HIST 292	Sem: Muslim Societies in Sub-Saharan Africa
HIST 370	Research Seminar: American History
SOAN 128	Introduction to Cultural Anthropology
SOAN 261	Gender in Cross-Cultural Perspective
SOAN 264	Race and Class in American Culture

Total Credits 5

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Elective courses must be relevant to the focus of the concentration. For some electives, students may be required to negotiate specific assignments with the instructor and the director of the concentration. Other courses not identified in this list may also be acceptable, depending on the relevance of their content to the concentration.

Courses

Required Seminar

AFAD 231: *Africa and the Americas: The Diaspora Experience*

The seminar examines Africans in dispersion/Diaspora as students interrogate the African background of African Americans and links between Africans and African Americans. The course examines the dynamics of precolonial West African societies; the nature of the interaction between Africa and the New World; and the role Africans, African culture, and African institutions played in the political, economic, cultural, and religious life of the New World. Students examine the ties that bind Africans and African Americans and explore questions such as: To what extent was the iconography of Africa used to mobilize Africans in dispersion? How effectively was the consciousness of Africa sustained in the New World? What are the contributions of African Americans to Africa? Also counts toward history, race and ethnic studies, and social studies education majors, and race and ethnic studies concentration.

AFAD 294: Academic Internship**AFAD 298: Independent Study****AFAD 394: Academic Internship****AFAD 396: Directed Undergraduate Research**

This course provides a comprehensive research opportunity, including an introduction to relevant background material, technical instruction, identification of a meaningful project, and data collection. The topic is determined by the faculty member in charge of the course and may relate to his/her research interests. Offered based on department decision. May be offered as a 1.00 credit course or .50 credit course.

Prerequisite: Determined by individual instructor.

AFAD 398: Independent Research**Elective Courses**

Elective courses must be relevant to the focus of the concentration. For some electives, students may be required to negotiate specific assignments with the instructor and the director of the concentration. Other courses not identified in this list may also be acceptable, depending on the relevance of their content to the concentration.

ENGL 108 The Hero and the Trickster in Post-Colonial Literature

ENGL 205 American Racial and Multicultural Literatures

ENGL 207 Women of the African Diaspora

ENGL 399 The Major Seminar (when the topic pertains to Africa and the African diaspora)

FREN 271 The Francophone World

FREN 372 Topics in Francophone Studies

FREN 373 Genre Studies

HIST 151 Slavery in African History

HIST 165 Slavery in the Americas

HIST 181 Civil Rights and Revolution

HIST 256 Slavery in West Africa: Ghana (study abroad)

HIST 277 African American History

HIST 288 America in the Civil War and Reconstruction Era

HIST 291 Introduction to African History

HIST 292 Sem: Muslim Societies in Sub-Saharan Africa

HIST 370 Research Seminar: American History (when the topic pertains to Africa & the Africa diaspora)

SOAN 128 Introduction to Cultural Anthropology (with a focus on Africa)

SOAN 261 Gender in Cross-Cultural Perspective

SOAN 264 Race and Class in American Culture

Faculty**Program Director , 2025-2026****David C. Schalliol**

Associate Professor of Sociology/Anthropology
social stratification; urban sociology; visual sociology; criminology; education

Abdulai Iddrisu

Professor of History
African history; Islam in Africa

Joseph L. Mbele (on sabbatical calendar year 2026 (January-December))

Professor of English
folklore; English post-colonial and third world literature