

AFRICAN STUDIES

The African Studies Program is devoted to promoting understanding of the African Continent and its Diaspora, and ultimately to involving knowledgeable, well-trained, and dedicated students and graduates in Africa-related careers. We seek to expand traditional areas studies boundaries by engaging Africa-related expertise across the University as well as within non-governmental organizations and African community groups in the region.



Africa Studies Overview

The African Studies undergraduate minor is offered under the auspices of the Henry M. Jackson School for International Studies on the UW Seattle campus, with related courses at UW Tacoma and UW Bothell. Faculty from more than two dozen UW schools, departments, and programs offer a variety of courses related to Africa and the Diaspora, plus opportunities for research, community based learning, and international exchange in Africa. The Program has at the core of its mission faculty development, promotion of Africa-related scholarship and service, interdisciplinary, and above all the preparation of students for challenging and rewarding careers.

Many faculty involve students in their ongoing research and development projects in Africa. The program also welcomes faculty and students coming from the Continent to study at the UW, and will continue to provide leadership in this direction so that—as resources permit—our research, development, and related activities can increasingly take place within a global framework.

African Studies has developed connections with local African and African diaspora communities, organizations, and leaders, inviting their participation in African Studies events on campus. The program has also partnered with African community members, and agencies serving local African communities, in response to requests from the Mayor's Office and non-governmental agencies to lend faculty expertise to pressing community issues.

Study Abroad

Each year, Exploration Seminars and Study Abroad programs offer students a unique opportunity to travel and study in Africa. Seminars led by African Studies affiliated faculty took place in Kenya, Senegal, the Gambia, South Africa, Sierra Leone, and Zambia. Students also had the opportunity to study abroad in the UK, examining race and health in the African Diaspora.

In addition to group study experiences, many undergraduate students travel to Africa independently to conduct research. Some examples include African Studies minors from the following departments: International Studies (Mali), History & Linguistics (South Africa), Anthropology, Biology & International Studies (the Gambia), General Studies with a concentration in Public Health (Kenya) and Sociology (Ethiopia).

STUDENTS

- 10 declared minors, 2014-2015
- 7 graduated with minor, 2013-2014

COURSES (2014-2015)

- 48 courses in African Studies
- 700+ students enrolled in the seven most popular courses

AFRICAN STUDIES FACULTY DEPARTMENT/ SCHOOL AFFILIATIONS:

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|-----------------------------------|---|
| American Ethnic Studies | Honors Program |
| Aquatic & Fishery Sciences | Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences |
| Architecture | International Health Program |
| Art History | International Studies |
| Anthropology | Law |
| Communication | Linguistics |
| Comparative History of Ideas | Marine Affairs |
| Economics | Music |
| English | Near Eastern Languages and Civilization |
| Forest Resources | Nursing & Health Studies |
| Gender, Women & Sexuality Studies | Political Science |
| Geography | Public Affairs |
| Global Health | Sociology |
| History | Social Work |

Instructional Contributions

The African Studies curriculum is supported across the Social Sciences and Humanities with key courses such as 'Introduction to African History' with Dr. Lynn Thomas (History), 'Peoples of Africa' with Dr. Daniel Hoffman (Anthropology) and 'African Literatures' with Dr. Laura Chrisman (English) among others. We also offer opportunities for advanced graduate students to teach a course on "Political Economy of Africa" every spring.

Students are trained in different theoretical and methodological approaches that allow them to understand African states and peoples in different historical and geographical contexts.

The Program also supports graduate students through a writing workshop and colloquium as well as with research and travel grants through the Ottenberg-Winans Fellowship Award available to both undergraduate and graduate students.

Community Connections

In addition to a stronger presence on the university campus, the African Studies Program has made a concentrated effort to build partnerships with local community agencies, educational institutions, and African and African diaspora populations in the region. As collaboration grows, we anticipate that these partnerships will provide vital contributions to African Studies on campus, to the area, and to global African Studies perspectives as we connect these with study abroad opportunities.

Among our community partners is the Seattle International Film Festival with whom we have collaborated during their African Pictures series in the last few years. Through this partnership the African Studies Program has helped bring African filmmakers who are showing their films at the film festival to campus for intellectual engagements with both faculty and students.

The African Studies Program supports and engages in vibrant initiatives both on campus and in the larger community. Some examples are the graduate student led African Film Social monthly event as well as strong ties with the African Student Association on Seattle campus and the East African Student Association in Bothell Campus. The Program also collaborates closely with MAS (Movimiento Afrolatino Seattle) a community arts organization dedicated to educating about African descent populations in Latin America to bring community leaders to campus and engage students and faculty in community wide events.

In addition, the African Studies Program serves as a resource center filling requests from community members (e.g. lawyers, writers, church members, activists) and networks to provide access to information and resources for a wide variety of community needs.



EXAMPLES OF AREAS OF RESEARCH

South Africa, Political and Economic Anthropology, Gender, Race and Family Studies

African and African-American Art

Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health, Urban and Reproductive Health, Applied International Health, Political Economy

Property Laws of the US and Africa; Feminist Legal Thought; Globalization of Law; Pragmatic International Institutionalism

Role of Law in Economic Development; Human Rights; International Organizations; Law and Development

African Literatures

South African Literary/Cultural Studies, Postcolonial Studies, Black Atlantic Studies

Organizational Development

Ethnomusicology, and Music of the African Diaspora

Arabic, Swahili, and French Languages

Traditional African Religions

Tropical Forests in Developing Countries

Epidemiology and Primary Health Care in Developing Countries

Conservation and Sustainable Development

International Non-Profit Policy

EXAMPLES OF POPULAR COURSES

Art History 250: Survey of Tribal Art

Jackson School Area Studies 362: Political Economy of Africa

Geography 335: Geography of the Developing World

African-American Studies 150: Introduction to African American History

Anthropology 209: Anthropology through Visual Media

Geography 271: Geography of Food & Eating

Sociology 362: Race Relations



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AFRICAN STUDIES PROGRAM

UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON
The Henry M. Jackson
School of International Studies

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