

AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES, BA

Courses offered in the program enable students in all of the colleges within the university to pursue undergraduate sequences for enrichment or specialization in African American studies. Most courses offered through the St. Clair Drake Center for African and African American Studies are interdisciplinary and may be used to satisfy general education requirements as well as electives. The objectives of the African American studies program are:

- To provide a fundamental understanding of those economic, social, cultural, and political forces in Africa, Europe, and North and Latin America that have shaped the lives of African peoples throughout the African Diaspora, c. 1400 to the present.
- To better understand the unique history and relationships between Africans that live outside of the continent and those that have remained.
- To provide, through the Drake Center, a place to conduct basic and applied research.
- To provide resources to create materials that illustrate the problems and development of peoples of African descent in a variety of institutional settings. A major focus of the Drake Center continues to be the Chicago metropolitan area, including urban and suburban enclaves, most notably, the famed Black Metropolis.
- To influence and support conversations about Africa by providing accurate, timely, and appropriate information on selected topics.
- To provide multiple levels of understanding of unique problems of African Americans in contemporary American life and the space required to work toward solutions to those problems.
- To place African American men and women in the complex and often conflicted layers of American society and to show how each has contributed to the development of modern day American society.
- To develop an expanding curriculum and a body of research that informs and influences policy that affects the lives of African Americans.

Students interested in African American studies are encouraged to take courses in African history and politics. Interested students should consult the director of the Drake Center as early in their academic careers as possible.

The BA in African American Studies will help students gain an interdisciplinary understanding on past and present social, economic, and political conditions of Africans and people of African descent, and to connect their struggles for social and economic justice with those of disenfranchised peoples throughout the world.

Standards

Students must complete all course work with a grade of C- or higher, with an overall GPA in the major of at least 2.0.

Requirements: Thirty credit hours of course work are required. With the approval of the program director, students select 21 credit hours from African American Studies courses, of which 12 credit hours must be at the 300 level. Also, 9 credit hours must be selected from courses in African history, politics, and culture. At least 15 credit hours of course work must be taken at Roosevelt University.

Courses listed below are only a portion of possible offerings. Check course schedules or meet with an advisor for additions.

African American Studies Courses

Introductory African American Studies Courses		9
AFS 102	INTRODUCTION TO AFRICAN-AMERICAN STUDIES	
AFS 207	INTRODUCTION TO AFRICAN-AMERICAN LITERATURE	
AFS 211	PSYCHOLOGY STUDY OF RACISM	
AFS 228	AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY:1619-1877	
AFS 229	AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY:1877-1960	
Advanced 300 Level African American Electives		12
AFS 317	THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN WOMAN	
AFS 318	THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN MAN	
AFS 327	RACE AND ETHNIC RELATIONS	
AFS 381	SPECIAL TOPICS IN AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES	
Additional Interdisciplinary Courses may apply. See Advisor.		

African Studies Courses		9
AFS 101	INTRODUCTION TO AFRICAN STUDIES	
AFS 240	INTRODUCTION TO AFRICA: CULTURE & HISTORY	
Additional Interdisciplinary Courses may apply. See Advisor.		

General Education, University Writing Requirement, and Electives		90
Total Credit Hours		120

General Education Requirements

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Academic Communities of Practice		
ACP 101	FIRST YEAR SEMINAR ¹	3
ACP 110	PRIMARY TEXTS	3
ACP 250	FOUNDATIONS FOR CHANGE	3
English Composition ²		

ENG 101	COMPOSITION I: CRITICAL READING & WRITING	3
ENG 102	COMPOSITION II: INTRODUCTION TO ACADEMIC RESEARCH	3
Humanities		
Select 9 credits from the following subject areas: African-American Studies, Art History, English (excluding ENG 101 and ENG 102), History, Languages, Music, Philosophy, Theatre, Speech and Women's and Gender Studies		9
Mathematics		
MATH 110	QUANTITATIVE LITERACY (or above) ³	3
Non-Western requirement		
Non-Western course (can be used for Humanities or Social Sciences general education requirements)		3
RU mission-related course²		
LIBS 201	WRITING SOCIAL JUSTICE	3
Science		
One biological science and one physical science required (at least one must be a four-hour lab (not applicable for science majors))		7-8
Social Sciences		
Select 9 credits from the following subject areas: African-American Studies, Anthropology, Economics, History, Journalism, Philosophy, Political Science, Psychology, Sociology and Women's and Gender Studies		9
Total Credit Hours		49-50

- ¹ Required for students who enter RU with fewer than 12 credit hours
- ² Minimum grade of C- required
- ³ Math, Computer Science & Technology, and Science majors have different requirements—see advisor

These quantitative requirements also apply to degrees in the College of Arts and Sciences:

- Students may apply no more than 60 credit hours of 100-level courses toward the degree.
- Students must apply no fewer than 60 credit hours of 200- and 300-level courses toward the degree.
- Students must have at least 18 credit hours (of the 60 credit hours above) at the 300 level.
- Students may transfer in no more than 66 credit hours from community colleges.
- Students must take their final 30 hours at Roosevelt University. Note that some majors have additional requirements for RU hours.
- Students must have a grade point average of 2.0 or higher to graduate. Note that some majors have additional GPA requirements.
- Students must have a minimum of 90 hours in Arts and Sciences.
- Students may apply no more than 51 hours in the major (BA) or 57 hours in the major (BS)

Your degree map is a general guide suggesting courses to complete each term on the academic pathway to your degree. It is based on the most current scheduling information from your academic program. Your program's degree map is reviewed annually and updated as schedules change (although you retain the same course requirements as long as you are continuously enrolled in your degree program).

Always work closely with your academic advisor to understand curriculum requirements and scheduling, as each student's academic plan can look slightly different.

Year 1

Fall	Credit Hours	Spring	Credit Hours
ACP 101	3	ACP 110	3
ENG 101	3	ENG 102	3
AFS 101	3	Social Science #1	3
MATH 110	3	Humanities #1	3
BIOL 111 or 112 ⁵	4	Physical Science ⁵	3
		16	15

Year 2

Fall	Credit Hours	Spring	Credit Hours
LIBS 201 or ACP 250	3	ACP 250 or LIBS 201	3
Social Science #2	3	AFS 102	3
Humanities #2	3	Social Science #3	3
Humanities #3	3	General Elective ¹	3
AFS 207	3	General Elective ¹	3
		15	15

Year 3

Fall	Credit Hours	Spring	Credit Hours
AFS 228	3	AFS 211	3
AFS 317 or AFS 3XX ³	3	AFS 318 or AFS 3XX ³	3
General Elective ¹	3	General Elective ¹	3
General Elective ¹	3	General Elective ¹	3
General Elective ¹	3	General Elective ¹	3
		15	15

Year 4

Fall	Credit Hours	Spring	Credit Hours
AFS 229	3	AFS 3XX or 390 (Chosen in consultation with program director) ³	3
AFS 381 or AFS 3XX ³	3	General Elective ¹	3
General Elective ¹	3	General Elective ¹	3
General Elective ¹	3	General Elective ¹	3
General Elective ¹	3	General Elective ¹	3
		15	15

Total Credit Hours 121

- ¹ Or course towards an optional Minor
- ² Any course at the 200 level within the discipline.
- ³ Any course at the 300 level within the discipline.
- ⁴ This requirement can be fulfilled by other requirements.
- ⁵ One Natural Science course must have a lab.