African Studies
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Participating Faculty

Yvonne Braun, Sociology
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Dennis C. Galvan, International Studies and Political Science
Ibrahim J. Gassama, Law
Lisa Gilman, Folklore and English
Rita Honka, Dance
Karen McPherson, Romance Languages
Dayo Nicole Mitchell, Honors College
Doris L. Payne, Linguistics
Greg Ringer, International Studies
H. Leslie Steeves, Journalism and Communication
Tania Triana, Romance Languages
Peter A. Walker, Geography and Environmental Studies
Janis Weeks, Biology
Anne Williams, International Studies
Stephen R. Wooten, International Studies and Anthropology

About the Program

The interdisciplinary African Studies Committee encourages teaching and scholarship on Africa, with an emphasis on sub-Saharan Africa, but with attention to North Africa and the wider African diaspora. African Studies offers an undergraduate minor. We bring together faculty, students and staff members with expertise in African studies, promote Africa-related study abroad programs and internships, and encourage course offerings related to Africa. We seek funding to expand African studies resources and organize campus and local community events pertaining to Africa. In addition, African Studies supports faculty and student research on Africa and facilitates dissemination of research through the regularly held Baobab Lectures, for faculty and guest presentations, and the Acacia Seminars, for presentations of student research and experiences.

Overseas Opportunities

The university sponsors a summer journalism program in Ghana as well as a summer international studies program in Dakar, Senegal. UO students may apply to study at the University of Ghana or at the University of Cape Town, South Africa, through the Council on International Educational Exchange. Students may also choose one of twenty programs in twelve African countries sponsored by the School for International Training-Botswana, Cameroon,
Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Mali, Morocco, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania, Tunisia, and Uganda. Financial aid is available for all these programs. Information may be requested from the Office of International Programs; telephone (541) 346-3206.

Students in all University of Oregon overseas study programs enroll in courses with subject codes that are unique to individual programs. Special course numbers are reserved for overseas study. See International Programs in the Academic Resources section of this catalog. Students may earn academic credit while gaining career-related work experience through internships in sub-Saharan Africa overseen by the IE3, Global Internships program. Financial aid is available. More is available from the Office of International Programs.

**African Language Study**

The UO offers first and second year Arabic or Swahili as part of the UO's new World Languages Institute, WLI, which offers less commonly taught languages in a traditional 5 hours per week, 5 credit format. Arabic and Swahili courses through WLI will satisfy the university's 2-year BA foreign language requirement.

The UO also offers opportunities for self-study, with the assistance of native speakers, in Wolof, Bamana-Dyula, Hausa-Fulani, Shona and other languages by request. Information is available from the Yamada Language Center; telephone (541) 346-4011.

**Undergraduate Minor Requirements**

Students who would like to earn a minor in African Studies must satisfy the following requirements:

1. **Four Required Courses [16 credits]**
   - **Hum 315 Introduction to African Studies**, (4 credits)
   - **One course in History of Africa** – A minimum of 4 credits must be earned through successful completion of either
     - HIST 325, Precolonial Africa (4)
     - HIST 326, Colonial & Postcolonial Africa (4)
   - **One course in Contemporary African Issues**: Select from among the following (4 credits):
     - ENVS 450/550, Political Ecology
     - GEOG 475/575 Africa: Politics, Development and Environment
     - INTL 345, Africa Today
     - INTL 445, Development and Social Change in Sub-Saharan Africa
     - HIST 417, Society and Culture in Modern Africa
     - SOC 450, Sociology of Developing Areas
   - **Culture, Ethnicity & Identity in Africa**: Select one from among the following (4 credits):
     - ANTH 327, Anthropological Perspectives on Africa
     - ANTH 310, African Masks and Meanings
     - FR 303, Identités Francophones
     - FR 490, 20th-Century Literature: Post-colonial Africa
     - HIST 416, African Women’s History
     - INTL 447, Comparative "Tribalisms": Ethnic Politics in Africa & US

2. **Electives [12 credits]**. Must be upper division; 8 credits must be at the 400 level.
   - Recommended courses include any of the upper-division courses listed above, or the
following (any other substitutions must be approved by an African Studies Minor advisor):

ANTH 310, African Masks and Meanings
ANTH 327, Anthropological Perspectives on Africa
ANTH 410/510, Ethnography of Postcolonial Africa
DAN 301, Dance in Folk Culture: Africa and the Diaspora
DAN 481, Dance Africa
ENVS 450/550, Political Ecology
ENVS 607, Seminar in Political Ecology
FR 303, Identités Francophones
FR 361, Francophone Literature and Culture
FR 490 The Absurd and the Fantastic
FR 490, 20th-Century Literature: Post-colonial Africa
GEOG 475/575 Africa: Politics, Development and Environment
HIST 325, Precolonial Africa
HIST 326, Colonial & Postcolonial Africa
HIST 416, African Women’s History
HIST 417, Society and Culture in Modern Africa
HIST 419, Topics in African Regional Histories
INTL 345, Africa Today: Issues & Concerns
INTL 420/520, International Community Development
INTL 445, Development and Social Change in Sub-Saharan Africa
INTL 447, Comparative "Tribalisms": Politics of Identity in Africa and the US
J 455, Third World Development Communication
MUS 358, Music in World Cultures
MUS 451, Introduction to Ethnomusicology
MUS 452, Musical Instruments of the World
SOC 313, Social Issues and Social Movements
SOC 450, Sociology of Developing Areas

3. Advanced Research Requirement [4 credits].
At least one 400-level course that requires a research paper and has at least 50% Africa content
   For students who have studied or completed an internship in Africa, the paper should be based on primary source data gathered during that experience.
   For other students, the research paper should include an original argument or line of interpretation based on secondary sources.

4. Decentering Mechanism (or Experiencing Africa). Choose one of the following options:
   a) 15 credits of college-level study of an African language. Possibilities include Arabic, Swahili, Wolof, or one year of another approved language. Arabic and Swahili are currently being regularized as standard course offerings with their own prefixes. Although they are the first language of many African citizens, English, French, Portuguese, and Spanish may not be used to satisfy this requirement.
   b) One term of study-abroad in Africa or a one-term internship in Africa, with a minimum of 12 credits.
For study abroad, courses will be evaluated for UO credit through the standard Office of International Programs procedures for assigning credit and course equivalency.

For internships, students will consult the faculty member who is sponsoring their internship credits to prepare an internship agreement which must include:
   A list of readings relevant to the experience, which are to be completed prior to and during the internship.
   A reflective journal on the student’s activities and cross-cultural experiences.
   A final paper integrating preparatory readings and internship experience (approximately 4500 words, plus references).

An African Studies Minor Advisor must approve the credits earned in study abroad or internship programs.

Limit on Partial Africa-Content Courses
No more than 8 credits may be from courses with less than 50% Africa content

Limit on Performance Course Credits
No more than 4 credits toward the Minor may be from performance courses.

Major-Minor Breadth Requirement
Students must consult with an African Studies advisor to confirm that curricular overlap between the student's major and the African Studies minor maintains the principle of academic breadth.

Graduate Studies

Specialization in African Studies at the graduate level is possible in a number of departments in the College of Arts & Sciences. Anthropology, biology, dance, environmental studies, French (in the Romance Languages department) folklore, geography, history, international studies, linguistics, political science, and sociology have faculty members with expertise and strong interest in this area. It is possible to arrange graduate degree programs in these departments with a concentration in African Studies.