

African American and African Studies

Melvina Sumter, Program Director

The African American and African Studies (AAST) program offers the Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science degrees. The program is designed to give students an essential core of basic knowledge and analytical skills, while providing an opportunity to specialize in one of two emphasis areas: African American Studies or African Studies. The African American and African Studies major requires a total of 36 credit hours in African American and African Studies courses, including 18 credit hours of core coursework, 15 hours of coursework evenly distributed between selected upper-division social science and humanities courses, and a minimum of six credit hours of upper-division coursework in African Studies. African American and African Studies majors are required also to take HIST 105H (Africa in a World Setting).

Students can earn either the B.A. or B.S. degree. The B.A. program requires a foreign language through the intermediate level (202). Students seeking the B.S. degree must demonstrate beginning language proficiency (102). Consistent with Old Dominion University's Career Advantage Program (CAP), students majoring in African American and African Studies are required to participate in an appropriate field internship.

Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Arts – African American and African Studies Major

Lower-Division General Education Requirements

Written Communication *	6
ENGL 110C English Composition	
ENGL 211C English Composition	
or ENGL 221C Introduction to Writing in Business, Education and Social Sciences	
Oral Communication	3
Mathematics	3
STAT 130M Elementary Statistics (required)	
Language and Culture **	0-12
Information Literacy and Research ***	0-3
Human Creativity	3
Interpreting the Past (met in the major with HIST 105H)	
Literature	3
Philosophy and Ethics	3
The Nature of Science	8
Impact of Technology	3
Human Behavior ****	3
Total Hours	35-50

* Grade of C or better required

** B.S. students' competence must be at the 102 level. B.A. students must have competence through the 202 level and competence is not met by the associate degree.

*** Can be met in the major by POLS 308 Research Design

**** AAST 100S may not be used to satisfy this requirement

The requirements for African American and African Studies majors are outlined below. With the permission of the program director, courses not listed below may be approved as substitutions to fulfill program requirements.

Core Requirements (B.A. and B.S.)

AAST 100S	Introduction to African American Studies	3
HIST 105H	Interpreting the African Past	3

1 African American and African Studies

AAST 410	Africana Intellectual Thought and Economic Development	3
AAST 420W	African American Political and Social Thought *	3
AAST 320	Introduction to Research Methods	3
or		
POLS 308	Research Design	
or		
SOC 337	Introduction to Social Research	
AAST 490	Senior Seminar	3
Total Hours		18

* Grade of C or better required

Upper-Division Electives (B.A. and B.S., 15 credit hours, 300 and 400 level courses)

Students majoring in African American and African Studies must earn a minimum of 15 credit hours in upper-division humanities and social science courses related to African American studies. Six credit hours of 300/400 level courses must be from the social sciences and six credit hours from the humanities. The remaining three hours must be taken in either the humanities or social sciences depending upon whether the student is enrolled in the B.A. (humanities) or B.S. (social sciences) program. Courses may be selected from among those listed by category below. *No more than two courses from any one discipline may be taken in any category.* With the permission of the program director, courses not listed below may be approved as substitutions to fulfill program requirements.

Upper-Division Social Science Courses

AAST 305	Africa in Transition	3
AAST 310	Human Rights and Social Change in Africa	3
AAST 368	Internship	3
AAST 395	Topics in African American Studies	3
AAST 396	Topics in African American Studies	3
CRJS 450	Blacks, Crime and Justice	3
CRJS 452	Diversity in Criminal Justice Organizations	3
or SOC 452	Diversity in Criminal Justice Organizations	
GEOG 452	Africa	3
POLS 309	Race, Culture and Public Policy	3
POLS 316	Politics of Africa	3
POLS 410	African American Politics	3
POLS 439	International Relations of African States	3
POLS 412	Politics of the Civil Rights Movement	3
POLS 470	African Americans and Foreign Affairs	3
PSYC 460	Psychology of African Americans	3
SOC 323	Sociology of Minority Families	3
SOC 426	The Sociology of Minority Groups	3
SOC 444	Community Justice	3
or CRJS 444	Community Justice	

Upper-Division Humanities Courses

AAST 368	Internship	3
AAST 395	Topics in African American Studies	3
AAST 396	Topics in African American Studies	3
COMM 332	Making African-American Cinema	3
COMM 434	African-American Rhetoric Voices of Liberation	3
DANC 391	African-American Perspectives in Dance	3
ENGL 465W	African American Literature	3
HIST 361	African-American History to 1865	3
HIST 362	African-American History Since 1865	3
HIST 370	Africa and the Atlantic Slave Trade	3

HIST 455	African-American Historiography	3
HIST 475	History of Modern Africa	3
HIST 477	Africa and the West from the Era of the Slave Trade through Modern Times	3
MUSC 460	History of Jazz	3
WMST 302W	Dimensions of Diversity: Intersectionality Among Women	3

African Studies (B.A. and B.S., 6 credit hours, 300 and 400 level electives)

In addition, students majoring in African American and African Studies must earn six credit hours in African Studies courses. Students may select courses from the following list (or topics courses as approved by the director):

AAST 305	Africa in Transition	3
AAST 310	Human Rights and Social Change in Africa	3
GEOG 452	Africa	3
HIST 370	Africa and the Atlantic Slave Trade	3
HIST 475	History of Modern Africa	3
HIST 477	Africa and the West from the Era of the Slave Trade through Modern Times	3
POLS 316	Politics of Africa	3
POLS 439	International Relations of African States	3

Courses taken in this category cannot duplicate upper-division social sciences and humanities courses taken to fulfill program requirements. At the discretion of the program director, substitutions may be approved to satisfy this requirement. The course options in this category will be expanded and/or modified as they become available.

Electives

Elective courses may be taken for the remainder of the minimum 120 credits required for the degree.

Upper-Division General Education

- Option A. Approved Minor, 12-24 hours; also second degree or second major
- Option B. Interdisciplinary Minor; 12 hours specified by the department, three of which can be in the major
- Option C. International business and regional courses or an approved certification program, such as teaching licensure
- Option D. Two Upper-Division Courses from outside the College of Arts and Letters or from the Arts and Humanities Component within the College of Arts and Letters that are not required by the major (6 hours). AAST courses and any course listed as an elective choice for the major cannot be used to meet this option.

Requirements for Graduation

Graduation requirements include a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.00 overall and in the major, 120 credit hours, which must include both a minimum of 30 credit hours overall and 12 credit hours of upper-level courses in the major program from Old Dominion University, completion of ENGL 110C, ENGL 211C or ENGL 221C or ENGL 231C, and the writing intensive (W) course in the major with a grade of C or better, and completion of Senior Assessment.

African American and African Studies as a Second Major

Students who find themselves especially interested in African American and African Studies but who already have a major may fulfill their upper-division general education requirements by selecting African American and African Studies as a second major. Such students must complete the same departmental requirements as those majoring solely in African American and African Studies, but may count up to five African American

and African Studies cross-listed courses taken for their other major toward their African American and African Studies major as well. For instance, a student majoring in both sociology and African American and African Studies may apply five courses, such as SOC 337, and SOC 436 toward the foundation courses, and SOC 323, SOC 426, SOC 444, taken toward their sociology requirements, as three electives for their major in African American and African Studies.

Minor in African-American Studies

The minor in African American Studies is administered by the Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity. Students who wish to qualify for the program must submit a minor declaration form to the African American Studies program.

A variety of courses are offered to meet the requirements of the minor. Interdisciplinary in nature, the African American Studies minor provides an opportunity for students to investigate the history and culture of people of African descent as well as the current political, social, and economic interaction among all members of society.

The minor in African American Studies is a 15 credit hour program, which includes the following:

AAST 100S	Introduction to African American Studies *	3
A minimum of six hours of 300/400 level humanities courses from among the following:		6
AAST 395	Topics in African American Studies	
AAST 396	Topics in African American Studies	
AAST 495	Topics in African American Studies	
COMM 332	Making African-American Cinema	
COMM 434	African-American Rhetoric Voices of Liberation	
DANC 391	African-American Perspectives in Dance	
ENGL 465W	African American Literature	
HIST 361	African-American History to 1865	
HIST 362	African-American History Since 1865	
HIST 370	Africa and the Atlantic Slave Trade	
HIST 455	African-American Historiography	
HIST 475	History of Modern Africa	
HIST 477	Africa and the West from the Era of the Slave Trade through Modern Times	
MUSC 460	History of Jazz	
WMST 302W	Dimensions of Diversity: Intersectionality Among Women	
A minimum of six hours of 300/400 level social science courses from among the following:		6
AAST 305	Africa in Transition	
AAST 310	Human Rights and Social Change in Africa	
AAST 395	Topics in African American Studies	
AAST 396	Topics in African American Studies	
AAST 410	Africana Intellectual Thought and Economic Development	
AAST 420W	African American Political and Social Thought	
AAST 490	Senior Seminar	
AAST 495	Topics in African American Studies	
CRJS 444	Community Justice	
or SOC 444	Community Justice	
CRJS 452	Diversity in Criminal Justice Organizations	
or SOC 452	Diversity in Criminal Justice Organizations	
CRJS 450	Blacks, Crime and Justice	
GEOG 452	Africa	
POLS 309	Race, Culture and Public Policy	
POLS 316	Politics of Africa	

POLS 410	African American Politics
POLS 412	Politics of the Civil Rights Movement
POLS 439	International Relations of African States
PSYC 460	Psychology of African Americans
SOC 323	Sociology of Minority Families
SOC 426	The Sociology of Minority Groups

Total Hours 15

* Does not count toward the grade point average required for the minor

With the approval of the director, courses that focus on the African American experience can also fulfill the requirements of the minor.

No course taken to satisfy the requirement of the minor can be from a student's major field.

Students must maintain a 2.00 cumulative grade point average in the courses required for the minor exclusive of 100- and 200-level courses and prerequisite courses. A minimum of six hours in upper-level courses in the minor must be courses offered by Old Dominion University.

Students must file a minor declaration form in the ISRE Resource Center in BAL 2023.

AFRICAN-AMERICAN STUDIES Courses

AAST 100S. Introduction to African American Studies. 3 Credits.

An interdisciplinary examination of the African American experience in America. The course examines the historical and contemporary conditions of African American people. It also explores the various modes of artistic expression, values and philosophical underpinnings of African American culture.

AAST 305. Africa in Transition. 3 Credits.

This course is designed to examine various contemporary social movements in Africa from the 1960s to the present day. In addition, this course examines how these social movements have impacted various groups' human, cultural, economic, political, and social capital. Prerequisites: General education human behavior course.

AAST 310. Human Rights and Social Change in Africa. 3 Credits.

This course examines historical social movements in Africa such as economic, ethnic, women's, political, and religious social movements. This course will also link micro-level, meso-level, and macro-level implications for the social structures and cultures of various African nations and communities. Prerequisites: General Education human behavior course.

AAST 320. Introduction to Research Methods. 3 Credits.

This course is an introduction to social research methods. The primary purpose of this course is to survey the major research designs and research techniques that are the core of contemporary approaches used to study social phenomena as well as the lives and experiences of African Americans. Ethical implications of social research and data analysis will also be covered. Prerequisites: General Education human behavior course.

AAST 368. Internship. 3 Credits.

Individual practical experience in community-based organizations, public bureaucracies, administrative agencies and other organizations and firms. Student can gain exposure in the not-for-profit and profit sectors. Prerequisites: Permission of program director.

AAST 395. Topics in African American Studies. 3 Credits.

These courses are open to majors and non-majors. Ethnic studies majors may take these courses to satisfy requirements for the concentration. These courses will appear in the course schedule, and will be more fully described in information distributed to all academic advisors. Prerequisites: AAST 100S or permission of the instructor.

AAST 396. Topics in African American Studies. 3 Credits.

These courses are open to majors and non-majors. Ethnic studies majors may take these courses to satisfy requirements for the concentration. These courses will appear in the course schedule, and will be more fully described in information distributed to all academic advisors. Prerequisites: AAST 100S or permission of the instructor.

AAST 410. Africana Intellectual Thought and Economic Development. 3 Credits.

This course examines Africana philosophical and theoretical thought as it pertains to issues of race, labor and production. Through an examination of the social and economic legacy of slavery and colonialism, this course investigates how systems of exploitation have influenced the underdevelopment of Africa, the Caribbean and North America in its contribution to Western Capitalism. Prerequisites: General Education human behavior course.

AAST 420W. African American Political and Social Thought. 3 Credits.

This course is designed to introduce students to the historical and contemporary experiences of "Blackness" as it has been constructed, contested and affirmed in various historical, political and narrative contexts. Embracing the theme of duality, the course examines what it means for a culture and people to be both integral to and excluded from the American political and social community. This is a writing intensive course. Prerequisites: Grade of C or better in ENGL 211C or ENGL 221C or ENGL 231C and a General Education human behavior course.

AAST 490. Senior Seminar. 3 Credits.

This course will introduce students to the key concepts involved in developing and executing an interdisciplinary research project. Students will read and interpret research literature, execute a research project, write a final research paper, and present research findings in a professional setting. Prerequisites: AAST 320.

AAST 495. Topics in African American Studies. 3 Credits.

This course focuses on a variety of selected topics in African American Studies. These courses will appear in the course schedule, and will be more fully described in information distributed to all academic advisors. Prerequisites: Senior standing.

AAST 497/597. Independent Study. 1-3 Credits.

Students are exposed to opportunities to conduct independent research and/or study in areas focused on the political, social and cultural experiences of people of African descent in the U.S. and the African Diaspora. Prerequisites: Junior standing or permission of instructor.