

AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES, BACHELOR OF ARTS (B.A.) WITH A CONCENTRATION IN EDUCATION

The Bachelor of Arts in African American Studies is an interdisciplinary degree that provides students with knowledge of human cultures and intellectual and practical skills to engage complexity, diversity and change. The degree program fosters students' personal and social responsibility and, through applied learning experiences, empowers students to negotiate and to solve the complex problems of the 21st century. African American studies majors often pursue graduate and professional degree programs in business, education, history, international relations, law, political science, psychology, public health and social work. Career opportunities with a B.A. only in African American Studies include employment in community health agencies, public and private schools and nonprofit organizations.

Student learning outcomes

Upon completing this program, students will know and know how to do the following:

Program core outcomes

- Demonstrate knowledge of the major concepts, perspectives and theories in Africana studies
- Articulate the manner in which institutional structures and systemic practices shape and affect the experiences of Black people in the United States and abroad
- Demonstrate knowledge of basic methodological approaches (both quantitative and qualitative) in Africana studies and the general role of methodology in building knowledge about the Black experience
- Critically engage and propose integrity-based solutions to problems that impact persons of African descent and their communities

Education concentration-specific outcome

- Apply the disciplinary knowledge of Africana studies to pedagogical theory and teaching approaches

Special requirements

Majors in African American studies must meet the general education requirements of the College of Humanities and Sciences. The Bachelor of Arts in African American Studies requires the completion of 120 credits with at least 30 credits in African American Studies courses.

Students in the education concentration must complete 24 core credits along with the following concentration requirements: AFAM 338, AFAM 361 and EDUS 301; two history courses at the 100 level; one political science course at the 300 level with a focus on the United States; one political science course at the 300 level with an international focus; and one geography course. In addition, students must complete the following ancillary requirements: AFAM 111, HIST 201, HUMS 202, POLI 103 and ECON 203.

Students who are interested in pursuing a Master of Teaching degree should be mindful of the application processes required to enter the program at VCU. There are two such processes: 1) the Extended Teacher Preparation Program, to which undergraduate VCU students apply in their

junior or senior year and 2) graduate school, to which students apply during the final semester of their undergraduate course work.

For entry to the extended program, students are required to maintain a minimum GPA of 2.8; to receive a passing score on the VCLA (total score = 470: reading, 235; writing 235); to have completed EDUS 301; and to submit a completed application with all the required supporting documents. Applications are due on Oct. 15 and April 1 each year.

For entry to graduate school, students are required to maintain a minimum GPA of 3.0; to receive a passing score on the GRE; and to submit a completed application with all the required supporting documents.

Students should consult with the African American studies adviser to ensure that they meet these requirements and deadlines.

Degree requirements for African American Studies, Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) with a concentration in education

Course	Title	Hours
General education (https://bulletin.vcu.edu/undergraduate/undergraduate-study/general-education-curriculum/)		
Select 30 credits of general education courses in consultation with an adviser.		30
Major requirements		
• Major core requirements		
AFAM 201	Theories and Foundations of Africana Studies	3
AFAM 211	Africana Social and Political Thought	3
AFAM 310	Black Health Matters: Social Determinants of Health in the African American Community	3
AFAM 311	African Diaspora Experiences	3
AFAM 330	Blackness and Media: Representations of Race, Gender and Culture	3
AFAM 399	Interdisciplinary Research Methods ¹	3
AFAM 493	Internship in Africana Studies	3
AFAM 499	Capstone Seminar in Africana Studies	3
• Concentration requirements		
AFAM 338	Ferguson, USA: The Criminalization of Race in Historical Perspective	3
AFAM/HIST 361	Americans from Africa	3
EDUS 301	Human Development and Learning	3
History 100-level electives (select from list below)		6
Political Science: United States elective (select from list below)		3
Political Science: International elective (select from list below)		3
Geography elective (select from list below)		3
Ancillary requirements		
AFAM 111 Play course video for Introduction to Africana Studies	Introduction to Africana Studies (satisfies general education BOK for humanities/fine arts and/or AOI for global perspectives)	3

POLI 103	U.S. Government and Politics (satisfies general education BOK for social/behavioral sciences and/or AOI for diversities in the human experience) ²	3
ECON 203	Introduction to Economics (satisfies general education BOK for social/behavioral sciences and/or AOI for diversities in the human experience)	3
HIST 201	The Art of Historical Detection: ____ (satisfies general education BOK for humanities/fine arts and/or AOI for diversities in the human experience)	3
HUMS 202	Choices in a Consumer Society	1
Experiential fine arts ⁴		1-3
Foreign language through the 102 level (by course or placement)		0-6
Open electives		
Select any course.		32-40
Total Hours		120

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Any one of GSWS 393, POLI 320, PSYC 317, SOCY 320 or SLWK 380 may be substituted for this course if completed with a minimum grade of C.

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POLI 105 may be substituted. Please consult with an African American Studies advisor.

3

ECON 101, ECON 210 or ECON 211 may be substituted. Please consult with an African American Studies advisor.

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Course offered by the School of the Arts

The minimum number of credit hours required for this degree is 120.

Concentration electives

History (select two from list)

Course	Title	Hours
HIST 101	Survey of European History	3
HIST 102	Survey of European History	3
HIST 103	Survey of American History I	3
HIST 104	Survey of American History II	3
AFAM/HIST 105	Survey of African History	3
AFAM/HIST 106	Survey of African History	3
HIST 107	Survey of East Asian Civilizations	3
HIST 108	Survey of East Asian Civilizations	3
HIST 109	Survey of Latin American History	3
HIST 110	Survey of Latin American History	3

Or a qualifying 100-level course in HIST approved by an African American studies adviser

Political science: United States (select one from list)

Course	Title	Hours
POLI 301	U.S. Parties and Elections	3
POLI 302	Politics of the Civil Rights Movement	3
POLI 303	Public Opinion and Polling	3
POLI 304	Presidential Primaries	3
POLI 305	Political Campaigns and Communication	3
POLI 306	The Congress	3
POLI 307	Political Behavior	3
POLI 308	U.S. Presidency	3
POLI 309	Bureaucratic Politics	3
POLI 310	Public Policy	3
POLI 311	Politics of the Environment	3
POLI 312	Media and Politics	3
POLI 313	U.S. Constitutional Law: Civil Rights and Civil Liberties	3
POLI 314	U.S. Constitutional Law: Structure of Government	3
POLI 315	Courts and Politics	3
POLI 316	Women and the Law	3
AFAM/POLI 318	Politics of Race, Class and Gender	3
POLI 319	Women and American Politics	3
POLI 321	Urban Politics	3
POLI 322	State and Local Government and Politics	3
POLI 323	Virginia Government and Politics	3
POLI 329		3
POLI 330	Lobbying	3
POLI 331	Public Administration	3
POLI 332	Administrative Law	3
POLI 338	Secrecy, Surveillance, Spies and Lies	3
POLI 339	Politics in Film	3
POLI 340	Feminist Political Theory	3
POLI 341	Classical to Modern Political Thought	3
POLI 342	Modern to Contemporary Political Thought	3
AFAM/POLI 343	Black Political Thought	3
POLI 344	Contemporary Political Theory	3
AFAM/POLI 345	African-American Politics	3
POLI 346	Black Political Activism	3
POLI 347	Black Queer Politics	3
POLI 369	U.S. National Security	3

Or a qualifying 300-level course in POLI approved by an African American studies adviser

Political science: International (select one from list)

Course	Title	Hours
POLI 351	Middle Eastern Government and Politics	3
POLI 352	European Governments and Politics	3

POLI 353	Latin American Governments and Politics	3
POLI 354	Russian and Eurasian Government and Politics	3
POLI 355	Asian Governments and Politics	3
AFAM 356	African Government and Politics	3
AFAM/POLI 357		3
POLI 358	Issues in Comparative Politics: ____	3
POLI 360	China in Transition	3
POLI 361	Issues in World Politics: ____	3
POLI 362	International Organizations and Institutions	3
POLI 363	U.S. Foreign Policy	3
POLI 364	Vietnam	3
POLI 365	International Political Economy	3
POLI 366	Women and Global Politics	3
POLI 367	Terrorism	3
POLI 368		3
POLI 380	Human Security	3
POLI 381	The Politics of Genocide	3
POLI 382	Politics of Global Health	3
POLI 383	The Middle East and North Africa in Transition	3
POLI 384	International Law	3
POLI 385	International Security	3
POLI 386	Environmental Security	3
POLI 387	Politics of the European Union	3
POLI 388	International Relations Theory	3

Or a qualifying 300-level course in POLI approved by an African American studies adviser

Geography (select one from list)

Course	Title	Hours
Any 300- or 400-level HIST course with the "regional geography" attribute		
URSP 102	Introduction to Human Geography	3
URSP 108	Uncovering Richmond	3
URSP 116	Introduction to the City	3
URSP 303	World Regions	3
URSP 306	Economic Geography	3
URSP 312	History of Human Settlement	3
URSP 315	The Evolution of American Cities	3
URSP 316	Urban Life in Modern America	3
URSP 331	Geography of Latin America and the Caribbean	3
URSP 333	Geography of Africa	3
URSP 334	Regional Geography of ____	3
URSP 340	World Cities Outside of North America	3
URSP 350	Great Cities of the World	3

Or a qualifying course in URSP approved by an African American studies adviser

What follows is a sample plan that meets the prescribed requirements within a four-year course of study at VCU. Please contact your adviser before beginning course work toward a degree.

		Hours
Freshman year		
Fall semester		
AFAM 111	Introduction to Africana Studies (satisfies general education BOK for humanities/fine arts and/or AOI for global perspectives)	3
	Play course video for Introduction to Africana Studies	
UNIV 101	Introduction to the University	1
UNIV 111	Introduction to Focused Inquiry: Investigation and Communication (satisfies general education UNIV foundations)	3
	Play course video for Introduction to Focused Inquiry: Investigation and Communication	
	Experiential fine arts	1-3
	General education course	3
	General education course (select quantitative foundations)	3-4
Term Hours:		14-17
Spring semester		
HUMS 202	Choices in a Consumer Society	1
POLI 103	U.S. Government and Politics (satisfies general education BOK for social/behavioral sciences and AOI for diversities in the human experience))	3
UNIV 112	Focused Inquiry II (satisfies general education UNIV foundations)	3
	Play course video for Focused Inquiry II	
	Concentration elective (HIST 1XX)	3
	General education course ¹	3
	General education course ¹	3
Term Hours:		16
Sophomore year		
Fall semester		
AFAM 201	Theories and Foundations of Africana Studies	3
UNIV 200	Advanced Focused Inquiry: Literacies, Research and Communication (satisfies general education UNIV foundations)	3
	Concentration elective (HIST 1XX)	3
	Foreign language 101	3
	Open Elective	3
Term Hours:		15
Spring semester		
AFAM 211	Africana Social and Political Thought	3
HIST 201	The Art of Historical Detection: ____	3
	Concentration elective (Geography)	3

Foreign language 102		3
General education course ¹		3
Term Hours:		15
Junior year		
Fall semester		
AFAM 310	Black Health Matters: Social Determinants of Health in the African American Community	3
AFAM 311	African Diaspora Experiences	3
AFAM 361	Americans from Africa	3
EDUS 301	Human Development and Learning	3
Concentration elective (POLI: U.S. or International)		3
Term Hours:		15
Spring semester		
AFAM 330	Blackness and Media: Representations of Race, Gender and Culture	3
AFAM 399	Interdisciplinary Research Methods ²	3
Concentration elective (POLI: U.S. or International)		3
Open electives		6
Term Hours:		15
Senior year		
Fall semester		
AFAM 338	Ferguson, USA: The Criminalization of Race in Historical Perspective	3
AFAM 493	Internship in Africana Studies	3
Open electives		9
Term Hours:		15
Spring semester		
AFAM 499	Capstone Seminar in Africana Studies	3
Open electives		12
Term Hours:		15
Total Hours:		120-123

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Students are required to complete courses in all three breadth of knowledge areas and three of four area of inquiry categories. Select general education courses in consultation with an advisor.

2

Any one of GSWS 393, POLI 320, PSYC 317, SOCY 320 or SLWK 380 may be substituted for this course if completed with a minimum grade of C.

The minimum number of credit hours required for this degree is 120.