

AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES, BACHELOR OF ARTS (B.A.) WITH A CONCENTRATION IN ARTISTIC, HISTORICAL AND LITERARY PERSPECTIVES

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:

- Define Black experiences across the African Diaspora.**
 We aim for each of our majors to demonstrate knowledge of the major concepts, perspectives and theories in Africana studies. This knowledge includes an understanding of the intellectual origins and extant and emergent interdisciplinary scholarship that provide context, definition and form to the collective experiences of persons of African descent.
- Document and measure Black experiences across the African Diaspora.**
 We aim for each of our majors to demonstrate analytical skills that enable them to compare and contrast the utility of qualitative and quantitative approaches in Africana studies and critical-thinking skills that allow them to assess the cultural, political and social implications of such approaches when measuring the experiences of people across Africa and its Diaspora.
- To interpret Black experiences across the African Diaspora.**
 We aim for each of our majors to demonstrate an awareness of the interpretive frameworks that give meaning to Black experiences across the Diaspora. This awareness includes recognition of the intersectionality of artistic, cultural and historical perspectives; gendered, political and religious perspectives; and social and behavioral perspectives.
- To affirm and validate Black experiences across the African Diaspora.**
 We aim for each of our student majors to demonstrate the ability to critically engage and to propose integrity-based solutions to novel problems that impact persons of African descent and their communities

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. At least

15 of the 30 credits in African American Studies must be in upper-level courses.

Students also are required to establish an area of study by taking a minimum of four courses in the artistic, historical and literary perspectives concentration. At least one of the four courses must be an upper-level course.

Degree requirements for African American Studies, Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) with a concentration in artistic, historical and literary perspectives

Course	Title	Hours
General education (http://bulletin.vcu.edu/undergraduate/undergraduate-study/general-education-curriculum/)		
Select 12-13 credits from general education foundations and 17-18 credits from areas of inquiry.		30
Major requirements		
• Major core requirements		
AFAM 201	Theories and Foundations of Africana Studies	3
AFAM 211	Africana Social and Political Thought	3
AFAM 311	African Diaspora Experiences	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		
Complete a minimum of 12 credits from the approved electives below; at least one course must be 300-level or higher.		12
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
HUMS 202	Choices in a Consumer Society	1
Experiential fine arts ²		1-3
Foreign language through the 102 level (by course or placement)		0-6
Open electives		
Select any course.		50-58
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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Course offered by the School of the Arts

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

Artistic, historical and literary perspectives electives

Course	Title	Hours
AFAM/HIST 105	Survey of African History	3
AFAM/ANTH/INTL 200	Introduction to African Societies	3
AFAM 291	Topics in African American Studies	3
AFAM/THEA 303	Black Theatre	3
AFAM 330	Black Sights and Sites: Visual Media and Race	3
AFAM/URSP/INTL 333	Geography of Africa	3
AFAM 338	Ferguson, USA: The Criminalization of Race in Historical Perspective	3
AFAM/ARTH 342	African-American Art	3
AFAM/ARTH 358	African Art and Architecture	3
AFAM/HIST 361	Americans from Africa	3
AFAM/HIST 362	Americans from Africa	3
AFAM/ENGL 363/INTL 366	African Literature	3
AFAM/ENGL 365/INTL 367	Caribbean Literature	3
AFAM/ENGL 379	African-American Literature: Beginnings Through the Harlem Renaissance	3
AFAM 387/HIST 381	History of West Africa to 1800	3
AFAM 389/HIST 383	History of Southern Africa	3
AFAM 390/HIST 380/GSWS 390	Forced and Coerced Labor in Africa and the Americas	3
AFAM 391	Topics in African American Studies	3
AFAM 392/HIST 376	Caribbean History to 1838	3
AFAM/ANTH/INTL 420	Women of Africa	3
AFAM/ARTH 440	Modern and Contemporary Art and Architecture of Africa	3
AFAM 491	Topics in African-American Studies (courses with an artistic, historical or literary focus only)	3
APPM 360	Jazz Orchestra I ¹	1
APPM 361	Small Jazz Ensemble ¹	1
ARTH 454	Studies in African Art	3
DANC 255	Hip Hop Dance	2
DANC 256	Hip Hop Dance	2
DANC 291	Topics in Dance	1-4
DANC 413	African American Presence in American Dance, Performance and Social Contexts	3
ENGL 355	Black Women Writers	3
ENGL/AFAM 382	African-American Literature: Realism to the Present	3
FREN 450	Francophone Literatures and Cultures	1-3
HIST 302	Ancient Egypt	3
HIST 348	The American Civil War and Reconstruction	3
HIST 352	History of the South I	3
HIST 353	History of the South II	3

HIST 356	History of Virginia I	3
HIST 357	History of Virginia II	3
HIST 360	The Long Civil Rights Movement	3
HIST 377	Caribbean History Since 1838	3
HIST 378	Atlantic Slavery	3
HIST 384/AFAM 388	Africa: Social, Cultural and Economic History	3
HIST 410	Studies in African History: ____	3
HIST 411	Studies in the African Diaspora: ____	3
HIST 417	Studies in African American History: ____	3
MHIS 147	Jazz Theory and Aural Skills ²	3
MHIS 291	Topics in Music	1-3
MHIS 311	Jazz Arranging I ²	3
MHIS 312	Jazz Arranging II ²	3
MHIS 324	Jazz History ²	3

Some crosslisted courses may count toward multiple concentration requirements.

¹

Accessible by audition

²

Restricted to music majors

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.

Freshman year

Fall semester	Hours
AFAM 111 Introduction to Africana Studies (satisfies general education BOK for humanities/fine arts and/or AOI for global perspectives)	3
UNIV 101 Introduction to the University	1
UNIV 111 Focused Inquiry I (satisfies general education UNIV foundations)	3
UNIV 111 Focused Inquiry I	3
Experiential fine arts	1-3
General education course (select AOI for diversities in the human experience)	3
General education course (select quantitative foundations)	3-4
Term Hours:	14-17

Spring semester

HUMS 202 Choices in a Consumer Society	1
UNIV 112 Focused Inquiry II (satisfies general education UNIV foundations)	3
UNIV 112 Focused Inquiry II	3

General education course (select AOI for creativity, innovation and aesthetic inquiry)	3
General education course (select AOI for scientific and logical reasoning)	3
General education course (select BOK to complete breadth of knowledge requirement)	3
Open elective	3
Term Hours:	16

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.

Sophomore year

Fall semester

AFAM 201 Theories and Foundations of Africana Studies	3
UNIV 200 Inquiry and the Craft of Argument (satisfies general education UNIV foundations)	3
Foreign language 101	3
Open electives	6
Term Hours:	15

Spring semester

AFAM 211 Africana Social and Political Thought	3
Approved artistic, historical and literary perspectives elective	3
Foreign language 102	3
General education course (select BOK to complete breadth of knowledge requirement)	3
Open elective	3
Term Hours:	15

Junior year

Fall semester

AFAM 311 African Diaspora Experiences	3
Approved artistic, historical and literary perspectives elective	3
Open electives	9
Term Hours:	15

Spring semester

AFAM 399 Interdisciplinary Research Methods ¹	3
Approved artistic, historical and literary perspectives elective	3
Open electives	9
Term Hours:	15

Senior year

Fall semester

AFAM 493 Internship in Africana Studies	3
Approved artistic, historical and literary perspectives elective	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