AFRICANA STUDIES

Where tomorrow’s leaders are nurtured.

People of African descent have made and continue to make major contributions to the world’s history and cultures. This legacy has its roots in Africa and its adaptations are worldwide. Unique perspectives on freedom, justice, and equality are major portions of this evolving legacy.

AFRICANA STUDIES AT IUPUI

African Studies draws on a broad range of faculty expertise from many academic departments. Our scholars document the migrations, history, life, culture, and politics of people of African descent in the world as well as patterns of linkages to the African continent and the peoples of the African Diaspora.

African Studies is an innovative stand-alone major or one that complements a variety of conventional majors. It adds contrast to the study of Economics, English, History, Political Science, or Religious Studies by offering an essential and critical alternative perspective. African Studies also provides an important focus to the study of Anthropology, World Languages, or Philosophy.

SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES

African Studies students benefit from the program’s unique relationship with the Frederick Douglass Papers Project. Located in the School of Liberal Arts, the project includes correspondence, manuscripts and published works by and about this famous 19th century freedom fighter.

Students have the opportunity to participate in annual professional conferences of the National Council for Black Studies, the African Studies Association, the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, and the Caribbean Studies Association.

In addition, African Studies collaborates with international and local organizations such as Moi University (Kenya), the Indianapolis Urban League and the 100 Black Men of Indianapolis, which offer the opportunity for student learning and research as well as the application of classroom learning to the real world.

THE MAJOR

In addition to the general distribution requirements and credit hours required by the IU School of Liberal Arts for the Bachelor of Arts degree, students who major in Africana Studies complete 33 credit hours (11 classes) of course work.

Required courses

(3 courses/9 credit hours)
- AFRO A140: Introduction to African American and African Diaspora Studies
- AFRO A200: Research in African American and African Diaspora Studies
- AFRO A306: Globalization, Struggle and Empowerment in the African Diaspora

Area Concentration Requirement

(3 courses/9 credit hours)
In one of the following geographical areas
- Africa
- Caribbean and Latin America
- North America

Electives

(4 courses/12 credit hours)
- Selected from Africana Studies Program or courses from other departments, which are cross-listed in Africana Studies

Integrative Capstone Experience

(1 course/3 credit hours)
- AFRO A414 Seminar in African American Studies
- AFRO A495 Independent Study (Director Approval Needed)

For a complete list of current course offerings, please visit the program website. liberalarts.iupui.edu/africana

A minor in Africana Studies, recorded on the student’s transcript, requires that students fulfill 15 credit hours with a minimum grade of C in each course from the program’s curriculum. At least 6 credits must consist of AFRO A140 and either AFRO A200 or AFRO A306.

A certificate in African Studies, recorded on the student’s transcript, is also available to students who are required to fulfill 18 credit hours with a minimum grade of C in each of 6 courses from the program’s curriculum. At least 6 credit hours counting towards the certificate must consist of AFRO A152, AFRO A200 or AFRO A495. Additionally, students must meet IUPUI’s standard admissions requirements, complete 55 credit hours towards graduation and have a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

What can you do with a degree in Africana Studies? Ask Dr. Mae Jemison, the first African American female NASA astronaut. Or ask world-acclaimed Hollywood actor Angela Bassett. Yes, both of these famous individuals majored in Africana Studies while in college—and you can join their esteemed ranks. Africana Studies is useful to students applying to graduate school, business or law school and other professional programs such as social work because it promotes cultural sensitivity and enables prospective students in those areas to make important connections across disciplinary lines. A major in Africana Studies offers undergraduates an opportunity to work closely with a professor and develop an independent course of study that is a key to success in professional or graduate school.

Africana Studies is also highly useful for students seeking careers in education, journalism, medicine, nursing, and any field sensitive to ethnic, racial or cultural context. Any job or endeavor that requires the synthesis of broad ideas and understanding the dynamics of power in a local, national, and/or global setting benefits from the intellectual experience offered by the Africana Studies program.

CONTACT US

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