

Hello New Major,

Welcome to African and African American Studies! AAAS is Duke's center for interdisciplinary teaching and scholarship on Africa and people of African descent around the world, namely in the Americas. It hosts anthropologists, humanists, political scientists, historians, sociologists, geneticists, scholars of the performing arts and literature whose work engages the conditions and experiences of Africans and communities of the African diaspora.

Our Department offers a comprehensive and intertwined study program where undergraduates choose between an **African** and an **African American concentration**. AAAS provides a broad liberal arts education and prepares for the increasingly rigorous expectations of prospective employers. Our program appeals to students considering admission to graduate or professional schools, and careers in education, business, law, politics, the media and publishing, international relations, arts and performance, development or humanitarian aid, and global health, or social work.

The Major in AAAS requires a total of **ten courses**, eight of which must be at the 200 level or above. **Three** of them are **mandatory courses** that all students – regardless of the concentration they have elected - need to take (though they're not obliged to start with the introductory classes):

- Introduction to African American Studies (AAAS 102)
- Introduction to African Studies (AAAS 103)
- Senior Seminar (AAAS 499S): this course is mandatory for the spring semester of the senior year or the spring prior for those graduating in the fall.


Three additional classes (one from each category) in the elected concentration, i.e. **either in African Studies** or **in African American Studies** in the following areas: arts and literature; history; and social, religious, economic, or political institutions/processes. Finally, our majors must attend **four more AAAS courses** of their choice.

The Minor in AAAS requires a total of **five courses**, two of which must be **AAAS 102** and **AAAS 103**. Three must be at the 200-level or above.

Advising: When students declare the AAAS major, we immediately attribute a faculty adviser to both first and second majors. If they have a preference for a specific adviser in our department, they are welcome to make this known to AAAS's administrator and Assistant to the Director of Undergraduate Studies, StacyNicole Robinson (stacynicole.robinson@duke.edu). For any question they may have, at any time, they're also invited to contact our Director of Undergraduate Studies, Stephen Smith (ssmith9@duke.edu). Once in the academic year, usually in the spring, a "majors' and minors' dinner" also provides an opportunity for them to meet with our faculty outside of the classroom.

Again, we extend a warm welcome to African and African American Studies at Duke.

Cordially,



(Stephen W. Smith)