



Welcome to African & 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 experiences of Africans and communities of the African diaspora.

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, media, international relations, arts and performance, development or humanitarian aid, 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 must take (though you are 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.

Additionally, majors choose between an **Africa OR Americas concentration**. **Three additional classes** in the elected concentration, i.e. focused on **either Africa or the Americas (one from each Area of Knowledge: ALP, CZ, and SS) are required**. Finally, our majors must complete **four more courses** of their choice **listed or cross-listed in AAAS**. All of these courses must be **listed or cross-listed in AAAS at the 200-level or above**.

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

If a major or minor desire to take a course offered by another academic unit NOT listed or cross-listed with AAAS, you must receive advance approval by the DUS. To help keep track of your progress toward fulfilling your requirements there is a worksheet you can download, fill in and send to the DUSA (Director of Undergraduate Studies Assistant, currently, Melanie Mitchell (melanie.mitchell@duke.edu) to review and for the DUS' approval. Requirements and worksheets can be found at this link: <https://aaas.duke.edu/undergraduate/major-minor>

Advising: When students declare the AAAS major, we assign a faculty advisor to both first and second majors. If you have a preference for a specific advisor in our department, please make this known to the. For any question you may have, at any time, you are also invited to contact the DUSA or our Director of Undergraduate Studies, Charmaine DM Royal (charmaine.royal@duke.edu).

During the academic year, you will receive messages from the department with information about opportunities to engage with AAAS faculty, and in events and programs outside of the classroom.

Again, a warm welcome to African & African American Studies; we look forward to working with you at Duke!

Cordially,

Charmaine DM Royal

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