AFRICAN STUDIES

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FACULTY ASSOCIATED WITH THE PROGRAM OF AFRICAN STUDIES

Professors Lea Brilmayer (Law School), Kamari Clarke (Anthropology), John Darnell (Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations), Owen Fiss (Law School), Robert Harms (History), Andrew Hill (Anthropology), Roderick McIntosh (Anthropology), Christopher L. Miller (African American Studies, French), Nicoli Nattrass (Ethics, Politics, & Economics) (Visiting), Catherine Panter-Brick (Anthropology), Lamin Sanneh (History, Divinity School), Jeremy Seekings (Global Affairs) (Visiting), Ian Shapiro (Political Science), Robert Thompson (History of Art), Christopher Udry (Economics), Michael Veal (Music), David Watts (Anthropology), Elisabeth Wood (Political Science)

Assistant Professors Daniel Magaziner (History), Jonathan Wyrtzen (Sociology)

Senior Lecturer Cheryl Doss (Economics)

Lecturers Lacina Coulibaly (Theater Studies), Anne-Marie Foltz (Public Health), Kristin McKie (Political Science), David Simon (Political Science)

Senior Lectors II Sandra Sanneh, Kiarie Wa’Njogu

Senior Lectors Oluseye Adesola, Matuku Ngamie

The program in African Studies enables students to undertake interdisciplinary study of the arts, history, cultures, politics, and development of Africa. As a foundation, students in the program gain a cross-disciplinary exposure to Africa. In the junior and senior years, students develop analytical ability and focus their studies on research in a particular discipline such as anthropology, art history, history, languages and literatures, political science, or sociology.

African Studies provides training of special interest to those considering admission to graduate or professional schools, or careers in education, journalism, law, management, medicine, politics, psychology, international relations, creative writing, or social work. The interdisciplinary structure of the program offers students an opportunity to satisfy the increasingly rigorous expectations of admissions committees and prospective employers for a broad liberal arts perspective that complements specialized knowledge of a field.

Requirements of the major The program in African Studies consists of thirteen term courses including (1) one African Studies course in the humanities and one in the social sciences; (2) two years of an African language (Arabic, Kiswahili, Yorùbá, isiZulu, or others with permission of the director of undergraduate studies), unless waived by examination; (3) the junior seminar on research methods, AFST 401; and (4) a concentration of four term courses in a discipline such as anthropology, art history, history, languages and literatures, political science, or sociology, or in an interdisciplinary program such as African American Studies; Ethnicity, Race, and Migration; or Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. Other areas of concentration (e.g., diaspora studies, development studies) may be chosen in consultation with the director of undergraduate studies.

The required courses represent the core of the program and are intended to expose the student both to the interdisciplinary nature of African studies and to the methodologies currently being brought to bear on the study of African cultures and societies. Students are encouraged to include upper-level courses, especially those centering on research and methodology.

Senior requirement Senior majors enroll in AFST 490, a colloquium that gives them an opportunity to exchange ideas with each other and to give presentations on their research. In the course, students also prepare a prospectus, compile a bibliography, and write a draft chapter of the senior essay. After completing the colloquium, each student carries out the remaining research and writing of the senior essay in AFST 491 under the guidance of a faculty adviser.

A preliminary statement indicating the topic to be addressed and the name of the faculty adviser must be submitted to the director of undergraduate studies by the end of the second week of the fall term in the senior year. Students should also inform the director of undergraduate studies of their preferred second reader by this time.

Language requirement African Studies majors are required to complete two years of college-level study of an African language or the equivalent, and they are encouraged to continue beyond this level. For the major’s language requirement to be waived, a student must pass a placement test for admission into an advanced-level course or, for languages not regularly offered at Yale, an equivalent test of speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills administered through the Center for Language Study. Students should begin their language study as early as possible.

Program in African Languages The language program offers instruction in three major languages from sub-Saharan Africa: Kiswahili (eastern and central Africa), Yorùbá (West Africa), and isiZulu (southern Africa). African language courses emphasize communicative competence, using multimedia materials that focus on the contemporary African context. Course sequences are designed to enable students to achieve advanced competence in all skill areas by the end of the third year, and students are encouraged to spend a summer or term in Africa during their language study.
Courses in Arabic are offered through the department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations. Noncredit instruction in other African languages is available by application through the Directed Independent Language Study program at the Center for Language Study. Contact the director of the Program in African Languages for information.

**Procedure** Students planning to major in African Studies should consult the director of undergraduate studies as early as possible.

**M.A. program** The African Studies program does not offer the simultaneous award of the B.A. and M.A. degrees. However, students in Yale College are eligible to complete the M.A. in African Studies in one year of graduate work if they begin the program in the third and fourth undergraduate years. Students interested in this option must complete eight graduate courses in the area by the time of the completion of the bachelor’s degree. Only two courses may be counted toward both graduate and undergraduate degrees. Successful completion of graduate courses while still an undergraduate does not guarantee admission into the M.A. program.

**REQUIREMENTS OF THE MAJOR**

**Prerequisites** None

**Number of courses** 13 term courses (incl senior req)

**Distribution of courses** 1 African Studies course in humanities and 1 in social sciences; 2 years of an African lang; 4 courses in area of concentration

**Specific course required** AFST 401

**Senior requirement** Senior colloquium (AFST 490) and senior essay (AFST 491)

### African Studies Courses

*AFST 105a / AFAM 235a / HIST 105Ja, America and Africa, 1492 to the Present*  
Joseph Yannielli  
The complex relationship between Africa and America, from the Columbian era through the recent invasion of Libya. Topics include the rise and demise of the transatlantic slave trade, piracy, zombies, religious missions, colonialism, resistance movements, and humanitarian and military interventions. Sources from film, images, letters, newspaper articles, novels, pamphlets, and travelogues. **HU**

*AFST 110a*, Introduction to an African Language I  
Kiaric Wa’Njogu and staff  
Beginning instruction in an African language other than those regularly offered. Courses offered depend on availability of instructors. Methodology and materials vary with the language studied. Credit only on completion of AFST 120. Students may also study an African language through the noncredit Directed Independent Language Study program. **LI 1½ Course cr**

AFST 180bG / ER&M 313b, Nigeria and Its Diaspora  
Oluseye Adesola  
Nigerians in the modern diaspora, both those who endured forced migration and those who migrated voluntarily. Specific reference to the Igbos and the Yorùbás. The preservation and maintenance of Nigerian culture, history, dance, literature, traditional education, theater, politics, art, music, film, religion, and folklore, especially in African American and Nigerian American contexts. **SO**

AFST 272a / ANTH 272a / ARCG 272a, African Prehistory  
Roderick McIntosh  
Survey of the archaeological evidence for the original contributions of the African continent to the human condition. The unresolved issues of African prehistory, from the time of the first hominids, through the development of food production and metallurgy, to the rise of states and cities. **SO**

AFST 280a / MMES 196a / SOCY 135a, Islamic Society, Culture, and Politics  
Jonathan Wyrtzen  
The historical development of the global Muslim community, from its origins in seventh-century Arabia through its spread over subsequent centuries into the Middle East, Africa, Central, South, and Southeast Asia, and the West. The tremendous variation and complexity expressed in society, culture, and politics across the Islamic world; Islam as a unifying factor on critical issues such as religious practice, political structure and activism, gender, and cultural expression. **SO**

*AFST 330a / AFAM 191a / FREN 230a / LITR 266a, Introduction to Francophone African and Caribbean Literature*  
Christopher L. Miller  
A comprehensive survey of literature written in French from sub-Saharan Africa and the Caribbean. The context of French colonialism and its institutions; the rise of Negritude and nationalism; independence and the postcolonial era. Authors include Senghor, Césaire, Sembène (including film), Kourouma, Bâ, Belaya, Condé, and Lopes. L5, **HU**

AFST 340b / HIST 340b, Africa in the Era of the Slave Trade  
Robert Harms  
Examination of the tumultuous changes experienced by African societies during the era of the Atlantic slave trade, approximately 1450–1850. Focus on the complex interaction between the internal dynamics of African societies and the impact of outside forces. **HU**

AFST 347a / GLBL 243a / LAST 348a / PLSC 347a, Post-Conflict Politics  
David Simon  
Consideration of a range of issues and challenges faced by countries emerging from domestic conflict. Focus on elements of peace-building—demilitarization, post-conflict elections, institution-building, and reconstruction—as well as modes of transitional justice and mechanisms for truth and reconciliation. **SO**

*AFST 348b / MMES 291b / SOCY 232b*, Islamic Social Movements  
Jonathan Wyrtzen  
Social movement and network theory used to analyze the emergence and evolution of Islamic movements from the early twentieth century to the present. Organization, mobilization, and framing of political, nonpolitical, militant, and nonmilitant movements;
transnational dimensions of Islamic activism. Case studies include the Muslim Brotherhood, Hamas, Hizbollah, Al-Qaeda, Al-Adl wa-Ihsam, and Tabligh Jama’at.

**AFST 361b, Human Rights in the African Context**
Soo-Ryun Kwon
Overview of international human rights law, policy, and practice. The origins and foundations of human rights; case studies from Africa. The roles of international, regional, and domestic actors in enforcing human rights standards. Evaluation of the effectiveness of international human rights efforts. SO

**AFST 372a / MMES 105a / SOCY 372a, Comparative Nationalism in North Africa and the Middle East**
Jonathan Wyrtzen
The rise of nationalism in the Maghreb (or Arab West) and Mashriq (or Arab East). Introduction to major debates about nationalism; the influence of transnational (pan-Islamic and pan-Arab) ideologies, ethnicity, gender, and religion. Case studies include Egypt, Iraq, Israel, Palestine, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, the Gulf monarchies, Morocco, Western Sahara, Algeria, and Berber and Kurdish movements. SO

**AFST 373b / GLBL 362b / MMES 282b / SOCY 339b, Imperialism, Insurgency, and State Building in the Middle East and North Africa**
Jonathan Wyrtzen
The historical evolution of political order from Morocco to Central Asia in the past two centuries. Focus on relationships between imperialism, insurgency, and state building. Ottoman, European, and nationalist strategies for state building; modes of local resistance; recent transnational developments; American counterinsurgency and nation-building initiatives in the region. SO

**AFST 389a / GLBL 186a / MMES 181a / PLSC 389a, Middle East Exceptionalism**
Adria Lawrence
The Middle East and North Africa in comparative perspective. Evaluation of claims that the region’s states are exceptionally violent, authoritarian, or religious. Themes include gender, Islam, nation and state formation, oil wealth, terrorism, and war. SO

**AFST 398a / ER&M 398a / PLSC 422a / SOCY 398a, Race and Class in Comparative Perspective**
Jeremy Seekings
The evolution and character of class stratification and racial inequalities in South Africa, Brazil, and the United States. Twentieth-century analyses of the three societies, including studies of caste and their critiques by Marxist theory. Contemporary issues such as urban inequalities, middle classes and underclasses, identity, and political mobilization. SO

**AFST 401a, Research Methods in African Studies**
Cheryl Doss
Disciplinary and interdisciplinary research methodologies in African studies, with emphasis on field methods and archival research in the social sciences and humanities. Research methodologies are compared by studying recent works in African studies. SO

**AFST 406a / GLBL 363a / PLSC 406a, Sexual Violence and War**
Elisabeth Wood
Analysis of patterns of sexual violence in war. Assessment of how well scholars in various disciplines and policy analysts account for these patterns. SO

**AFST 420a / EP&E 246a / LAST 406a / PLSC 430a, The Politics of Development Assistance**
David Simon
Study of development assistance, a dominant feature of the political economies of some of the world’s poorest countries. The motivations and politics of aid from donors’ perspectives; the political and economic impact of aid on developing countries. Proposals to make aid a more effective instrument of development. SO

**AFST 421b, Performance in Africa**
Frederick Lamp
Examination of ten specific works of African performance from antiquity to the twenty-first century. Viewing of documentary films and photographs; study of audio recordings; critique of readings in performance theory and case studies; theater and museum visits. HU

**AFST 430a, Language Planning in Sub-Saharan Africa**
Kiarie Wa’Njogu
Examination of language policies in selected sub-Saharan African countries. Analysis of language use in different contexts; assessment of the impact of globalization on African languages. HU

**AFST 435a / THST 335a, West African Dance: Traditional to Contemporary**
Lacina Coulibaly
A practical and theoretical study of the traditional dances of Africa, focusing on those of Burkina Faso and their contemporary manifestations. Emphasis on rhythm, kinesthetic form, and gestural expression. The fusion of modern European dance and traditional African dance. Admission by audition during the first class meeting. HU RP

David Simon
An examination of the 1994 Rwandan genocide: historical sources of the conflict, the motivations of the killers, actions and reactions of outside actors, efforts to reconstruct a post-genocide society, and continuation of the genocidal dynamic within the Great Lakes region. Consideration of other countries in similar situations, as well as other genocides in recent decades. SO

**AFST 461b, African Agriculture**
Biola Phillip
Introduction to economic issues related to agriculture in sub-Saharan Africa. The environment and policies that gave rise to the current state of agricultural production. Critical review of recent empirical work. Prerequisite: ECON 115 or equivalent. Recommended preparation: ECON 116 or equivalent. SO

**AFST 464a / ECON 464a, The Economics of Africa**
Cheryl Doss
Study of key microeconomic issues facing African economies and of the economic tools used to analyze such issues. Topics include infrastructure, land, agriculture, conflict, intrahousehold issues, health and education, microfinance and risk, and coping strategies. Readings from recent literature in microeconomic development. Prerequisites: intermediate microeconomics and econometrics. SO
*AFST 471a and AFST 472b, Independent Study  Cheryl Doss
Independent research under the direction of a faculty member in the program on a special topic in African Studies not covered in other courses. Permission of the director of undergraduate studies and of the instructor directing the research is required. A proposal signed by the instructor must be submitted to the director of undergraduate studies by the end of the second week of classes. The instructor meets with the student regularly, typically for an hour a week, and the student writes a final paper or a series of short essays. Either term or both terms may be elected.

*AFST 486a / HIST 388Ja, Slavery and the Slave Trade in Africa  Robert Harms
The slave trade from the African perspective. Analysis of why slavery developed in Africa and how it operated. The long-term social, political, and economic effects of the Atlantic slave trade. WR, HU

*AFST 487a / HIST 387Ja, West African Islam: Jihad Tradition and Its Pacifist Opponents  Lamin Sanneh
The influence of Islam on state and society, and the encounters of Muslim Africans first with non-Muslim societies in Africa and then with the modern West in the colonial and postcolonial periods. Focus on Muslim religious attitudes and responses to the secular national state and to the Western tradition of the separation of church and state. WR, HU

*AFST 490a, African Studies Colloquium  Staff
Students conduct research for the senior essay, give presentations on their research, and prepare a bibliography, a prospectus, and a draft chapter of the senior essay. Discussion of model essays and other examples of writing. HU, SO

*AFST 491a or b, The Senior Essay  Staff
Independent research on the senior essay. By the end of the sixth week of classes, a rough draft of the entire essay should be completed. By the end of the last week of classes (fall term) or three weeks before the end of classes (spring term), two copies of the final essay must be submitted.

Kiswahili Courses

SWAH 110a, Beginning Kiswahili I  Kiari Wa’Njogu
A beginning course with intensive training and practice in speaking, listening, reading, and writing. Initial emphasis is on the spoken language and conversation. Credit only on completion of SWAH 120. L1 1½ Course cr

SWAH 120b, Beginning Kiswahili II  Kiari Wa’Njogu
Continuation of SWAH 110. Texts provide an introduction to the basic structure of Kiswahili and to the culture of the speakers of the language. Prerequisite: SWAH 110. L2 1½ Course cr

SWAH 130a, Intermediate Kiswahili I  Kiari Wa’Njogu and Serah Shani
Further development of students’ speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills. Prepares students for further work in literary, language, and cultural studies as well as for a functional use of Kiswahili. Study of structure and vocabulary is based on a variety of texts from traditional and popular culture. Emphasis on command of idiomatic usage and stylistic nuance. After SWAH 120. L3 1½ Course cr

SWAH 140b, Intermediate Kiswahili II  Kiari Wa’Njogu
Continuation of SWAH 130. After SWAH 130. L4 1½ Course cr

SWAH 150a, Advanced Kiswahili I  Kiari Wa’Njogu
Development of fluency through readings and discussions on contemporary issues in Kiswahili. Introduction to literary criticism in Kiswahili. Materials include Kiswahili oral literature, prose, poetry, and plays, as well as texts drawn from popular and political culture. After SWAH 140. L5

SWAH 160b, Advanced Kiswahili II  Kiari Wa’Njogu
Continuation of SWAH 150. After SWAH 150. L5

SWAH 170a and b, Topics in Kiswahili Literature  Kiari Wa’Njogu
Advanced readings and discussion with emphasis on literary and historical texts. Reading assignments include materials on Kiswahili poetry, Kiswahili dialects, and the history of the language. After SWAH 160. L5, HU

Yoruba Courses

YORU 110a, Beginning Yorùbá I  Oluseye Adesola
Training and practice in speaking, listening, reading, and writing. Initial emphasis is on the spoken aspect, with special attention to unfamiliar consonantal sounds, nasal vowels, and tone, using isolated phrases, set conversational pieces, and simple dialogues. Multimedia materials provide audio practice and cultural information. Credit only on completion of YORU 120. L1 1½ Course cr
YORU 120bG, Beginning Yorùbá II  Oluseye Adesola
Continuing practice in using and recognizing tone through dialogues. More emphasis is placed on simple cultural texts and role playing.
Prerequisite: YORU 110. L2 1½ Course cr

YORU 130G, Intermediate Yorùbá I  Oluseye Adesola
Refinement of students’ speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills. More natural texts are provided to prepare students for work in literary, language, and cultural studies as well as for a functional use of Yorùbá. After YORU 120. L3 1½ Course cr

YORU 140G, Intermediate Yorùbá II  Oluseye Adesola
Students are exposed to more idiomatic use of the language in a variety of interactions, including occupational, social, religious, and educational. Cultural documents include literary and nonliterary texts. After YORU 130. L4 1½ Course cr

YORU 150G, Advanced Yorùbá I  Oluseye Adesola
An advanced course intended to improve students’ aural and reading comprehension as well as speaking and writing skills. Emphasis on acquiring a command of idiomatic usage and stylistic nuance. Study materials include literary and nonliterary texts; social, political, and popular entertainment media such as movies and recorded poems (ẹwí); and music. After YORU 140. L5

YORU 160G, Advanced Yorùbá II  Oluseye Adesola
Continuing development of students’ aural and reading comprehension and speaking and writing skills, with emphasis on idiomatic usage and stylistic nuance. Study materials are selected to reflect research interests of the students. After YORU 150. L5

YORU 170G and YORU 171G, Topics in Yorùbá Literature and Culture  Oluseye Adesola
Advanced readings and discussion concerning Yorùbá literature and culture. Focus on Yorùbá history, poetry, novels, movies, dramas, and oral folklore, especially from Nigeria. Insight into Yorùbá philosophy and ways of life. Prerequisite: YORU 160. L5, HU

YORU 180G and YORU 181G, Advanced Topics in Yorùbá Literature and Culture  Oluseye Adesola
Designed for students with superior proficiency in Yorùbá who have an interest in topics not otherwise covered by existing courses. Development of language proficiency to the level of an educated native speaker. Discussion of advanced readings on Yorùbá philosophy, history, literature, and culture. L5

Zulu Courses

ZULU 110G, Beginning isiZulu I  Sandra Sanneh
A beginning course in conversational isiZulu, using Web-based materials filmed in South Africa. Emphasis on the sounds of the language, including clicks and tonal variation, and on the words and structures needed for initial social interaction. Brief dialogues concern everyday activities; aspects of contemporary Zulu culture are introduced through readings and documentaries in English. Credit only on completion of ZULU 120. L1 1½ Course cr

ZULU 120G, Beginning isiZulu II  Sandra Sanneh
Development of communication skills through dialogues and role play. Texts and songs are drawn from traditional and popular literature. Students research daily life in selected areas of South Africa. Prerequisite: ZULU 110. L2 1½ Course cr

ZULU 130G, Intermediate isiZulu I  Sandra Sanneh
Development of fluency in speaking, listening, reading, and writing, using Web-based materials filmed in South Africa. Students describe and narrate spoken and written paragraphs. Review of morphology; concentration on tense and aspect. Materials are drawn from contemporary popular culture, folklore, and mass media. After ZULU 120. L3 1½ Course cr

ZULU 140G, Intermediate isiZulu II  Sandra Sanneh
Students read longer texts from popular media as well as myths and folktales. Prepares students for initial research involving interaction with speakers of isiZulu in South Africa and for the study of oral and literary genres. After ZULU 130. L4 1½ Course cr

*ZULU 150G, Advanced isiZulu I  Sandra Sanneh
Development of fluency in using idioms, speaking about abstract concepts, and voicing preferences and opinions. Excerpts from oral genres, short stories, and television dramas. Introduction to other South African languages and to issues of standardization, dialect, and language attitude. After ZULU 140. Course includes students from Cornell University via videoconference. L5

*ZULU 160G, Advanced isiZulu II  Sandra Sanneh
Readings may include short stories, a novel, praise poetry, historical texts, or contemporary political speeches, depending on student interests. Study of issues of language policy and use in contemporary South Africa; introduction to the Soweto dialect of isiZulu. Students are prepared for extended research in South Africa involving interviews with isiZulu speakers. After ZULU 150. Course includes students from Cornell University via videoconference. L5