AFRICAN STUDIES

Council on African Studies
The MacMillan Center
136 Rosenkranz Hall, 203.432.1425
http://african.macmillan.yale.edu
M.A.

Chair
Michael Cappello (Pediatrics; Microbial Pathogenesis; Public Health)

Director of Graduate Studies
David Simon (203.432.5243, david.simon@yale.edu)

Director of Program in African Languages
Kiarie Wa’Njogu (203.432.0110, john.wanjogu@yale.edu)

Professors Serap Aksoy (Epidemiology), Lea Brilmayer (Law), Richard Bucala (Internal Medicine), John Darnell (Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations), Owen Fiss (Law), Gerald Friedland (Internal Medicine; Epidemiology), Robert Harms (History), Ann Kurth (Nursing), Daniel Magaziner (History), Roderick McIntosh (Anthropology), Christopher Miller (French; African American Studies), Stephanie Newell (English), Catherine Panther-Brick (Anthropology), Curtis Patton (Emeritus, Epidemiology), David Post (Ecology & Evolutionary Biology), Asghar Rastegar (Internal Medicine), Lamin Sanneh (Divinity; History), Ian Shapiro (Political Science), Robert Thompson (Emeritus, History of Art), Michael Veal (Music), Sten Vermund (Epidemiology; Pediatrics), Immanuel Wallerstein (Emeritus, Sociology), David Watts (Anthropology), Elisabeth Wood (Political Science)

Associate Professors Theodore Cohen (Epidemiology), Kaveh Khoshnood (Epidemiology), Urania Magriples (Obstetrics, Gynecology & Reproductive Sciences), Elijah Paintsil (Pediatrics; Epidemiology; Pharmacology), Sunil Parikh (Public Health; Internal Medicine), Jonathan Wyrtzen (Sociology)

Assistant Professors Katharine Baldwin (Political Science), Jill Jarvis (French), Louisa Lombard (Anthropology), Frank Minja (Radiology & Biomedical Imaging), Hani Mowafi (Emergency Medicine), Christine Ngaruiya (Emergency Medicine), Oluwatosin Onibokun (Obstetrics, Gynecology, & Reproductive Sciences), Doruk Ozgediz (Surgery; Pediatrics), Tracy Rabin (Internal Medicine), Jeremy Schwartz (Internal Medicine), Sheela Shenoi (Internal Medicine), Carla Staver (Ecology & Evolutionary Biology)

Lecturers Adalgisa Caccone (Ecology & Evolutionary Biology), Anne-Marie Foltz (Epidemiology & Public Health), W. Casey King (Public Health), Sarah Ryan (Law), David Simon (Political Science), Veronica Waweru (African Languages)

Senior Lectors II Oluseye Adesola (African Languages), Sandra Sanneh (African Languages), Kiarie Wa’Njogu (African Languages)

Senior Lector Matuku Ngane (French)

FIELDS OF STUDY

African Studies considers the arts, history, cultures, languages, literatures, politics, religions, and societies of Africa as well as issues concerning development, health, and the environment. Considerable flexibility and choice of areas of concentration are offered because students entering the program may have differing academic backgrounds and career plans. Enrollment in the M.A. program in African Studies provides students with the opportunity to register for the many African studies courses offered in the various departments of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences and the professional schools.

The Program in African Studies also offers two interdisciplinary seminars to create dialogue and to integrate approaches across disciplines. In addition to the M.A. degree program, the Council on African Studies offers students in the University’s doctoral and other professional degree programs the chance to obtain a Graduate Certificate of Concentration in African Studies by fulfilling a supplementary curriculum. (See Council on African Studies, under Non-Degree Granting Programs, Councils, and Research Institutes.) Joint degrees are possible with the approval of the director of graduate studies (DGS) and the relevant officials in the schools of Forestry & Environmental Studies, Law, Management, and Public Health.

The African collections of the Yale libraries together represent one of the largest holdings on Africa found in North America. The University now possesses more than 220,000 volumes including, but not limited to, government documents, art catalogues, photographs, manuscripts, correspondence, and theses, many published in Africa.

SPECIAL ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENT

The GRE General Test is required.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE M.A. DEGREE

The Yale University Master of Arts degree program in African Studies was instituted in 1986. The two-year interdisciplinary, graduate-level curriculum is intended for students who will later continue in a Ph.D. program or a professional school, or for those who will enter
business, government service, or another career in which a sound knowledge of Africa is essential or valuable. A student may choose one of the following areas of concentration: history; anthropology; political science; sociology; arts and literatures; languages and linguistics; religion; environmental and development studies; and public health.

The program requires sixteen courses: two compulsory introductory interdisciplinary seminars, Research Methods in African Studies (AFST 501) and Topics in African Studies (AFST 764) or an alternate course, as specifically designated by the DGS; four courses of instruction in an African language; four courses in one of the foregoing areas of concentration; four other approved courses offered in the Graduate School or professional schools; and two terms of directed reading and research (AFST 590 and AFST 900) during which students will complete the required thesis. A student who is able to demonstrate advanced proficiency in an African language may have the language requirement waived and substitute four other approved courses. The choice of courses must be approved by the DGS, with whom students should consult as soon as possible in the first term.

THE MASTER’S THESIS

The master’s thesis is based on research on a topic approved by the DGS and advised by a faculty member with expertise or specialized competence in the chosen topic. Students must submit their thesis for joint evaluation by the adviser and a second reader, who is chosen by the student in consultation with the DGS.

PROGRAM IN AFRICAN LANGUAGES

The language program offers instruction in four major languages from sub-Saharan Africa: Kiswahili (eastern and central Africa), Wolof (west Africa), Yorùbá (west Africa), and isiZulu (southern Africa). Language-related courses and language courses for professionals are also offered. African language courses emphasize communicative competence, and instructors use 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 the African Languages program encourages students to spend one summer or term in Africa during their language study.

Noncredited 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.

More information is available on the program’s website, http://african.macmillan.yale.edu.

COURSES

AFST 567a / PLSC 798a, Bureaucracy in Africa: Revolution, Genocide, and Apartheid  Staff
A study of three major episodes in modern African history characterized by ambitious projects of bureaucratically driven change – apartheid and its aftermath, Rwanda’s genocide and post-genocide reconstruction, and Ethiopia’s revolution and its long aftermath. Examination of Weber’s theory bureaucracy, Scott’s thesis on high modernism, Bierschenk’s attempts to place African states in global bureaucratic history. Overarching theme is the place of bureaucratic ambitions and capacities in shaping African trajectories.

AFST 639a / ANTH 639a, Africa, Politics, Anthropology  Louisa Lombard
A historical-anthropological study of politics in Africa. How have anthropologists made sense of the workings of African politics, both those of state and nonstate actors? This course charts how African states came into being, how they operate, and how state agents and the people they govern negotiate legitimacy, authority, and belonging.

AFST 832a / HIST 832a, Methods and Practices in African History  Daniel Magaziner
This course provides a survey of African historical methods, considering topics from the use of historical linguistics and oral tradition to creative archival and narrative methodologies. We read monographs and other scholarly works, including classics in the discipline and new methodologically innovative studies. Students produce a substantive historiographical essay as well as a detailed analysis of a primary source of their choosing.

AFST 839a / HIST 839a, Environmental History of Africa  Robert Harms
An examination of the interaction between people and their environment in Africa and the ways in which this interaction has affected or shaped the course of African history.

AFST 951a or b, Directed Reading and Research  David Simon
By arrangement with faculty.

AFST 969a / CPLT 985a / FREN 969a, Islands, Oceans, Deserts  Jill Jarvis
This seminar brings together literary and theoretical works that chart planetary relations and connections beyond the paradigm of francophonie. Comparative focus on the poetics and politics of spaces shaped by intersecting routes of colonization and forced migrations: islands (Sri Lanka, Mauritius, Martinique), oceans (Indian, Mediterranean, Atlantic), and deserts (Sahara, Sonoran). Prerequisite: reading knowledge of French; knowledge of Arabic and Spanish invited. Conducted in English.