AFRICAN STUDIES

Council on African Studies
The MacMillan Center
137 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), Stephanie Newell (English), Catherine Panter-Brick (Anthropology), Curtis Patton (Emeritus, Epidemiology), David Post (Ecology & Evolutionary Biology), Asghar Rastegar (Political Science), Michael Veal (Music), Sten Vermund (Epidemiology; Pediatrics), David Watts (Anthropology), Elisabeth Wood (Political Science)

Associate Professors
Theodore Cohen (Epidemiology), Cécile Fromont (History of Art), Kaveh Khoshnood (Epidemiology), Urania Magriples (Obstetrics, Gynecology, & Reproductive Sciences), Elijah Paintsil (Pediatrics; Epidemiology; Pharmacology), Sunil Parikh (Public Health; Internal Medicine), Jonathan Wyrtenz (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 Lecturer
Matuku Ngame (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 catalogs, 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: one compulsory interdisciplinary seminar, Gateway to Africa (AFST 505); a second course employing an interdisciplinary approach to African Studies, approved 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; with permission of the DGS, AFST 951 may be substituted for AFST 590. 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 505a, Gateway to Africa  Veronica Waweru and Michael Cappello
This multidisciplinary seminar highlights the study of contemporary Africa through diverse academic disciplines. Each session features a Yale faculty scholar or guest speaker who shares their unique disciplinary perspective and methodological approach to studying Africa. Topics include themes drawn from the humanities, social sciences, and public health, with faculty representing expertise from across Yale’s graduate and professional school departments. The course is intended to introduce graduate students and upper-level undergraduates to the breadth and depth of Yale scholarship on Africa, facilitating the identification of future topics and mentors for thesis or senior paper research. Each weekly seminar focuses on a specific topic or region, and students are exposed to various research methods and techniques in archival research, data collection, and analysis. A specific goal of the course is to impart students with knowledge of how research across diverse disciplines is carried out, as well as to demonstrate innovative methodology, fieldwork procedures, presentation of results, and ethical issues in human subjects research.

AFST 510a, What Is the Global South? Africa in the World  Vivian Lu
This course explores how history, culture, and power shape our conceptualization of the world and its peoples. By critically examining how social categories—such as culture, religion, race, economy, and ideology—have been mapped onto different parts of the world, the course traces how legacies of colonialism and imperialism in Africa continue to inform contemporary perspectives of economic development, geopolitics, and globalization. Students consider the history of world categorizations through the perspectives of the people who mobilized to transform them, from anti-colonial fighters and postcolonial scholars to the Third World Solidarity movement and contemporary African activists and artists.

AFST 540a, African Reconciliation Narratives  Meredith Shepard
This course focuses on the literary and visual cultural productions that took shape around national efforts at reconciliation in three African contexts: post-apartheid South Africa, post-genocide Rwanda, and post-civil war Nigeria. These disparate case studies examine the impact on cultural productions of differing judicial and political formations, as well as the role that literature and film have played in shaping reconciliation law and policy. Primary readings include novels, memoir, theater, and film, in addition to legal documents from reconciliatory justice systems. Secondary readings include theories of reconciliation from the fields of law, political science, and cultural studies. Open to advanced undergraduates.

AFST 590a, African Studies Colloquium  David Simon
Students conduct research for the master’s thesis, give presentations on their research, and prepare a bibliography, a prospectus, and a draft chapter of the master’s thesis. Discussion of model essays and other examples of writing.

AFST 833b, Agrarian History of Africa  Robert Harms
This course examines changes in African rural life from precolonial times to the present. Issues to be examined include land use systems, rural modes of production, gender roles, markets and trade, the impact of colonialism, cash cropping, rural-urban migration, and development schemes.
AFST 834a / HIST 834a, Culture, Community, Nation in African History  Daniel Magaziner
This readings course considers the cultural history of African communities, focusing on the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Topics include art and the colonial encounter; popular culture and nationalism; histories of health and healing; performance, music, and writing in city life; and other subjects. Students read one monograph or selected articles per week, offer short response papers weekly, lead a class session, and present one historiographical essay at the end of the term.

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 900b, Master’s Thesis  Staff
Directed reading and research on a topic approved by the DGS and advised by a faculty member (by arrangement) with expertise or specialized competence in the chosen field. Readings and research are done in preparation for the required master’s thesis.

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

AFST 965b / FREN 965b, On Violence: Politics and Aesthetics across the Maghreb  Jill Jarvis
A study of twentieth-century Maghrebi texts and films that document, theorize, and critique forms of political violence. How might aesthetic works—novels, plays, poems, torture and prison testimonies, political cartoons, films—run counter to state-sanctioned memory projects or compel rethinking practices of testimony and justice for a postcolonial time? Works by Kateb, Djebar, Mechakra, Djouf, Alleg, Boupacha, Meddeb, Barrada, Binebine, Laâbi, Rahmani, Mouride. Theoretical readings by Fanon, Mbembe, Khatibi, Kilito, Dorlin, Benjamin, Spivak, Derrida, Lazali. Conducted in English. Prerequisite: reading knowledge of French.

SWAH 610a, Beginning Kiswahili I  Kiarie 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 620.

SWAH 630a, Intermediate Kiswahili I  Veronica Waweru
Further development of 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. Prerequisite: SWAH 620.

SWAH 650a, Advanced Kiswahili I  Kiarie 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. Prerequisite: SWAH 640.

SWAH 670a, Topics in Kiswahili Literature  Kiarie Wa’Njogu
Advanced readings and discussion with emphasis on literary and historical texts. Reading assignments include materials on Kiswahili prose, plays, poetry, Kiswahili dialects, and the history of the language.

YORU 610a, 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 620.

YORU 630a, Intermediate Yorùbá I  Oluseye Adesola
Refinement of 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. Prerequisite: YORU 620.

YORU 650a, Advanced Yorùbá I  Oluseye Adesola
An advanced course intended to improve aural and reading comprehension as well as speaking and writing skills. Emphasis is 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 video movies and recorded poems (ewi); and music. Prerequisite: YORU 640.

ZULU 610a, 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 620.

ZULU 630a, Intermediate isiZulu I  Sandra Sanneh
Development of basic fluency in speaking, listening, reading, and writing isiZulu, 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. Prerequisite: ZULU 620.
ZULU 650a, Advanced isiZulu I  Sandra Sanneh
Development of fluency in using idioms, speaking about abstract concepts, and voicing preferences and opinions. Excerpts are drawn from oral genres, short stories, and dramas made for television. Introduction to other South African languages and to issues of standardization, dialect, and language attitude. Prerequisite: ZULU 640.