AFRICAN STUDIES

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FACULTY ASSOCIATED WITH THE PROGRAM OF AFRICAN STUDIES

Professors Lea Brilmayer (Law School), 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)

Associate Professors Robert Bailis (Forestry & Environmental Studies), Daniel Magaziner (History)

Assistant Professors Katharine Baldwin (Political Science), Adria Lawrence (Political Science), Louisa Lombard (Anthropology), Jonathan Wyrten (Sociology)

Senior Lecturer Cheryl Doss (Economics)

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

Senior Lectors II Sandra Sanneh, Kiarie Wa’Njogu

Senior Lectors Oluseye Adesola, Matuku Ngamge

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, history, history, languages and literatures, political science, or sociology or on topics such as global health, economic development, or human rights.

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, Yoribá, isiZulu, or others with permission of the director of undergraduate studies), unless waived by examination; (3) the junior seminar on research methods, AFST 401; (4) a concentration of four term courses, selected in consultation with the director of undergraduate studies, 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, or in a cross-disciplinary area such as diaspora studies or development studies; and (5) one additional course that either deepens the concentration or provides methodological tools for the senior essay.

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. With permission of the director of undergraduate studies, students may count courses in an additional language, such as French or Portuguese, toward the major requirements. Students are encouraged to include upper-level courses, especially those centering on research and methodology.

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

Senior requirement Students are required to complete a senior essay in AFST 491, working 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.

Language requirement African Studies majors are required to complete two years of college-level study (or the equivalent) of an African language, and they are encouraged to continue beyond this level. For the 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. If the requirement is waived, students must substitute other African Studies courses for the four required language courses.

Program in African Languages The language program offers instruction in four major languages from sub-Saharan Africa: Kiswahili (eastern and central Africa), Yoribá (western Africa), Wolof (western 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 (http://catalog.yale.edu/ycps/subjects-of-instruction/near-easterlanguages-civilizations). Noncredit instruction in other African languages is available by application through the Directed Independent Language Study (http://cls.yale.edu/dils) program at the Center for Language Study (http://cls.yale.edu). Contact the director of the Program in African Languages (john.wanjogu@yale.edu) for information.

M.A. program 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 AFST course in humanities and 1 in social sciences; 2 years of African lang; 4 courses in area of concentration; 1 course that deepens the concentration or prepares the senior essay

Specific course required  AFST 401

Senior requirement  Senior essay (AFST 491)

Substitution permitted  If language req is waived, 4 addtl African Studies courses

African Studies Courses

* AFST 008b / AFAM 008b / HSAR 009b, Aesthetics and Meaning in African Arts and Cultures  Erica James
  The diversity of artistic production on the African continent, both historically and materially. The creative consciousness and aesthetic values of a variety of African cultures from ancient to contemporary times. Questions that arise when writing these histories without fully taking into account concepts of “African time.”  HU

* AFST 015a / ENGL 015a, South African Writing after Apartheid  Stephanie Newell
  An introduction to creative writing published in South Africa from the end of Apartheid in 1994 to the present. Close readings of contemporary fiction with additional material drawn from popular culture, including films, magazines, and music. Enrollment limited to freshmen. Preregistration required; see under Freshman Seminar Program.  WR, HU

AFST 180b / ER&M 313b, Nigeria and Its Diaspora  Oluseye Adegba
  Nigerians in the modern diaspora, both those who endured forced migration and those who migrated voluntarily. Specific reference to the Igbo- and Yoruba. 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 333a / HIST 332a, African Encounters with Colonialism  Daniel Magaziner
  How African societies and peoples engaged, engaged, and endured the colonial and postcolonial world, from the arrival of Kikuyu-speaking traders at the shores of Lake Victoria in the 1840s through the rise and fall of European colonialism and the resulting forms of neocolonialism. Transformations and continuities in African religious life; gendered sociability; popular culture.  HU

AFST 335b / HIST 335b, A History of South Africa  Daniel Magaziner
  An introduction to the history of southern Africa, especially South Africa. Indigenous communities; early colonial contact; the legacies of colonial rule; postcolonial mismanagement; the vagaries of the environment; the mineral revolution; segregationist regimes; persistent inequality and crime since the end of apartheid; the specter of AIDS; postcolonial challenges in Zimbabwe, Angola, and Mozambique.  HU

AFST 340b / HIST 340b, Africa in the Era of the Slave Trade  David Simon
  Consideration of a range of issues and challenges faced by countries emerging from domestic conflict. Focus on elements of peace-building—disarmament and demobilization, post-conflict elections, institution-building, and reconstruction— as well as modes of transitional justice and mechanisms for truth and reconciliation.  SO

* AFST 347a / EP&E 484a / GLBL 243a / LAST 348a / PLSC 347a, Post-Conflict Politics  Daniel Magaziner
  Consideration of a range of issues and challenges faced by countries emerging from domestic conflict. Focus on elements of peace-building—disarmament and demobilization, 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-llassam, and Tablighi Jama’at.  SO
* AFST 353a / MUSI 353a, Topics in World Music  Michael Veal
A critical introduction to selected cultures of world music. Specific cultures vary from year to year but generally include those of Native America, South Asia, Southeast Asia, sub-Saharan Africa, the Middle East, and the Caribbean. Preference to Music majors according to class.  HU

* AFST 355b / ANTH 355b / EAST 355b, China-Africa Encounters  Helen Siu
The history, effects, and implications of Chinese involvement in and with African countries over the past century. Diasporic experiences, with attention to informal economies, cultural strategies, and ethnic and religious tensions; land, finance, and infrastructure; Chinese aid and development in Africa since the late 1960s, including medical aid and charitable groups.  SO

* AFST 360a / ECON 487a / EPR&E 362a / GLBL 313a / PLSC 417a, The Political Economy of AIDS in Africa  Nicoli Nattrass
The impact of and responses to the AIDS pandemic in Africa examined from a comparative perspective. Focus on South and southern Africa. Some background in social science and economics desirable.  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 380b / GLBL 186b / MMES 181b / PLSC 380b, 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 400a / PLSC 401a, Democratic Politics and Public Policy in Contemporary Africa  Jeremy Seekings
Examination of how the resurgence of competitive, multi-party elections in Africa has reinfused democratic governance and transformed the process of public policy-making. Emphasis on the political landscape of public opinion and voting behavior; elections and political parties; the state and governance; as well as policy-making, with focus on economic and social policies.  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 410a, The Agrarian Question and Development in Africa  Lawyer Kafureka
Historical examination of the complex issues relating to capital development and its penetration of agrarian Africa, particularly the different ways capital accumulates wealth from and impacts populations within the peasant, pastoral, and settler economies. Topics include the political economy of gender, ecology, old and new forms of land grabbing, and continued demand for land reforms. Special attention to relevant social science theories as well as the debates and policy practices through which they have evolved.  SO

* AFST 412b / AFAM 287b / FREN 412b / LITR 250b, Postcolonial Theory and Literature  Christopher Miller
A survey of the principal modes of thought that have animated decolonization and life after colonialism, as seen in both theoretical and literary texts. Concentration on the British and French imperial and postcolonial contexts. Readings in negritude, orientalism, psychoanalysis, poststructuralism, and novels. Lectures in English; readings available both in French and in English translation.  HU RP

AFST 420a / 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 430b, 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 432a / 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

* AFST 447b / EPR&E 271b / ER&M 271b / PLSC 447b, The Rwandan Genocide in Comparative Context  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 449a / ENGL 449a, Challenges to Realism in Contemporary African Fiction  Stephanie Newell
Introduction to experimental African novels that challenge realist and documentary modes of representation. Topics include mythology, gender subversion, politics, the city, migration, and the self. Ways of reading African and postcolonial literature through the lenses of identity, history, and nation.  WR, HU
* 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  Staff
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  Daniel Magaziner
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  Staff
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  Kiarie 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  Veronica Waweru
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  Staff
Continuation of SWAH 130. After SWAH 130.  L4 1½ Course cr

SWAH 150a, 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. After SWAH 140.  L5

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

SWAH 170a or b, Topics in Kiswahili Literature  Kiarie 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 120b, 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 130a, 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 140b, 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 150a, 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 (ewi); and music. After YORU 140. L5

YORU 160b, 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 170a and YORU 171b, Topics in Yorùbá Literature and Culture  Staff
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 181b, 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 110a, 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 120b, 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 130a, 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 140b, 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 150a, Advanced isiZulu I  Staff
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 160b, 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