

School of Arts and Sciences

# AFRICANA STUDIES

[www.pitt.edu/~bjgrier/bj.htm](http://www.pitt.edu/~bjgrier/bj.htm)

Students in Africana studies learn to study, interpret, research, and teach others the culture and the historical and modern experiences of African Americans, Africans, and Caribbean people through a curriculum that encompasses a variety of subjects. To understand its central role in American life, the program critically examines how the African American experience has been portrayed throughout history, and explores how African American culture has been influenced by African and Caribbean cultures, traditions, and values. The University of Pittsburgh is one of about 40 colleges and universities that offer a degree in a program of this kind.

By using the tools of both the social sciences and the humanities, students examine the structure, organization, problems, and perspectives of African American, African, and Caribbean populations throughout the world. They analyze and create policies for social change in various African and Caribbean nations, and in African American communities in this country. Through the required internship course, students explore their particular career interests, and gain practical experience in areas such as the local media, social services, education, prison programming, and community development.

Graduates from the Africana studies program are encouraged to research the Black experience and apply their academic experiences in an enlightened and compassionate way. The program's multicultural and multidisciplinary approach is applicable to many programs of graduate-level study, and employment in fields such as education, international affairs, the arts, race relations, personnel management, community development, publishing, sales, social work, urban planning, journalism, and public relations.

## Required Courses

Students must complete a total of 30 credits in Africana studies courses with a broad concentration in either the social sciences or humanities. Three core courses are required:

### AFRCNA 0031 Introduction to Africana Studies (3 cr.)

Students in this course explore the sociocultural experiences of people of African descent in the United States through the following subjects: African American creative productions, economics, education, history, politics, psychology, religion, and social organizations. African American folk culture and music, and Afrocentric social theory and protest thought are also discussed.

### AFRCNA 1768 African American Senior Research Seminar (3 cr.)

This course leads students through the steps of conducting a simple research project in the African American community. Tasks include selecting a problem, designing the methodology, reviewing the relevant literature, writing a proposal for research, devising simple instruments for interviewing and observation, conducting the research, and analyzing findings.

### AFRCNA 1900 Internship (Field Placement) (1-3 cr.)

An internship offers students the opportunity to extend their academic training to practical work experience. Students submit a proposal for the internship to a faculty sponsor and agency supervisor before being placed.



The following is a list of some of the courses offered by the Department of Africana Studies:

## **I. Social Sciences**

### ***History: African American***

AFRCNA 0535 Antebellum Black Women's History  
AFRCNA 0536 20th-Century African American  
Women's History  
AFRCNA 0629 Afro-American History 1  
AFRCNA 0630 Afro-American History 2  
AFRCNA 1137 19th-Century African American History  
AFRCNA 1538 History of Black Pittsburghers

### ***History: African***

AFRCNA 0127 Introduction to Africa  
AFRCNA 0318 History of Africa Before 1800  
AFRCNA 0586 African Civilization and Culture  
AFRCNA 1021 History of the African Diaspora  
AFRCNA 1309 Women of Africa and the African Diaspora  
AFRCNA 1310 Cultures of Africa  
AFRCNA 1656 History of Africa Since 1800

### ***History: Caribbean***

AFRCNA 0385 Caribbean History  
AFRCNA 0628 Afro-Latin America  
AFRCNA 0684 Race, Class, and Ethnicity: The Caribbean  
Experience  
AFRCNA 1039 History of Caribbean Slavery

### ***Politics: African American***

AFRCNA 0515 African American Politics

### ***Politics: African***

AFRCNA 0127 Introduction to Africa  
AFRCNA 0586 African Civilization and Culture  
AFRCNA 1011 The Rise of the Modern Pan-African Movement  
AFRCNA 1030 African Politics  
AFRCNA 1331 African Liberation Movements  
AFRCNA 1661 Political Economy of Africa  
AFRCNA 1711 The City in Africa

### ***Psychology***

AFRCNA 0434 The Psychological Experience of African  
American Females  
AFRCNA 0787 Black Consciousness  
AFRCNA 1019 Psychology of the Black Experience  
AFRCNA 1223 Personal Growth through Psychodrama  
AFRCNA 1402 Learning Paradigms for African American  
Child Development

### ***Sociology***

AFRCNA 0120 The African American Experience in Sports  
AFRCNA 0311 The African American Family  
AFRCNA 0313 The Black Church  
AFRCNA 1012 Early 20th-Century Black Social Movement  
AFRCNA 1108 African American Folk Culture  
AFRCNA 1522 Sex and Racism  
AFRCNA 1710 African American Health Issues

## **II. Humanities**

### ***Literature: African***

AFRCNA 0522 African Literature  
AFRCNA 1046 African Poetry  
AFRCNA 1240 African Literature and Society  
AFRCNA 1644 The African Novel

### ***Literature: African American***

AFRCNA 0150 African American Literature  
AFRCNA 0316 African American Theatre  
AFRCNA 0454 Man/Woman Literature  
AFRCNA 0517 African American Poetry  
AFRCNA 1036 Black Literature  
AFRCNA 1103 Female Playwrights Before 1959  
AFRCNA 1150 Contemporary African American Writing  
AFRCNA 1605 Blues Poetics and Wilsonian Drama  
AFRCNA 1616 African American Women Writers

### ***Literature: Caribbean***

AFRCNA 1041 Special Topics in Caribbean Literature  
AFRCNA 1349 Contemporary Caribbean Literature

### ***Literature: Comparative/Theoretical***

AFRCNA 0031 Introduction to Africana Studies  
AFRCNA 0242 Africana Urban Woman  
AFRCNA 1306 World Literature in English  
AFRCNA 1347 Francophone Africana Literature  
AFRCNA 1620 African American Literary Criticism  
AFRCNA 1704 Africana World Literature

### ***Language***

AFRCNA 0523 Swahili 1  
AFRCNA 0524 Swahili 2

### ***Creative Expressions***

AFRCNA 0212 West African Dance  
AFRCNA 0352 African American Dance  
AFRCNA 0543 Contemporary African American Drama 1  
AFRCNA 0639 History of Jazz  
AFRCNA 0788 Contemporary Africana Films  
AFRCNA 1033 African Americans and the Mass Media  
AFRCNA 1043 Contemporary African American Drama 2  
AFRCNA 1145 African American Rhetoric  
AFRCNA 1334 Music in Africa  
AFRCNA 1335 Afro-American Music in the United States  
AFRCNA 1353 Comparative Dance Expression  
AFRCNA 1383 Concepts in African American Theatre  
AFRCNA 1555 Afro Caribbean Dance

### ***Research/Community Development***

AFRCNA 1768 African American Senior Research Seminar  
AFRCNA 1900 Internship (Field Placement)  
AFRCNA 1901 Independent Study  
AFRCNA 1902 Directed Reading  
AFRCNA 1903 Directed Research

## Double Majors

Students are welcome to double major in Africana studies and another major, and should decide on a major in their sophomore year. Examples of double majors include economics, communications, education, English literature or writing, history, sociology, theatre arts, and urban studies.

## Practical experience available to students through the Department of Africana Studies

Practice with local community agencies in media, social service, education, prison programming, and community development are all options open to students in the program.

## Job market for students graduating with a degree in Africana studies

Careers in the following fields offer employment to Africana studies graduates:

- Business
- Communications
- Community Relations
- Curatorial and Archival Management
- Education
- Government and Political Science
- Law
- Non-Profit
- Performing/Creative Arts
- Public Administration
- Public Health
- Social/Human Services
- Urban Development

### For advising information, contact:

University of Pittsburgh  
Department of Africana Studies  
Oronde Sharif  
4140 Wesley W. Posvar Hall  
Pittsburgh, PA 15260  
412-648-2276  
E-mail: senegal1@pitt.edu

### For information on other majors, contact:

Office of Admissions and Financial Aid  
Alumni Hall, 4227 Fifth Avenue  
University of Pittsburgh  
Pittsburgh, PA 15260  
412-624-PITT  
E-mail: oafa@pitt.edu  
www.pitt.edu/~oafa

## Special Programs

**Black Dance Workshop** offers students seriously interested in dance the opportunity to study dance styles and techniques such as jazz, spiritual, African, and Dunham from an African American perspective. The program offers workshops, guest lecturers, dance conferences, and collaboration with other dance companies and college dance groups. Professional dancers are invited each year to share their ideas, techniques, and styles with students.

**The African Drum and Dance Ensemble** is a diverse performing group founded in 1982 by Ghanaian ethnomusicologist Willie Anku. Faculty member Oronde Sharif directs the ensemble in its presentation of creative performances and workshops that entertain and educate the community about the African Diaspora.

**Kuntu Repertory Theatre (KRT)** was founded in 1974 by Pitt faculty member Dr. Vernell Lillie to encourage and produce the work of African American writers. It presents major productions and a number of off-campus shows and collages each year that examine African American life in ways that are socially relevant, intellectually stimulating, entertaining, historically accurate, emotionally satisfying, and technically excellent. Kuntu also contributes to the educational, social, and political development of the local African American community and develops actors, artists, directors, educators, and technicians who understand and reflect the African American experience.

**Kuntu Writer's Workshop**, founded in 1976 by August Wilson and Kuntu Repertory Theatre Playwright-in-Residence Rob Penny, facilitates meaningful discussion among African American writers, and assists them in getting published or produced. Workshop sessions in poetry, fiction, and playwriting are held twice a month and are open to both students and the public.

**Studying abroad** is an exciting way to add an international dimension to your undergraduate education, strengthen your credentials as a graduate, and experience other cultures firsthand. You earn credit toward your degree while exploring the people and land of other countries. The Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE), a Pitt-affiliated program, offers programs in Ghana, Senegal or South Africa. The Ghana program is designed for students interested in studying the political and economic challenges facing sub-Saharan Africa and developing nations, and those interested in studying West African cultural practices in various musical and dance forms. The program in Senegal is geared toward students interested in continuing French language study and learning Wolof, while taking other courses in English and having a cultural immersion experience. The South African program is appropriate for students from all academic disciplines who have a strong interest in learning about contemporary South African life and society and the forces that have created that society.