



African Studies Program

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

African Curriculum
Summer 2026 Course List
Last Edited: 04/09/2026

AFRICAN CULTURAL STUDIES

202 (001) Africa's Ocean Imaginaries (3 credits)

This four-week course explores how African storytellers engage Africa's oceanic worlds—across the Atlantic, Mediterranean, and Indian Oceans—to narrate histories of movement, memory, and imagined futures. We approach the sea not as backdrop but as a dynamic archive where people, objects, and ideas travel and transform. Through literature, film, poetry, and visual culture, we explore how water structures belonging and displacement, how it holds memory, and how diasporic identities emerge through routes rather than roots. We also consider the global journeys of cultural objects—from empire and museums to contemporary artistic reclaims—and how these mobilities inform debates on power and sovereignty. Students will engage works by Wole Soyinka, Derek Walcott, Yaa Gyasi, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, contemporary African filmmakers, and emerging African animation to trace themes of trauma, drift, return, and contested ownership. The course asks not simply where home is, but how African worlds are made through movement, and who gets to narrate those crossings. From maritime memory to speculative aquatic futures, we consider how African people and objects travel globally while remaining grounded in histories of struggle and creativity.

Instructor: Titi Jin

Mode of Instruction: Online

Core Course

AFRICAN CULTURAL STUDIES

202 (002) Soccer and Popular Culture (3 credits)

This course explores the representation of soccer and popular culture in Africa. The readings highlight the complex nature of the game within postcolonial cities both as a form of leisure and popular culture. We trace the origin of soccer in African coastal cities, the evolution of the game from a leisure activity to a tool of resistance, fan participation, identity politics media and globalization. The question of social mobility, spatiality and urbanity as domain of youth culture will fundamentally dominate our conversation as we encounter the game and its conviviality in African streets. The course utilizes films and literature to depict soccer as a fun sport and popular culture among African urban youth. Thus, students will learn fundamental literary and film analysis while deepening their understanding of the intersection of society, soccer, labor, media technology, modernity, migration, and global capital. We will explore how the city and the media structure the experience of soccer as popular culture among African youth. In addition, students will gain a deeper understanding of social and political issues in soccer and popular culture and make sense of contemporary Africans and their own society

Instructor: Abubakar Muhammad

Mode of Instruction: Online

Core Course

*Core courses contain more than 66% Africa-related content and fulfill the requirements of the African Studies Certificate and FLAS. Extended core courses contain at least 25% African content but cannot be used towards the certificate or FLAS without special approval from the African Studies Program advisor and the course's instructor. Requests must be made and approved by the second Friday of the semester in which the course in question will be taken. Email advising@afrika.wisc.edu to obtain a request form.

AFRICAN CULTURAL STUDIES

203 Arabic Short Stories and Folktales

(3 credits)

This course introduces students to Arabic short stories and folktales from across the Middle East and North Africa. Drawing on narratives from The Arabian Nights and beyond, the course explores a range of folktales and short narratives that reflect the richness and diversity of Arabic storytelling traditions. Students examine these texts through close readings and discussions, focusing on how stories convey meaning and cultural values. The course explores major themes such as heroism, power, gender, identity, and myth, while considering storytelling as both a literary and cultural practice. By the end of the course, students will develop a deeper appreciation for the power of storytelling and the richness of Arabic cultural heritage. This asynchronous course offers flexibility, with weekly activities and discussions that can be completed on your own schedule. No prior knowledge of Arabic is required, just curiosity, imagination, and a love for stories!

Instructor: Laila Eissa

Mode of Instruction: Online

Core Course

AFRICAN CULTURAL STUDIES

203 Africans in Motion- Migration, Identity & Representation (3 credits)

This course will cover a wide range of topics that show how identity is influenced by movement within and outside the continent. We will critically engage cultural productions by African writers and intellectuals from different African regions that discuss the movement of Africans. This course is divided into three sections: textual, audio, and visual literature. In this course, we will look at traditional cultural productions and other textual forms like memoir, spoken word poetry, novels, short stories, and films. Each week, we will focus on a genre and discuss how discussions on migration and identity are scaffolded. By focusing on different visual and textual forms, we will examine how these forms portray migration and how to analyze different cultural productions. At the end of this course, students will be able to answer the following questions: What is African Migration literature? How are African migrants' identities reflected in African cultural production? How has the discourse of migration changed over the years?

Instructor: Dami Ogunmuko

Mode of Instruction: Online

Core Course

AFRICAN CULTURAL STUDIES

204 Afrobeat(s) and the Spread of African Languages & Culture (3 credits)

With a focus on Afrobeats' influence in disseminating African languages and cultures globally, this course examines historical narratives about Afrobeat, its contemporary reformulation through musical, artistic, and linguistic expressions, and its crucial role in shaping the discourse on postcolonial conditions in Africa. Based on insights from the course materials (including several Afrobeats music and audiovisuals), students will learn to critically engage with the course content, effectively use the UW library systems to conduct research, present their work orally, and write up their research in accordance with humanities citation conventions.

Instructor: Adeola Agoke

Mode of Instruction: Online

Core Course

AFRICAN CULTURAL STUDIES

210 The African Storyteller (3 credits)

(Cross-listed: FOLKLORE 210)

The African Storyteller, one of the oldest and most popular courses in UW-Madison history, will take students on a new and exciting journey where they will discuss oral traditions and the written word, the composition of stories, the relationship between performer and audience, and the transmission of tradition in various African societies. This 4-week course will introduce students to the diversity of the African continent and its unique storytelling traditions. The course is designed to be semi-synchronous, meaning that all students will have plenty of opportunity for flexibility within the structured pace of course designed. This course weaves in another genre, the novel, to offer a rich engagement with literary themes and tropes. Like an audience sitting before a storyteller, students will engage with ideas that have been contemplated for generations, but the storyteller will address you as you are, where you are. In the moment of performance, the old will be new again!

Instructor: Muddu Kiyingi

Mode of Instruction: Online

Core Course

AFRICAN CULTURAL STUDIES

277 Africa: An Introductory Survey

(4 credits) (Cross-listed: AFRICAN 277, ANTHRO 277, GEOG 277, HISTORY 277, POLI SCI 277, SOC 277)

The course explores African society and culture, polity and economy in multidisciplinary perspectives from prehistory and ancient kingdoms through the colonial period to contemporary developments, including modern nationalism, economic development and changing social structure.

Instructor: Irene Tombe

Mode of Instruction: Online

Core Course

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AFRICAN CULTURAL STUDIES

339 First Semester Summer Arabic

(4 credits) *Emphasis on proficiency through speaking, listening, reading, and writing, and on communication in cultural context.*

Instructor: TBA

Mode of Instruction: Online

Core Course

AFRICAN CULTURAL STUDIES

340 Second Semester Summer Arabic

(4 credits)

Emphasis on proficiency through speaking, listening, reading, and writing, and on communication in cultural context.

Instructor: TBA

Mode of Instruction: In person

Core Course

AFRICAN CULTURAL STUDIES

341 Third Semester Summer Arabic

(4 credits)

Emphasis on proficiency through speaking, listening, reading, and writing, and on communication in cultural context.

Instructor: TBA

Mode of Instruction: In person

Core Course

AFRICAN CULTURAL STUDIES

342 Fourth Semester Summer Arabic

(4 credits)

Emphasis on proficiency through speaking, listening, reading, and writing, and on communication in cultural context.

Instructor: TBA

Mode of Instruction: In person

Core Course

AFRICAN CULTURAL STUDIES

343 Fifth Semester Summer Arabic

(4 credits)

Emphasis on proficiency through speaking, listening, reading, and writing, and on communication in cultural context.

Instructor: TBA

Mode of Instruction: In-Person

Core Course

AFRICAN CULTURAL STUDIES

344 Sixth Semester Summer Arabic

(4 credits)

Emphasis on proficiency through speaking, listening, reading, and writing, and on communication in cultural context.

Instructor: TBA

Mode of Instruction: In person

Core Cours

AFRO-AMERICAN STUDIES

242 Introduction to Afro-American Art

(3 credits) (Cross listed: ART HIST 242)

This survey course is an introduction to the history of African American art and visual culture from the colonial era to our current time, with a particular focus on twentieth century art. With attention to various art historical perspectives and methods, and to the intersections of race, class, gender, and sexuality that impact the lives and work of African American artists and their audiences, we will investigate various art forms including painting, sculpture, photography, folk art, conceptual and performance art, and art as social practice. As we consider art of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, we will examine works of art that manifest the theories and politics of movements such as Black Liberation, Feminism, and Postmodernism. Our goal is to understand how African American art acted, and continues to act, as a form of self-expression and collective empowerment and as a means of resistance against various forms of marginalization.

Instructor: TBD

Mode of Instruction: In Person

Core Course

AGRICULTURAL AND APPLIED ECONOMICS

350 World Hunger and Malnutrition

(3 credits) (Cross listed: AGRONOMY 350, NUTR SCI 350)

Hunger and poverty in developing countries and the United States. Topics include nutrition and health, population, food production and availability, and income distribution and employment.

Instructor: Taiya Bach

Mode of Instruction: Online

Extended Core Course

AGRICULTURAL AND APPLIED ECONOMICS

474 Economic problems of developing Areas (3 credits)

Analyzes aggregate growth, income distribution and poverty in lower income economies. Uses microeconomics of imperfect labor, capital and insurance markets to explore why some individuals advance economically as their economies grow and others fall behind. Considers implications of aggregate and micro analysis for national and international economic policy.

Instructors: TBD

Mode of Instruction: Online

Extended Core Course

ANTHROPOLOGY

104 Cultural Anthropology and Human Diversity (3 credits)

Introduction to cultural anthropology. Comparative cross-cultural consideration of social organization, economics, politics, language, religion, ecology, gender, and cultural change. Includes a primary focus on U.S. ethnic and racial minorities.

Instructor: TBD

Mode of Instruction: Online

Extended Core Course

ART HISTORY

303 World Literature & Global Manuscript (3 credits)

Surveys the arts or visual culture of varying geographical regions, time periods, or cultures depending on selected topic.

Instructor: TBD

Mode of Instruction: Online

Extended Core Course

DANCE

110 Workshop in Dance Activities (1 credit)

Explores the creative and expressive aspects of dance movement. Develops technical skills and creative ability through whole body work on flexibility, strength, alignment, endurance, movement and improvisation. Develops appreciation of dance as an art form.

Instructor: TBD

Mode of Instruction: In person

Extended Core Course

DANCE

318 West African Dance/Music in the Americas

(Cross listed: AFROAMER 318, MUSIC 318)

The influence of traditional West African dance/music heritage in historical, artistic, social contexts in the development of new hybrid forms of music/dance created by cross-pollination of cultures of Africans, Europeans and indigenous peoples in the New World.

Instructor: Castro Savion

Mode of Instruction: Online

Core Course

EDUCATIONAL POLICY STUDIES

240 Comparative Education (3 credits)

Examines the socio-cultural, political and economic forces that shape education around the world, including in the U.S. Explores a series of essential questions about the means and ends of education, including: the purposes of schooling in different locations; the role of schooling in producing inequality or supporting social change, particularly in relation to class, race, gender, migration, language, and abilities; global educational reform; global educational assessments; curriculum and pedagogy; and teacher education.

Instructor: Yasmina Haddad

Mode of Instruction: Online

Extended Core Course

EDUCATIONAL POLICY STUDIES

335 Globalization and Education (3 credits)

Discuss the ways education is inextricably linked to global political, economic, and social contexts. Reflect on both scholarly research and popular conceptions of market, society and schools in different geographic and cultural contexts. Approach globalization from a context-sensitive, place-based approach, rather than abstract, predictive method through interdisciplinary analysis. Explore the concept of globalization across disciplinary frameworks including anthropology, geography, and history. Provides critical analysis to understand the challenges facing education in a globalization era, to build stronger commitment to helping address those challenges, and a set of skills for researching and writing about them. Examine the following "problem-spaces": globalization and migration; globalization and race; global testing and assessment; marketization of education; global city development and higher education; youth culture and globalization.

Instructor: TBD

Mode of Instruction: Online

Extended Core Course

EDUCATIONAL POLICY STUDIES

560 Gender and Education (3)

Examines the relationship between gender and education and explores notions of gender as socially constructed categories and identities. Identify the ways schools (re)produce and mediate gender identities and explore the experiences of students. Draws on critical and feminist perspectives to analyze the ways gender intersects with understandings of identity performance and expression such as masculinity and femininity, as well as at the intersection of race, ethnicity, class, and sexuality in schooling processes.

Instructor: TBD

Mode of Instruction: In person

Extended Core Course

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES GAYLORD NELSON INSTITUTE

975 Environmental Conservative Leadership Seminar (1 credit)

Introduction to important aspects of communication, negotiation, and cross-cultural professional practice as they relate to Environmental Conservation.

Instructor: Beatrice Robert B.

Mode of Instruction: In-person

Extended Core Course

FOREST AND WILDLIFE ECOLOGY

360 Extinction of Species (1 credit)

(Cross-listed: ENVIR ST 360, ZOOLOGY 360)

A comprehensive treatment of the ecology, causes, and consequences of species extinction. Ecology and problems of individual species, habitat alteration and degradation, socio-economic pressures and conservation techniques and strategies.

Instructor: Karie Cherwin Lynn

Mode of Instruction: Online

Extended Core Course

GENDER AND WOMEN'S STUDIES

535 Women's Global Health and Human Rights (3 credits) (Cross-listed: INTL ST 535)

A human rights approach to global women's health to provide an overview of health issues within the context of a woman's life cycle. It will pay special attention to the socio-cultural and economic factors that play a role in determining women's access to quality basic health care.

Instructor: TBD

Mode of Instruction: Online

Extended Core Course

GEOGRAPHY

340 World Regions in Global Context

(3 credits)

Survey of development and change within each of the world's regions (e.g., Africa, Southeast Asia). Attention devoted to environment and society; history, economy, and demographic change; culture and politics; future challenges; key actors.

Instructor: TBD

Mode of Instruction: Online

Extended Core Course

HISTORY

277 Africa: An Introductory Survey

(4 credits)

(Cross-listed: AFRICA 277, ANTHRO 277, GEOG 277, POLI SCI 277, SOC 277)

The course explores African society and culture, polity and economy in multidisciplinary perspectives from prehistory and ancient kingdoms through the colonial period to contemporary developments, including modern nationalism, economic development and changing social structure.

Instructor: Meyerson Samuel Ethan

Mode of Instruction: Online

Core Course

INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS

365 International Study Trip (1 credit)

A course for the exploration of subject areas possibly to be introduced into the business curriculum.

Instructor: Robert Misey

Mode of Instruction: Online

Extended Core Course

POLITICAL SCIENCE

434 The Politics of Human Rights (4 credits)

(Cross listed: INTL ST 434)

Examines the origins and development of human rights in international politics. The course discusses what human rights are, international human rights movements, the international search for justice after mass crimes, and international humanitarian intervention. Not open to students with credit for POLI SCI 317 prior to fall 2017

Instructor: Howsam Jess

Mode of Instruction: Online

Extended Core Course

SOCIOLOGY

277 Africa: An Introductory Survey

(4 credits)

(Cross-listed: AFRICA 277, ANTHRO 277, GEOG277, POLI SCI 277, HIST 277)

The course explores African society and culture, polity and economy in multidisciplinary perspectives from prehistory and ancient kingdoms through the colonial period to contemporary developments, including modern nationalism, economic development and changing social structure.

Instructor: Samuel Meyerson

Mode of Instruction: Online

Core Course