

KALAMAZOO COLLEGE
2018-2019 ACADEMIC CATALOG

African Studies

Professor: Bangura (Director)

The concentration in African Studies offers students the opportunity to study Africa, its people, and its societies from a perspective that provides a holistic understanding of the continent. In order to provide concentrators with an in-depth understanding of African peoples and cultures, histories, and the political, economic, and ecological environments, the program draws upon the social sciences, natural sciences, and humanities.

In addition, students will develop a heightened awareness of the long-term and complex relationship between Africa and the West. A core curriculum of courses, coupled with study abroad opportunities and an ongoing series of campus events including speakers, special programs, and visiting scholars, will provide students with a foundation for future work and/or study in African studies and related fields.

Requirements for the Concentration in African Studies

Number of Units

Six units are required.

Required Courses

AFST/HIST 104 Introduction to African Studies

AFST/HIST 276 Civilizations of Africa

AFST/HIST 277 Contemporary Africa

Three additional courses chosen from the following list. Courses should include Africa specific study abroad subject to approval by the Director of African Studies.

AFST/ANSO 290 Africa in Global Context

AFST/HIST 273 Atlantic Slave Trade

AFST/POLS 248 Politics of Sub-Saharan Africa

ENGL 221 African Literature

AFST/SEMNI/HIST 271 Nelson Mandela and the Anti-Apartheid Movement

HIST/AFST 272 Gender Relations in Africa

HIST/RELG/AFST 274 Islam in Africa

HIST/RELG/AFST 275 African Christianity

Concentrators are encouraged to take as many core and elective courses as possible.

Courses taken abroad and at other U.S. colleges and universities, or with guest scholars on campus, may meet a concentration requirement. Students are encouraged to speak with the Director of African Studies as they develop their program.

Kalamazoo College also operates study abroad programs in Africa: Kenya, Senegal, Egypt, and Botswana. These give students an intensive academic and intercultural experience in an African region. The specific African countries in which the College operates are listed in the "Center for International Programs" section of this catalog.

African Studies courses

AFST 101 Elementary Kiswahili I

This course introduces students to the basic structures of Kiswahili with an emphasis on achieving elementary communication skills in reading, writing and grammatical skills. Student will become familiar with aspects of the language they would need in Kiswahili-speaking communities in Eastern Africa. This course also introduces students to the appropriate contexts of language usage by providing them with insights into the culture, traditions and history of Kiswahili-

speaking peoples.

AFST 102 Elementary Kiswahili II

This course continues to introduce students to the basic structures of Kiswahili with an emphasis on achieving elementary communication skills in reading, writing and grammatical skills. Student will become familiar with aspects of the language they would need in Kiswahili-speaking communities in Eastern Africa. This course also continues the introduction of appropriate contexts of language usage, providing students with insights into the culture, traditions and history of Kiswahili-speaking peoples.

AFST/HIST 104 Introduction to African Studies

This course introduces students to selected themes, paradigms, and concepts in African Studies. It is divided into four sections: section one deals with "Pre-colonial African societies;" section two examines "The Idea of Africa;" section three focuses on "African Studies as an academic discipline;" section four addresses "Colonialism and its impact on Africa." It is strongly recommended that students take the Introduction to African Studies course before taking any of the upper level African Studies classes.

AFST 201 Intermediate Kiswahili

Kiswahili 201 is a continuation of Elementary Kiswahili I & II that students have taken at K or while on study abroad in Kenya. The course emphasizes skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing with intermediate level grammatical structures. Half of the class time will be devoted to conversation and oral practice, reinforcing and going beyond the skills the students have mastered while on study abroad. The rest of the time will be devoted to reading and learning some intermediate-level grammar. Students are required to review all the readings prior to each class meeting. Attendance is required.

AFST/POLS 248 Politics of Sub-Saharan Africa

This course offers an in-depth perspective on the study of Sub-Saharan African politics. It examines Africa's post-independence democratic strides, security issues, and the failure and successes of statism. It specifically exposes students to the challenges and the conundrum of the postcolonial state and the efforts in dealing with such challenges in Africa. The end of the Cold War as well as the demise of apartheid affected the political landscape in Africa, thus strengthening the role of grassroots organizations and of other external forces to engage in the process of state reconstruction.

AFST/HIST/SEMN 271 Nelson Mandela and the Anti-Apartheid Movement

There are times when specific people, places and moments in history capture the imagination of the world. This occurs when that specificity speaks volumes to the human condition and offers lessons that we all sense are important. Such has been the case with Nelson Mandela and anti-apartheid movement. This course will use Mandela and the evolution of, and struggle against, apartheid as a window into some of the 20th century's most complex issues.

Prerequisite: Sophomores Only

AFST/HIST/WGS 272 Gender Relations in Africa

This course explores categories of masculinity and femininity that relate to and inform one another. It analyzes how these identity categories interact with other axes of social and political power, such as ethnic affiliation, economic status, and age in various places and times in Africa.

AFST 273 Atlantic Slave Trade

This course examines the complex web of connections that linked together the various lives and fates of Africans, Europeans, and Americans via the Atlantic slave trade. It analyzes the mode of enslavement of Africans by slavers in Africa, the experiences of slaves in the Middle Passage, and the impact of the trade on continental and Diasporan Africans. It also explores the role played by Africa-based abolitionist movements in ending the trade in Atlantic Africa.

AFST/HIST/RELG 274 Islam in Africa

This course explores the spread of Islam from the Arab peninsula to the African continent in the seventh century through the nineteenth century and limns the factors which facilitated this advance. It examines the methods and principles of Islam and how the religion affected the life styles of its African neophytes and adherents. As a result of the interaction between Muslim and African civilizations, the advance of Islam has profoundly influenced religious beliefs and practices of African societies, while local traditions have also influenced Islamic practices. Muslims were important in the process of state-building and in the creation of commercial networks that brought together large parts of the continent. Muslim clerics served as registrars of state records and played a role in developing inner-state diplomacy inside Africa and beyond.

AFST/HIST 275/SEMN 274 African Christianity

This course explores the complex and disparate trends of Christianity in Africa since the first century C. E. It highlights Africa's role in the development and growth of Christianity as a global religion.

Prerequisite: Sophomores Only

AFST/HIST 276 Civilizations of Africa

Study of Africa south of the Sahara including the origins of man and the emergence of food producing communities; Ancient

Egypt and pre-colonial African kingdoms and federations; medieval empires of western Sudan, Ethiopia, and Bantu-speaking Africa; and the Atlantic slave trade. Emphasis on socio-political and economic history.

AFST/HIST 277 Contemporary Africa

Study of Africa south of the Sahara including colonialism and the anti-colonial struggles of the post-WWII period.

AFST/HIST 279 Special Topics in African History

This course will focus upon a topic in African history that is not addressed in the department's regular offerings. The course can be repeated with different topics.

AFST/ANSO 290 Africa in Global Context

An examination of contemporary African societies. Particular emphasis is given to the ways that people and places on the African continent have been and continue to be connected to global dynamics and the implications of these past and present connections for people's lives as they are lived today.

AFST 498 Independent Study

AFST 593 Senior Individualized Project

Each program or department sets its own requirements for Senior Individualized Projects done in that program, including the range of acceptable projects, the required background of students doing projects, the format of the SIP, and the expected scope and depth of projects. See the Kalamazoo Curriculum -> Curriculum Details and Policies section of the Academic Catalog for more details.

Prerequisite: Permission of department and SIP supervisor required.

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