

SPECIALIZATION IN AFRICAN STUDIES

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

The Specialization in African Studies is administered by the College of Social Science and coordinated by the African Studies Center. The specialization provides a multidisciplinary educational experience for students who are interested in Africa. The specialization is designed to help students to acquire a better understanding of diverse aspects of African environments, economies, politics, societies, and cultures. While the specialization complements a number of major areas of study, students who plan graduate study related to Africa, who wish to pursue careers in international agencies in the United States or other countries, or who wish to work in Africa may find the specialization particularly appealing.

The specialization is available to all undergraduate students at MSU. The courses that fulfill the requirements for the specialization may also be counted toward other requirements.

The undergraduate adviser for African studies, located in Room 100, International Center, coordinates the specialization on behalf of the Dean. **Although there is no formal admission procedure, students who plan to meet the requirements for the specialization must meet with the undergraduate adviser for African studies.** Students who elect the specialization sign a statement of interest. The adviser assists students in developing programs of study that are tailored to their needs and interests, yet meet the requirements for the specialization.

Upon completion of the requirements for the Specialization in African Studies, the student should contact the undergraduate adviser for African studies and request certification for the completion of the specialization. After the certification is approved by the Dean of the College of Social Science, the Office of the Registrar will enter on the student's academic record the name of the specialization and the date it was completed. This certification of completion will appear on the student's transcript.

REQUIREMENTS¹

The student must complete the requirements of *one* of the three options as described below. Each option consists of specified numbers of credits from two or more of the four sections that are described below: *General Core Courses, African Language Courses, Thematic Concentrations, and Independent Study, Research, and Fieldwork.*

A. BROAD OPTION (Option A):

A minimum of 21 credits to include:

- 9 credits from the *General Core Courses* section
- 9 credits from the *Thematic Concentrations* section that consist of *either* four courses within one *or* two courses from each of two thematic areas.
- 3 credits from the *Independent Study, Research, and Fieldwork* section.²

B. LANGUAGE EMPHASIS OPTION (Option B):

A minimum of 20 credits to include:

- 9 credits from the *General Core Courses* section.
- 8 credits from the *African Language Courses* section; these 8 credits must be courses in a single language, and study must extend over one full year.
- 3 credits from *either* the *Thematic Concentration* section *or* the *Independent Study, Research, and Fieldwork* section.²

C. LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY OPTION (Option C):

A minimum of 22 credits to include:

- 6 credits from the *General Core Courses* section.
- 16 credits from the *African Language Courses* section; the 16 credits must be in courses in a single language, and study must extend over two full years.³

DEPT	NO.	TITLE	SEMESTER	CREDITS
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(Note: F=fall, S=spring, and U=summer also o=odd years, e=even years, and /=or)

1. General Core Courses

GENERAL COURSES

ANP	416	Anthropology of Southern Africa	F-o	3
ANP	450	African Archaeology	F-e	3
EC	414	Economic Analysis of Sub-Sahara Africa	F-o	3
ENG	363	African Literature	F	3
GEO	338	Geography of Africa	F	3
GEO	492	Economic Geography of Africa	F,S,U	1-4
HST	360	African History to 1800	F	3
HST	361	African History since 1800	S	3
HST	484	Seminar in African History	F,S	3
IAH	211A	Area Studies & Multicultural Civilizations: Africa	S	4
ISS	330A	Africa: Social Science Perspectives (1)	F,S,U	4
MC	324B	Regional Politics & Cooperation in Sub-Saharan Africa	F-e	4
MC	492	Political Economy of Africa	F,S	1-4
PLS	351	African Politics	F	3

2. African Language Courses

AFRICAN LANGUAGE (AFR)

AFR	101A	Elementary Swahili I	F	4
AFR	102A	Elementary Swahili II	S	4
AFR	101B	Elementary African Language I	F	4
AFR	102B	Elementary African Language II	S	4
AFR	151	Beginning Individual African Language I	F	4
AFR	152	Beginning Individual African Language II	S	4
AFR	201A	Second Year Swahili I	F	4
AFR	202A	Second Year Swahili II	S	4
AFR	201B	Second Year African Language I	F	4
AFR	202B	Second Year African Language II	S	4
AFR	251	Intermediate Individual African Language I	F	4
AFR	252	Intermediate Individual African Language II	S	4
AFR	290	Independent Study	F,S	1-4
AFR	450A	Advanced Swahili	F,S	1-5
AFR	450B	Advanced African Language	F,S	1-5
AFR	490	Independent Study	F,S	1-4

ARABIC (ARB)

ARB	101	Elementary Arabic I	F	4
ARB	102	Elementary Arabic II	S	4
ARB	201	Second Year Arabic I	F	4
ARB	202	Second Year Arabic II	S	4
ARB	290	Independent Study	F,S	1-4
ARB	490	Independent Study	F,S	1-4

3. Thematic Concentration

Cultural, Historical and Linguistic Studies

ANP	416	Anthropology of Southern Africa	F-o	3
ANP	417	Anthropology of East Africa	S-O	3
ANP	420	Language and Culture ⁴	F,S	3
ANP	450	African Archaeology	F-e	3
ANP	491	Women, Environment and Culture	S	3
ENG	363	African Literature	F	3
ENG	463	Literature of Africa and the African Diaspora	S	3
ENG	471	Third World Cinema ⁴	F	4
HST	208	The African Experience	F	4
HST	360	African History to 1800	F	3
HST	361	African History since 1800	S	3
HST	362	West African History 1500-1900	S	3
HST	363	East Africa Since 1500	F-e	3
HST	364	Southern Africa since 1800	F	3
HST	470	History of East Africa	F/S	3
HST	484	Seminar in African History	F,S	3
HA	204	Asian and African Art	S	4
HA	470	Art of West Africa	S	4
HA	471	Art of Central, Southern and Eastern Africa	F	3
IAH	211A	Area Studies & Multicultural Civilizations: Africa	S	4
ISS	310	People and the Environment ⁴	S	4
ISS	330A	Africa: Social Science Perspective	F,S,U	4
JRN	475	International News Media ⁴	S	3
PLS	351	African Politics	F	3
REL	491	Special Topics: African Traditional Religions	S	3

Ecology, Demography and Agriculture

ANP	491	Women, Environment and Culture ⁴	F/S	3
ANS	480	Animal Systems in International Development ⁴	S	3
FOR	450	Forestry in International Development ⁴	F	4
FSM	462	Agricultural Development in Less Developed Countries ⁴	F	3
GEO	338	Geography of Africa	F	3
GEO	435	Geography of Health and Disease ⁴	F	3
ISS	310	People and Environment ⁴	F,S,U	4
PRM	260	World Food, Population and Poverty ⁴	S	3
PRM	462	Agricultural Development in Less Developed Countries ⁴	F	3

Socioeconomic Change and Development

ANP	322	Peasants and Social Change in Developing World ⁴	S-e	3
MC	324B	Regional Politics and Cooperation in Sub-Saharan Africa	F-e	4
PLS	351	African Politics	F	3

Conflict and Resolution in Africa

MC	290	Politics in South Africa	U	4
SOC	215	Race and Ethnicity ⁴	F,S,U	3

Studies in the African Diaspora

ENG	463	Literature of Africa and the African Diaspora	S	3
FRN	440	Francophone Cultures and Civilizations ⁴	S	3
HST	383	History of the Caribbean 1500	S	3
HST	310	African American History to 1876	F	3
HST	311	African and American History Since 1876	S	3
HST	312	African American Women	S	3
IAH	211C	Area Studies & Multicultural Origins of Black America	F/S	4
ISS	330C	African Diaspora: Social Science Perspective (II)	F/S	4
MC	372	African-American Political Thought	S	4
MC	383	African-American Politics	F	4
SOC	215	Race and Ethnicity	F,S,U	3

4. Independent Study, Research, and Fieldwork³

With the approval of the undergraduate adviser in African Studies and the course instructor,* credits in courses that are related to *one* of the following activities may be counted toward the requirements for the specialization:

- a research paper based on library research or field work in Africa (3 credits).
- community outreach activities on Africa-related projects in Michigan (3 credits).
- an Africa-related internship experience on or off campus (3 credits). Work in private or government agencies engaged in work in Africa may be counted toward this experience. Courses such as those listed below might be completed in relation to this activity:

M C	400	Field Experience ⁴
SSC	496	Field Study Abroad ⁴
SSC	493	Social Science Internship ⁴

- 6 months of internship, field work, or study in Africa (5 credits).

*Many departments and individual instructors require that students requesting independent study must have completed a previous course with that instructor. Students should clear the possibility of an independent study with the instructor prior to enrolling.

¹In certifying the completion of the requirements for the specialization, a given course shall be counted only once. With the approval of the undergraduate adviser for African studies, courses other than those listed below may be counted toward the requirements for the specialization *if* the content of those courses is specifically related to or focused on Africa.

²Additional courses in a *Thematic Concentration* may be substituted for courses in the *Independent Study, Research, and Fieldwork* section.

³Courses in Arabic, Hausa, and Swahili are currently being offered.

⁴This course may be counted toward the requirements for the specialization *only if* the topic is specifically related to or focused on Africa *and* the undergraduate adviser for African Studies has approved the counting of the related credits toward the requirements for the specialization.