

Interested in This Major?

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What is Africology?

Africology examines cultures, societies and political economies of peoples of African origin and descent. This includes not just peoples of the African continent but everyone with African roots around the globe, often referred to as the African diaspora.

Students are exposed to historical texts and literature, modern social issues, philosophical questions and political crises through an African-centered lens. You will learn how to view complex situations from multiple perspectives; synthesize known information and hypothesize about the unknown; apply lessons from the past to problems of the present; and critique past practices.

Professor Winston Van Horne, who worked at UWM up until his death, was one of the pioneers who advocated for calling the field “Africology.” Many universities call this area “African-American Studies,” a term that many feel is too limiting to reflect the breadth of issues facing people of African descent throughout the world, not just in the United States.

Africology at UWM

The Department offers an undergraduate major and minor and has one of the few PhD programs in the U.S. The major is designed to educate students in the best traditions of the liberal arts and sciences, providing them with a sound knowledge of the past, present and future roles of peoples of African origin. The program is broad and international in focus.

Within the major, students choose one of two tracks. Option A Political Economy has more courses about political and economic structures within the U.S. and abroad as well as courses centered on social justice. Option B Culture and Society leans heavily towards

historical, psychological and literary topics in addition to classes about social constructs such as the black family, church, media and schools.

Career Opportunities

The study of Africology is relevant to everyone, regardless of race, gender, ethnicity, nationality or religion. You will find value in the program if you are interested in working within the U.S. or internationally in health services, education, journalism, social work, politics, law, business, the non-profit sector, trade, the arts and government agencies.

The skills and knowledge obtained through an Africology major are increasingly valued in a globalized workforce: strong writing ability, exceptional communication skills in diverse settings, and critical analysis.

Major Requirements

A total of 36 credits is required for the major. Prior to declaring the major, a student must successfully complete:

Course #	Course Title
Africol 215	Intro to Black Social and Cultural Traditions
Africol 220	Intro to Statistics in Africology
Africol 222	Research Methods in Africology
Africol 228	Intro to Black Political Economy

Throughout the process, students work with a Department advisor to plan their course of study, including which option they will follow. Students meet the rest of their major credit requirements by choosing courses from a list of electives approved for their option. Up to six credits may be chosen from the list of approved classes for the other option. For example, a student in Option A can count up to six credits from the Option B list towards his/her major.

Some of the classes available include:

Option A Political Economy

Course #	Course Title
Africol 300	Urban Violence
Africol 325	Political Economy of Africa/China Relations
Africol 329	Problems and Prospects of U.S./Africa Economic Relations
Africol 341	Black Politics and City Government
Africol 344	Political Movements and Organizations in the Afroworld
Africol 412	Blacks and the U.S. Constitution
Africol 416	Race, Injustice, and the Change in America
Africol 420	The Political Economy of Slavery

Option B Culture and Society

Course #	Course Title
Africol 205	The Poetry of African, African-American and Caribbean Writers
Africol 265	Psychological Effects of Racism
Africol 314	The School in African-American Life
Africol 319	History of Blacks in the American City
Africol 351	Sex, Marriage and Health Care in the Afroworld
Africol 369	Mass Media and Black Self-Images
Africol 414	The Black Woman in America, Africa and the Caribbean
Africol 451	Rites of Passage in Black Societies

Students in both Option A and Option B must also complete Africol 329 (Economic Growth and Sustainable Development in Africa), Africol 352 (Extended Families in Black Societies), or Africol 699 (Independent Study) in order to satisfy the research experience component of the degree.

UWM Africology Faculty

The department’s faculty is internationally recognized for its expertise. The diversity of the faculty reflect the diversity and breadth of the major itself. Faculty specialize in subjects such as:

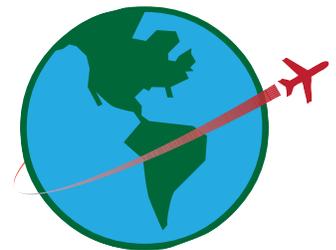
- Racial identity
- Mass media and its impacts on the African (Black) psyche
- Folklore
- African religions
- Global political economy
- Gender relations, gender oppression and gender studies

- Social movements
- Racism
- African American history
- Black feminist criticism and theory
- Caribbean and Latin America
- Foreign direct investment
- International finance and trade in African countries
- Economics of the Black community
- Health beliefs
- Black politics
- Children and race

Study Abroad

A study abroad experience to Ghana, West Africa, is offered during UWinteriM, the period between fall and spring semesters. Participants engage in academic seminars; visit major historical sites, including the slave castles; tour Kumasi, the cultural capital and home of the Asantehene, king of the Akan people; and visit Tema, Ghana’s industrial capital and major port.

The summer program in Ethiopia is particularly attractive to students with interests in African civilization, anthropology and archaeology. Ethiopia is considered to be the political capital of Africa, and East Africa is where anthropologists believe that humans first emerged.



Join “Africology Now”!

- Peer tutoring
- Creative writing exchange
- Trip planning
- Social activities
- Career networking

Barbee Essay Competition

Each year, the Lloyd A. Barbee Essay Competition makes a \$100 award to the student with the best essay covering any Africology topic, theme or issue.

Community and Campus Events

The department regularly sponsors or co-sponsors a variety of events for the Milwaukee community and/or the campus community: Black History Month celebrations; lectures on timely topics in the news; visiting guest speakers from around the country; research presentations; film screenings; and community organizing events.

Revised 08/14



This sample four-year plan shows just one possible pathway to earning a degree with this major in four years. This plan **does not** replace the advice of your advisor, and students are cautioned to meet regularly with their advisor to create a personalized plan that matches their particular circumstances. This plan also follows the degree requirements for students who began their UWM education in Fall of 2013 or later. If you started at UWM prior to Fall of 2013, your degree requirements may be different.

Degree Requirements (brief summary):

1. English Proficiency and UWM Oral and Written Communication (OWC) GER - English 102 (OWC-A) and one OWC-B course
2. Math Proficiency and UWM Quantitative Literacy (QL) GER - Math 102, 103, 105, or 108 (QL-A) and a QL-B course
3. Formal Reasoning - 3 credits (Some courses satisfy both formal reasoning and the QL-B GER)
4. Foreign Language – 4 semesters of a single Foreign Language (or 3 semesters of one language and 2 semesters of another language)
5. L&S Humanities – 12 credits
6. L&S Social Sciences – 12 credits
7. L&S Natural Science – 12 credits including a laboratory
8. L&S International – 9 credits usually accomplished in conjunction with Humanities and/or Social Science courses
9. UWM Arts GER – 3 credits
10. UWM Cultural Diversity GER – 3 credits usually accomplished in conjunction with a Humanities or Social Science course
11. 120 credits including 90 credits in L&S and with 36 of the 90 credits in L&S upper-level (numbered above 300) courses
12. Complete the Africology major requirements
 - 36 credits with at least 15 at the 300-level or above completed at UWM
 - Political Economy track
 - » All of Africology 215, 220, 222 and 228
 - » One of Africology 329 or 699
 - » 5 courses from Africology 239, 300, 321, 322, 326, 329, 341, 344, 361, 362, 411, 412, 416, 417, 418, 420 and (depending on subtitle) Africology 222, 235, 334, 381, 489, 565, 699
 - » 2 courses additional from the above list or from Africology 205, 210, 218 232, 250, 261, 265, 311, 312, 314, 319, 320, 350, 351, 352, 365, 369, 372, 402, 411, 414, 450 and (depending on subtitle) Africology 222, 235, 334, 381, 489, 565, 699
 - » Africology Elective courses to add to 36 credits
 - Culture and Society track
 - » All of Africology 215, 220, 222 and 228
 - » One of Africology 352 or 699
 - » 5 courses additional from Africology 205, 210, 218 232, 250, 261, 265, 311, 312, 314, 319, 320, 350, 351, 352, 365, 369, 372, 402, 411, 414, 450 and (depending on subtitle) Africology 222, 235, 334, 381, 489, 565, 699
 - » 2 courses additional from the above list or 2 courses from Africology 239, 300, 321, 322, 326, 329, 341, 344, 361, 362, 411, 412, 416, 417, 418, 420 and (depending

on subtitle) Africology 222, 235, 334, 381, 489, 565, 699
 » Africology Elective courses to add to 36 credits

Sample Four Year Plan:

There are hundreds of courses that satisfy various requirements (<http://www4.uwm.edu/lets/requirements/>), and courses in the major can be used. For example, Africology 215 counts as both three credits of Social Science and Cultural Diversity. (This sample assumes no high school Foreign Language was taken and that the student placed into college-level Math and English.)

	Semester 1	Semester 2
Year 1	English 101	English 102 (OWC-A)
	Math 102, 103, 105 or 108 (QL-A)	L&S Natural Science with lab
	1st semester Foreign Language	2nd semester Foreign Language
	Africol 100 (HU/CD)	Africology elective (HU)
	L&S Social Science, not Africol	Elective
Year 2	OWC-B course	Africol 215 (SS)
	3rd semester Foreign Language (Int'l)	4th semester Foreign Language (Int'l)
	Africol 220 (QL-B/formal reasoning)	L&S Humanities, not Africol
	L&S Natural Science	L&S Natural Science
	Elective	Africol 228 (SS)
Year 3	L&S Humanities/ International, not Africol	L&S Social Science, not Africol
	L&S Natural Science	Arts GER
	Africol 222	Africol advanced elective
	Africol advanced elective	Africol advanced elective
	Elective	Elective
Year 4	Africol advanced elective	Africol advanced elective
	L&S Social Science, not Africol	Africol 329/352 or 699 (depending on track)
	Advanced L&S elective	Advanced L&S elective
	Advanced L&S elective	Advanced L&S elective
	Advanced L&S elective	Advanced L&S elective

(SS) Social Science GER

(HU) Humanities GER

(Int'l) International requirement

(CD) Cultural Diversity GER