

Africana Studies Major (GIS)

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About

The Department of Global Interdisciplinary Studies (GIS) provides students with a tripartite of skills, knowledge, and values that foster critical thinking, problem solving, and preparation for responsible global citizenship. Students gain an understanding of global studies, acquiring the know-how in global and digital literacy, cultural diversity and intercultural competences, interdisciplinary research, and a passion for social justice, nurtured in experiential learning.

Program: [Global Interdisciplinary Studies](#)

Type: Bachelor of Arts

MAJOR (31-34 credits)

Villanova's Africana Studies Program connects faculty, students, and community members interested in the academic study of Africa and the African diaspora. With 25 faculty affiliates, about 20 courses offered each semester, a robust calendar of public events, and a major and a minor, the Program has grown significantly since its founding in 1994. Whether the topic is politics in Africa, the literature of the Black diaspora in France, the history of the US civil rights movement, or Black theology, the Africana Studies Program encourages critical thinking, crossing disciplinary boundaries, and connecting academic work with lived reality. The Africana Studies Program pursues knowledge that has often been overlooked or undervalued as we strive to develop deeply inclusive community. Indeed, as an Augustinian Catholic university, Villanova is oriented to its core by the vision of an African diasporic faith leader.

Required Specialization Courses:

Six courses with the AFR attribute for a minimum of 18 credits, including the courses listed below.

Program Notes:

- Students may also combine three 1-credit IGR courses to count as one of the undesignated Africana courses
- For GIS 5011, Team-taught Topics Student takes two different topics, the first of which counts as the Junior Research Seminar for the Major (6 credits).
- Courses taken as part of a study abroad program may be counted
- A GIS 5011 with AFR attribute (or other course approved by the program director) may be counted among the six courses, as long as the two required GIS 5011 courses for the GIS major have been fulfilled.

Required GIS Courses:

Item #	Title	Credits
GIS 2000	Intro to Global Interd Studies	3
GIS 5011	GIS Select	3
GIS 5011	GIS Select	3
GIS 6500	Capstone I: Research	3
GIS 6600	Capstone 2:Thesis	3
GIS 5000	Special Topics	1
	Study Abroad	
AFR 3000	Constructs of Blackness	3
	GIS Africana Elective	15

Category Descriptions

Study Abroad

One semester of Study Abroad.

GIS Africana Elective

Credits: 15

Choose five courses with the AFR attribute, one of which in either Africana History or Literature, or HIS 2293. Below represents select courses eligible. Please consult the course catalog for additional courses with the AFR attribute.

Item #	Title	Credits
HIS 2292	African Amer His since Emancip	3
ENG 3690/3691	Br/Ir Lit. & Cult. after 1900	3