

AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES

This multidisciplinary major is designed to provide students with a critical understanding of the historical, cultural, social, and political experience of African Americans, with a particular emphasis on the development and culture of the African American communities in California and the West, as well as on both historical and contemporary effects of global issues on African American communities.

BACHELOR OF ARTS (BA) GENERAL OVERVIEW

Three core courses:

- Introduction to American Studies and Ethnicity *or* Introduction to African American Studies
- Junior Seminar in American Studies and Ethnicity: Theories and Methods
- Senior Seminar in American Studies and Ethnicity

Choose one course in each of the following three areas of study:

- History
- Literature and Culture
- Social and Political Issues

Four upper-division elective courses. Examples include:

- African American Humor and Culture
- Black Social Movements in the United States
- Psychological Dynamics of the African American Experience
- Political Participation and American Diversity
- Racial and Ethnic Relations in a Global Society

ACADEMIC OPPORTUNITIES

California African American Museum: Located across the street from campus, this museum gives students the chance to research and observe the history, art, and culture of African Americans, with an emphasis on California and the western United States.

Junior and Senior Seminars: All students are required to take these seminar courses in which they work closely with internationally recognized faculty to complete substantial projects in the field. These seminars prepare students for graduate work in the field and related research and writing projects in professional schools, such as Law, Business, and Communication.

Center for Diversity & Democracy: The CDD works with faculty, students, and community partners to enhance, explore, and develop strong connections between efforts of university-community civic engagement and the diversity of university faculty and students. It is committed to strengthening a diverse set of voices at the university, while enabling a wide variety of community members and organizations to engage the university as equal partners towards equity and social justice.

Honors Program: Students can pursue the honors track and complete directed research with a faculty member. The program helps foster connections with faculty, improve their research and writing skills, and gain self-confidence.