

African Studies Program

History

Indiana University's African Studies Program (ASP) was formed in 1961 after the receipt of a developmental grant from the Ford Foundation. It has been led by J. Gus Liebenow (1961-71), Patrick O'Meara (1971-1993), Brian Winchester (1993-1995), York Bradshaw (1995-1999), John H. Hanson (1999-2007, 2015-present), and Samuel Obeng (2007-2015). It became an inaugural National Resource Center (NRC) for Africa under Title VI of the National Defense Education Act in 1965 and maintained NRC status continuously for 49 years until 2014. The African Studies Program continues to offer Title VI Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) fellowships.

The Program has grown to cover all regions of the continent and to draw on faculty in the arts, humanities, and social sciences as well as numerous professional schools. Our faculty members are leaders in their fields, and our students have distinguished careers in academia, journalism, government service (in Africa and the United States), museums, development work, and many other professional fields influencing Africa. The African collections in IU libraries and museums have been carefully developed over the years: in addition to the extensive Africana collections in the Wells Library, IU has archival collections, including the unrivaled Liberia and Somalia collections as well as the private papers of African literary figures such as Athol Fugard, Nadine Gordimer, and Ngugi wa Thiongo.

Vision Statement

Commitment to being one of the nation's leading programs for the interdisciplinary study of Africa by promoting greater understanding and appreciation of Africa and its people through:

- Cutting-edge research on Africa.
- High-quality instruction in African languages and cultures.
- Promotion of the exchange of students, faculty, and materials between the U.S. and Africa in support of research, teaching, and learning experiences.
- Promotion of the study of Africa in global perspective by building bridges with other area- studies programs, international centers, professional schools, and departments inside and outside IUB.
- Engaging in collaborative activities with other universities and institutions to share resources, for example, through interactive teaching.
- Exposing students to life in Africa through classroom, study abroad, and other activities.
- Promotion of the development of new resources and technologies for teaching and researching Africa, including podcasts, web sites, internet capabilities, interactive instruction (e.g., video conferencing), film and print media, and library online services.

- Effective outreach activities to schools, colleges/universities, communities, businesses.
- Promotion of cultural, artistic, musical, and other activities related to Africa that lead to personal, community, or institutional enrichment by supporting national and international exhibits, performances, and artists.

Principal Programmatic Activities

- Weekly speaker series: Friday Colloquium
- Public presentations by invited guest speakers in the Contemporary Africa graduate seminar (AFRI-A 731)
- Special guest lectures organized by ASP or in coordination with other units
- Special events (including short residencies by scholars and artists from Africa)
- Symposia and workshops on contemporary themes
- Editing the quarterly journal *Africa Today*, published by Indiana University Press
- K-12 Outreach to schools, businesses, and the community

Principal Academic Activities

The Program offers African language courses and several Africa-focused courses, including lower level non-language undergraduate courses taught by its language lecturers. The majority of African Studies classes are cross-listed courses offered by affiliated faculty in other units and in professional schools.

Degrees and Certificates offered; 2017 completions and fall 2017 enrollments

Undergraduate Degrees:

- Certificate in African Studies (2)
- Minor in African Studies (3; 15 graduated in May 2017)
- Minor in African Expressive Culture (0)
- Minor in African Languages (0; 8 graduated in May 2017)
- Major in International Studies with Africa concentration (0)
- Individualized Multi-disciplinary Major on an African topic or issue (0)

NB: difficult to track students who are early in the program and may be pursuing minors, majors, and certificates (we noticed a significant drop from last year, but our enrollments would not suggest such losses)

Graduate Degrees:

- MA in African Studies (3, with 2 graduating in early fall 2017)
- Dual MA in African Studies and Master of Library Science (MLS) (0)
- Joint MA in African Studies and Master of Public Affairs (MPA) (1)
- Dual MA in African Studies and Master of Public Health (MPH) (2)
- PhD Minor in African Studies (22; 1 graduated in May 2017)

Core Staff, including language faculty and student appointments

Office:

Student Services Assistant, Wayne Parkinson: resource person for prospective and current students, faculty, and staff; maintains and updates student files, records, and databases; maintains and updates web pages; editor of weekly Events bulletin; performs secretarial support services, as assigned.

Administrative Coordinator, Fiscal Officer Delegate, Scheduling Officer, Graduate Secretary, Department Manager, Marilyn Estep: manages accounts; develops budgets in Elvira in Elvis; manages personnel records; schedules African Studies courses; supervises support staff; assists in grant application preparation; enters data into SIS and Title VI reports; prepares Title VI FLAS report budgets.

African Languages Coordinator, Alwiya Omar: Clinical Professor of Linguistics: supervises language instruction and the Associate Instructors; provides pedagogical training; teaches intermediate Swahili (AFRI-S 201/601, spring 2017), Advanced Swahili (AFRI-S 301/701, fall 2017), and Advanced Individual Study of African Languages (AFRI-X 491, fall 2017). Also collaborates with State University of Zanzibar teaching graduate linguistics courses in Kiswahili.

Associate Director, Tavy D. Aherne: assists in administration, including program planning, implementation, grant writing, and reporting; undergraduate advisor; oversees outreach activities; may direct Study Abroad programs; teaches graduate methods course (AFRI-A 650) and undergraduate courses (AFRI-L 400/AFRI-A 500).

Director, John H. Hanson, Associate Professor, Department of History: provides intellectual leadership to the program, develops planning documents, implement policies, and works collaboratively with stake-holders to move in strategic directions. Duties include: developing and submitting proposals for external and internal funding, working with faculty to organize symposia and to develop collaborative research projects, pursuing and fostering partnerships with universities abroad, sustaining and expanding relationships with stake- holders, representing the program within IU, nationally and internationally, serves as Editor-in-Chief of *Africa Today*, supervising the program's administrative staff, NTT faculty and SAAs, and leading the African Languages Program (with the assistance of the African Languages Coordinator).

Language Lecturers:

Lecturer, Amadou Beidy Sow: Teaches Bamanakan language courses (AFRI-B 101/501, AFRI-B 201/601, AFRI-B 301/701), and AFRI-L 100, Political Leadership in Africa (spring 2017 and fall 2017); AFRI-L 100, Women Political Leaders in Africa (spring 2016)

Senior Lecturer, David Adu-Amankwah: Teaches Akan language courses each semester (AFRI-K 101/501, AFRI-K 201/601, AFRI-K 301/701); and AFRI-L 202, Occultism in Africa (fall 2017 and spring 2017); and AFRI-L 102, Akan Social Life and Cultural Heritage (fall 2016 and spring 2017); and AFRI-K 100 Akan Business and Tourism (spring 2017).

Senior Lecturer, Betty Dlamini: Teaches elementary and intermediate Zulu (AFRI-Z 101/501, AFRI-Z 201/601, AFRI-Z 301/701), and AFRI-L 100 Gumboot Dance (summer 2017 and spring 2017); AFRI-L 100, Reed Dance (fall 2016); AFRI-L 400 Drama for Development (spring 2017, summer 2017, and fall 2017)

Other:

Senior Scientist/Scholar, Antonia Schleicher: teaches one Africa-focused content course each semester (note: newly defined role as of fall 2017); and Director of the National African Language Resource Center (NALRC).

Student Appointments:

***Africa Today* Managing Editor**, Cynthia Kanko (PhD student in French and Italian): processing submitted manuscripts; tracking reviewers; maintaining reviewer profiles; corresponding with authors and reviewers; processing manuscripts; managing *Africa Today* editorial office; and supervising undergraduate interns.

Associate Instructor, Victor Alabi (PhD student in Linguistics): teaches intermediate and advanced Yoruba

Associate Instructor, Lewis Addison Bradford (PhD candidate in Anthropology): teaches AFRI-L 232: “Contemporary Africa,” required for undergraduate Minor and Certificate.

Associate Instructor, Taiwo Ehineni (PhD student in Linguistics): teaches elementary Yoruba

Associate Instructor, Susan Kavaya (MA student in Public Health): teaches elementary Swahili

Associate Instructor, Mpolokeng Lesetla (MA student in Second Language Studies): teaches advanced Zulu and assists with other levels

Associate Instructor, Cheikh Lo (PhD student in Folklore and Ethnomusicology): teaches elementary, intermediate and advanced Wolof

Associate Instructor, Margaret Mwingira (PhD student in Education): teaches intermediate Swahili

Associate Instructor, Richard Nyamahanga (PhD student in Linguistics): teaches elementary Swahili

Fulbright Language Teaching Assistant, Mathew Ajibada (non-degree seeking): assists with Yoruba language courses

Fulbright Language Teaching Assistant, Imelda Mwaluka (non-degree seeking): assists with Swahili language courses

Graduate Assistant, Nana Bentil-Mawusi (PhD candidate in NELC): assists African Studies lecturers with grading assignments in AFRI culture classes.

Hourly Assistant, Jenny Parker (PhD student in Anthropology): assists with Title VI data collection (fall 2017)

Affiliated Faculty

Five Non-Tenure Track faculty in the African Studies Program and 72 faculty affiliates in various campus units. See the attached document for details.

Scholarships for Graduate Students

- African Students Research Award – 2 annually for up to \$3,000 per awardee*
- Graduate Student Travel Award – 3 annually for up to \$300 per awardee*
- Carleton T. Hodge Award – 1 annually at \$500**

*funded with *Africa Today* royalties **funded by Patricia Hodge endowment

External Funds (2006-present)

- Title VI grant 2006---2010: NRC \$989,010.00; FLAS \$373,000/year x 4 = \$1,492,000.00
- Title VI grant 2010---2014: NRC \$672,765.00; FLAS \$367,500/year x 4 = \$1,470,000.00
- Title VI grant 2014---2018 FLAS; \$192,000/year x 4 = \$768,000.00

Awards

The program currently has no awards but our affiliated faculty members have received numerous awards for Africa-focused collaborative projects. The program submitted an application for an Emerging Areas of Research award.

Future Activities and Programs

An Emerging Areas of Research application, “New Media and Global Africa,” brought a group of faculty into productive conversation and set a research direction; the Program intends to pursue this initiative even if its second EAR application does not receive funding. At the center of this initiative is the working group, New Media and Literary Initiatives in Africa (NEMLiA), launched several years ago (<https://nemlia.org>). The Program worked with NEMLiA members on organizing an international conference at the IU Berlin Gateway office in Berlin on June 9-10, 2017, in collaboration with African studies colleagues in Berlin and Bayreuth. A conference in Africa is expected to follow in 2018.

Another Emerging Areas of Research application, “The Crisis of Religious Authority in Islam,” led by Islamic Studies Program Director Ron Sela, involves John Hanson as the Africa team leader and several African Studies faculty.

The Program is involved in on-going discussions about future projects associated with the Indiana National Guard linkage with Niger.

The Program continues to offer a Friday colloquium series and support the visits of other speakers, including those presenting on the graduate seminar on Contemporary Africa (AFRI-A 731). We expect to develop working groups as part of our preparations for the anticipated Title VI application in 2017-18. Other preparations for the next Title VI application are ongoing.

External Affiliations (including advisors, partnerships, consortiums)

Memberships: Association of African Studies Programs; African Language Materials Archive (ALMA); West African Research Association (WARA).

Partnerships: We have MOUs (memoranda of understanding) in Egypt, Ghana, and South Africa: Cairo University (Egypt); University of Ghana at Legon; University of Cape Coast (Ghana); Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (Ghana); the University of Pretoria (South Africa) and the University of Cape Town (South Africa). A study abroad partnership with the University of Dar es Salaam in Tanzania continues, and we are exploring connections with the State University of Zanzibar. We also have a partnership with the University Cheikh Anta Diop’s School of Education. We are in the process of developing partnerships with the African Studies programs at Humboldt University in Berlin (Germany), and University of Bayreuth (Germany).

Governance Documents – please see attached