

AFRICANA STUDIES

Bachelor of Arts | Bachelor of Science

An Africana studies degree for the twenty-first century

The Africana Studies major at Northeastern University focuses on the historical and contemporary experiences of Africans, African Americans, and members of the global African Diaspora while preparing students to explore the increasingly global and interdisciplinary world we live in from diverse perspectives.

In our Experiential Liberal Arts education model, you will study history, culture, and politics as they relate to Africana studies and then hone your thinking, reading, and writing skills through experiential learning opportunities. Through rigorous study, co-op, study abroad, and service learning, you will acquire knowledge and competencies that will make you flexible for any profession you pursue.

Contemporary learning through reflection

The Africana Studies program offers a host of elective courses based in interdisciplinary approaches to the study of history, culture, language, political systems, health, and behaviors of peoples of African ancestry in the United States, the Caribbean, Africa, and throughout the globe, across the African Diaspora. Our course offerings span a broad register from the early days of colonization and enslavement to contemporary issues, such as Hip-Hop Culture, Social Media, and Digital Technologies. Our program has particular strengths in the broad areas of:

- Gender Studies & Social Justice
- Global Medicine & Health Equity

- Literature, Cultural Studies & Digital Humanities
- Sustainability & Environmental Studies

Co-op Opportunities

Through co-op, you will explore different career paths, academic interests, and global challenges related to Africana studies by adapting to different settings, asking new questions, and applying your problem-solving skills in the workplace.

Our students have had co-op placements in Boston Municipal Court, Wayfair, Ayanna Pressley's Senate Election Campaign, and Brookline Public Schools. International co-ops are also available, including the Kumasi Centre for Collaborative Research in Tropical Medicine in Ghana and the Miriam Kanana Mubichi Foundation in Kenya.

Experiential Learning & Research.

The Africana Studies program hosts a variety of opportunities for students to engage with, produce, and publicly share cutting edge research on the global African Diaspora. In addition to working individually with faculty, students can develop their own research projects, or participate in one of several projects associated with the program such as ECDA, the Early Black Boston Digital Almanac (The EBBDA is an open-access collection of materials, resources and exhibits focused on illuminating the vibrancy and dynamism of Boston's Early Black Communities); or the Center for Racial and Restorative Justice.

Early Caribbean Digital Archive (ECDA)

ECDA is an open access collection of pre-twentieth-century Caribbean texts, maps, and images. Texts include travel narratives, novels, poetry, natural histories, and diaries that have not been brought together before as a single collection focused on the Caribbean. The materials in the archive are primarily authored and published by Europeans, but the ECDA aims to use digital tools to "remix" the archive and foreground the centrality and creativity of enslaved and free African, Afro-creole, and Indigenous peoples in the Caribbean world.



Featured Courses

- The African American Experience through Music
- Black Popular Culture
- Gender, Race, and Medicine
- Early African American Literature
- American Women Writers and Race
- Religion and Spirituality in the African Diaspora
- Black Community and Social Change
- Analysis of American Racism
- Africa Today

Learn about Africana Studies combined major degrees at cssh.northeastern.edu/combined-majors



My experience as an African American studies minor has provided me with the opportunity to explore different topics and subjects outside of my major, such as inequity and inequality related to health, poverty, and gender. Furthermore, I have been able to gain invaluable insight through professors doing amazing research in my fields of interest."

Eloni Porcher, '19 African American studies minor



Savita Maharaj '22

English Major

Africana Studies & Writing Studies Minor



Originally a Cultural Anthropology major, Savita later became an English major with minors in Africana Studies and Writing Studies.



Savita was inspired by Professor Nicole Aljoe and joined the Early Caribbean Digital Archive, working on an exhibit about Caribbean Carnival and creating and gathering teaching materials.



In 2020, she began a co-op with the Africana Studies program to learn more about the field of Black Studies. In the future, Savita hopes to become an educator.

cssh.northeastern.edu/student/savita-maharaj

N Northeastern University College of Social Sciences and Humanities

As a leader in the Experiential Liberal Arts, Northeastern's College of Social Sciences and Humanities combines experiential learning with the rigorous study of culture, society, policy, and ethics. To explore the past and shape policies for a better tomorrow, we practice humanics: the integration of traditional liberal arts capacities with quantitative tools and new digital proficiencies. In fields ranging from English and economics to philosophy, criminology and public policy, we focus on the key issues of today: how to shape public spheres, how to build resilient and sustainable communities, and how to engage with cultures past and present.

N Northeastern University

Founded in 1898, Northeastern is a global research university and the recognized leader in experience-powered lifelong learning. Our world-renowned experiential approach empowers our students, faculty, alumni, and partners to create impact far beyond the confines of discipline, degree, and campus.

Our locations—in Boston; the Massachusetts communities of Burlington and Nahant; Charlotte, North Carolina; the San Francisco Bay Area; Seattle; London; Toronto; and Vancouver—are nodes in our growing global university system. Through this network, we expand opportunities for flexible, student-centered learning and collaborative, solutions-focused research.

Northeastern's comprehensive array of undergraduate and graduate programs—in on-campus, online, and hybrid formats—lead to degrees through the doctorate in nine colleges and schools. Among these, we offer more than 140 multidisciplinary majors and degrees designed to prepare students for purposeful lives and careers.