



UNIVERSITY OF  
**GEORGIA**

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## University Council

March 19, 2021

### UNIVERSITY CURRICULUM COMMITTEE – 2020-2021

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Graduate Student Representative – Gerena Walker

Dear Colleagues:

The attached proposal from the Franklin College of Arts and Sciences to offer a new Graduate Certificate in African Studies will be an agenda item for the March 26, 2021, Full University Curriculum Committee meeting.

Sincerely,

John Maerz, Chair

University Curriculum Committee

cc: Provost S. Jack Hu  
Dr. Rahul Shrivastav

# PROPOSAL FOR A CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

**Date:** September 24, 2018

**School/College/Unit:** Franklin College of Arts and Sciences

**Department/Division:** African Studies Institute

**Certificate Title:** Graduate Certificate in African Studies

**Effective Term:** Fall 2021

**Which campus(es) will offer this certificate?** Athens

**Level:** Graduate

**Program Abstract:** A graduate-level Certificate in African Studies is being proposed by the African Studies Institute (ASI) to complement the undergraduate academic programs (certificate and minor) currently offered in the Institute. The interdisciplinary focus of the Institute ensures that the proposed Graduate Certificate in African Studies (GCAS) is interdisciplinary in nature with adequate provision for candidates to incorporate academic work in their own field of specialization. As such, the GCAS is designed not only to provide knowledge about Africa and the field of African Studies, but also to augment graduate education in any major area of study at the University of Georgia. This unique opportunity for UGA students in virtually all areas of specialization to enhance their graduate degrees makes the proposed GCAS ideally justifiable.

## 1. Purpose and Educational Objectives

**State the purpose and educational objectives of the program. How does this program complement the mission of the institution?**

The program will complement the undergraduate academic programs (certificate and minor) currently offered in the Institute. The interdisciplinary focus of the Institute has ensured that the proposed Graduate Certificate in African Studies (henceforth GCAS) is interdisciplinary in nature with adequate provision for candidates to incorporate academic work in their own field of specialization. As such, the GCAS is designed not only to provide knowledge about Africa and the field of African Studies, but also to augment graduate education in any major area of study at the University of Georgia. This unique opportunity for UGA students in virtually all areas of specialization to enhance their graduate degrees makes the proposed GCAS ideally justifiable.

The African Studies Institute (ASI) is a multi-disciplinary institute established in 2001 to work with units and academic programs across UGA interested in the study of Africa. ASI works to fulfill this mission in line with the goals and priorities within the strategic plan of UGA. In particular, ASI contributes to goals and priorities such as the enhancement and maintenance of a diverse and inclusive environment for learning and the advancement of the international aspects of the University's teaching, research, and outreach mission. The ASI, though housed in the Franklin College of Arts and Sciences, offers courses which not only incorporate departments in Franklin College, but also across nearly all colleges on the UGA campus. Specifically in Franklin College, the ASI has cross-listed courses with departments and units such as History, Religion, Linguistics, Sociology, Anthropology, Music, Institute of African American Studies, Comparative Literature, and the Latin American Studies Institute. Other colleges with cross-listed African Studies courses include Education, Family and Consumer Sciences, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, Engineering, and Public and International Affairs, among others. In addition, the ASI has core and affiliated faculty across Franklin College and other colleges across the UGA campus. The faculty are already, and will continue to be, involved in the development of the program. Consequently, GCAS portends a very solid interdisciplinary nature and is expected to expand the scope of coverage of courses in various coordinating disciplines in the next five years.

## **2. Need for the Program**

**Explain why this program is necessary. In addition, provide the following information:**

- a. Semester/Year of Program Initiation:** Fall 2021
- b. Semester/Year of Full Implementation of Program:** Fall 2022
- c. Semester/Year First Certificates will be awarded:** Spring 2023
- d. Annual Number of Graduates expected (once the program is established):** 7-10
- e. Projected Future Trends for number of students enrolled in the program:** 15

The necessity of the program is anchored on the fact that through the proposed GCAS, the ASI is responding to the awareness of the increasing interconnections of societies worldwide. In order for UGA graduate students to become better participants in the new global economy, they must be tutored to appreciate globalization as primarily entailing interactions that are not country- or continent-bound, and which would require knowledge systems that are not geographically or disciplinarily bounded. To best survive in the globalized environment, graduate students must acquire sufficient knowledge about most parts of the world, including Africa. The GCAS will provide UGA graduate students with valuable knowledge about Africa and various aspects of life on the continent. GCAS will be for the graduate students wishing to gain international perspectives before entering the global marketplace.

## **3. Student Demand**

- a. Provide documentation of evidence of student demand for this program, which may include a student survey.**

In a recent survey recommended by the UGA Graduate School, the African Studies Institute surveyed 83 current graduate students at the University of Georgia. These included 46 doctoral students, 27 Master's level students, and 10 students who declined to declare their program. Out of the 83 current graduate students survey, 65 graduate students (78.31% of respondents) would be interested in applying for the Graduate Certificate in African Studies, if the program is offered. The graduate students with such interest in applying for the Graduate Certificate in African Studies include 41 doctoral students and 24 Master's level students. It is encouraging to see such a higher level of interest in this certificate amongst doctoral students. The overall high percentage of those with interest in applying for the Graduate Certificate in African Studies is significant evidence of high level of interest in the program amongst UGA graduate students (about seven out every ten graduate students responding). And the high percentage does not include the 10 graduate students who completed the survey but did not respond to this particular query.

The reasons provided by the surveyed graduate students for their interest in applying for the Graduate Certificate in African Studies if it is offered include: to enhance their graduate degree, to learn more about African Studies and African issues, and to broaden their personal perspective. In fact, 67 (90.54%) of the respondents provided all the three above reasons.

**b. Provide evidence that demand will be sufficient to sustain reasonable enrollment.**

- A reasonable enrollment for such a program as this would be 7 to 10 students receiving the certificate each year.
- The proposed certificate program will be able to sustain this level of enrollment due to the current high level of demand. The Institute receives four to five inquiries per semester from current UGA graduate students about the availability of a graduate certificate in African Studies.
- The demand for the undergraduate certificate has consistently come from multiple sources:
  - Graduate advisees of the institute's 55 or so core and affiliated faculty members
  - The 25 graduate students who have served, since 2011, as teaching assistants for the Introduction to Africa course (these were M.A. and Ph.D. students working in seven colleges, including Franklin, Grady, Engineering, Public Health, Education, Family and Consumer Sciences, and Law)
  - Graduate students seeking a certificate to augment their degrees across campus due to the interdisciplinary nature

**c. To what extent will minority student enrollments be greater than, less than, or equivalent to the proportion of minority students in the total student body?**

The enrollment will be greater than the proportion of minority students in the total student body.

#### 4. Program of Study

**Provide a detailed program of study for the certificate program, including:**

- a. Specific course prefixes, numbers, and titles**
- b. Identify any new courses created for this program**

*Graduate Certificate in African Studies (GCAS)*

*15 hours*

##### I. REQUIRED COURSES - 6 hours

*Candidates must choose two required courses from three listed (3 credit hours each):*

AFST 6200, Critical Issues in Contemporary Africa (3 hours)

AFST 6465, Globalization and Indigenous Cultures in Africa (3 hours)

AFST 7010, Graduate Introduction to African Studies (3 hours)

##### II. ELECTIVE COURSES - 9 hours

*Choose at least three elective courses (minimum of 9 credit hours) from listed AFST courses and AFST cross-listed courses:*

AFST(RELI)(LACS) 6620, African Religion in Diaspora (3 hours)

AFST 6700, Model African Union (3 hours)

AFST 7010, Graduate Introduction to African Studies (3 hours)

AFST 7950, Directed Research in African Studies (1-3 hours)

AFST 8960, Directed Reading in African Studies (3 hours)

ALDR(AFST)(LACS) 6710, International Agricultural Development (3 hours)

ALDR(AFST)(LACS) 6710E, International Agricultural Development (3 hours)

ANTH(AFST) 6461, African Ethnography (3 hours)

CMLT(AFST)(ANTH) 6245, Oral Literature in Africa (3 hours)

CMLT(AFAM)(AFST)(GEOG)(LACS) 6260, Black & Green Atlantic: Crosscurrents of the African & Irish Diasporas (3 hours)

CMLT(AFST)(LACS) 6545, Comparative Postcolonial Studies (3 hours)

CMLT(AFST) 6880, The Origins of African Literature (3 hours)

CMLT(AFST) 6890, Postcolonial African Literature (3 hours)

CMLT(AFST) 8020, Seminar in Literary Periods (3 hours)

CMLT(AFST) 8030, Seminar in Literary Genres (3 hours)

HIST(AFST) 6500, Studies in African History (3 hours)

HIST(AFST) 6515, African Slavery and Slave Trades (3 hours)

HIST(AFST) 6531, Africans in the Americas (3 hours)

HIST(AFST) 6540, Conflict in Twentieth-Century Southern Africa (3 hours)

HIST(AFST) 6550, Christianity and Colonialism in Africa (3 hours)

INTL(AFST) 8345, Comparative Politics of Sub Saharan Africa (3 hours)

KINS(AFST) 6800, Education and Sport in Africa (3 hours)

MUSI(AFST) 6291, African Music (3 hours)

MUSI(AFST) 6861, Applied Ethnomusicology: African Music (1 hour)

RELI(AFST) 6625, Eschatology in African Religion (3 hours)

THEA(AFST) 6460, History of Dramatic Art: Special Topics (3 hours)  
THEA(AFST) 6470, African Theatre: An Historical Overview (3 hours)

### III. APERO REQUIREMENT

Each candidate must make a presentation in the APERO Africana Brown Bag Lecture series prior to the completion of the GCAS program. APERO presentations are scheduled seven times a semester (approximately one every two weeks during the fall and spring semesters). Graduate students, faculty, staff, and invited guests make presentation about their research, travel, or service in Africa. It is designed to educate and inform undergraduate students and the Athens community about Africa-related activities on campus.

Additional options for electives (limit of 3 units or one elective course). The Institute director must approve the selection of any of these options after consultation with the Institute's Curriculum Committee:

- a. Field-Specific Elective: Candidates can request permission to take one Africa-focused course in their specific graduate discipline.
- b. Directed Study: Candidates can register for a graduate-level directed studies course with an ASI faculty member. Such directed studies work must result in a publishable manuscript.

**Summary:** To obtain the Graduate Certificate in African Studies, students must complete the following:

- Two of these three courses: AFST 7010, AFST 6200, AFST 6465
- Nine credit hours of graduate-level AFST, AFST cross-listed or pre-approved courses complementary to the student's major field program of study
- Make a presentation as part of the ASI APERO Africana Brown bag lecture series.
- Advisement by ASI Graduate Coordinator and Chair of the Curriculum committee concerning the certificate at the beginning and at the completion of the certificate requirements. The program application form must be completed and submitted during the initial advisement session.

Application forms for the Graduate Certificate in African Studies will be available for pickup in the Institute and downloadable on the Institute's website.

## **5. Model Program and Accreditation**

- a. Identify any model programs, accepted disciplinary standards, and accepted curricular practices against which the proposed program could be judged. Evaluate the extent to which the proposed curriculum is consistent with these external points of reference and provide a rationale for significant inconsistencies and differences that may exist.

These programs serve as motivation for the proposed Graduate Certificate in African Studies. Each program enables graduate students to formally claim expertise in an area in

the field of African Studies, through completion of graduate course work. These programs, as the proposed Graduate Certificate in African Studies, recognize the expertise graduate students in a range of disciplines have already obtained in African Studies. The APERO requirement in this proposed program is modeled after similar requirements in these programs:

- a. Graduate Certificate in African Studies, Center for African Studies, University of Florida
- b. Graduate Certificate in African Studies, Department of African, African-American and Diaspora Studies, University of North Carolina
- c. Graduate Certificate in African Studies, Frederick S. Pardee School of Global Studies, Boston University
- d. Graduate Certificate in African Studies, African Studies Center, University of Kansas

**b. If program accreditation is available, provide an analysis of the ability of the program to satisfy the curricular standards of such specialized accreditation.**

Not applicable.

## **6. Student Learning Outcomes**

**Describe the proposed learning outcomes for the certificate program.**

1. Content knowledge: Is the student able to speak knowledgeably and thoughtfully about topics and questions related to African Studies?
2. Professional skills: Has the student demonstrated growth in professional skills related to their interest in African Studies?

## **7. Assessment**

**Describe how the learning outcomes for the program will be assessed.**

The content knowledge will be assessed through an interview with the student at the completion of the Certificate, starting with a broad question such as "Tell us about selected topics or questions you have studied as part of the Certificate that have been especially interesting to you and/or have intersected with your MA or PhD research" and then follow-up questions in conversation with the student. The student's ability to speak knowledgeably and thoughtfully will afterward be rated on a 1-5 scale.

The professional skills will be assessed through a brief questionnaire that the student fills out at the completion of the Certificate, with questions such as:

- Have you attended any relevant conferences?
- Have you presented any papers on relevant topics?
- Have you helped to organize or lead ASI events?
- Have you engaged in any relevant professional development or mentoring?
- Have you sought out relevant teaching experience including guest lectures?
- Have you built your professional skills in other ways?

## Documentation of Approval and Notification

**Proposal:** Graduate Certificate in African Studies

**College:** Franklin College of Arts and Sciences

**Department:** Institute of African Studies

**Proposed Effective Term:** Fall 2021

### Department:

- Institute of African Studies Director, Dr. Akinloye Ojo, 12/20/18

### School/College:

- Franklin College of Arts and Sciences Associate Dean, Dr. Jean Martin-Williams, 12/20/18

### Graduate School:

- Vice Provost for Graduate Education and Graduate School Dean, Dr. Ron Walcott, 2/10/21

### Proposal Notification:

- College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences Dean, Dr. Nick Place, 3/15/21
- College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences Associate Dean, Dr. Josef Broder, 3/15/21
- College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences Assistant Dean, Dr. Douglas Bailey, 3/15/21
- Franklin College of Arts and Sciences Dean, Dr. Alan Dorsey, 3/15/21
- Franklin College of Arts and Sciences Associate Dean, Dr. Jean Martin-Williams, 3/15/21
- Terry College of Business Dean, Dr. Benjamin Ayers, 3/15/21
- Terry College of Business Associate Dean, Dr. Henry Munneke, 3/15/21
- Odum School of Ecology Dean, Dr. John Gittleman, 3/15/21
- Odum School of Ecology Associate Dean, Dr. John Drake, 3/15/21
- Mary Frances Early College of Education Dean, Dr. Denise Spangler, 3/15/21
- Mary Frances Early College of Education Associate Dean, Dr. Stacey Neuharth-Pritchett, 3/15/21
  - *No concerns with proposal*
- College of Engineering Dean, Dr. Donald Leo, 3/15/21
- College of Engineering Associate Dean, Dr. Ramaraja Ramasamy, 3/15/21
  - *No concerns with proposal*
- College of Environment and Design Dean, Dr. Sonia Hirt, 3/15/21
- College of Environment and Design Associate Dean, Ms. Ashley Steffens, 3/15/21
- College of Family and Consumer Sciences Dean, Dr. Linda Kirk Fox, 3/15/21
- College of Family and Consumer Sciences Associate Dean, Dr. Sheri Worthy, 3/15/21
- Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources Dean, Dr. Dale Greene, 3/15/21
- Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources Associate Dean, Dr. Robert Bringolf, 3/15/21
- Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication Dean, Dr. Charles Davis, 3/15/21
- Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication Associate Dean, Dr. Maria Len-Rios, 3/15/21



- School of Law Dean, Mr. Peter “Bo” Rutledge, 3/15/21
- School of Law Associate Dean, Mr. Randy Beck, 3/15/21
- College of Pharmacy Dean, Dr. Kelly Smith, 3/15/21
- College of Pharmacy Assistant Dean for Student Affairs, Dr. Duc Do, 3/15/21
- College of Public Health Dean, Dr. Marsha Davis, 3/15/21
- College of Public Health Associate Dean, Dr. Erin Lipp, 3/15/21
- School of Public and International Affairs Dean, Dr. Matthew Auer, 3/15/21
- School of Public and International Affairs Associate Dean, Dr. John Maltese, 3/15/21
- School of Social Work Dean, Dr. Anna Scheyett, 3/15/21
- School of Social Work Associate Dean, Dr. Shari Miller, 3/15/21
- College of Veterinary Medicine Dean, Dr. Lisa Nolan, 3/15/21
- College of Veterinary Medicine Associate Dean, Dr. Andrew Parks, 3/15/21