AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES, BALAS

for the degree of Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts and Sciences Major in African American Studies

department website: https://afro.illinois.edu/
department faculty: African American Studies Faculty (https://afro.illinois.edu/directory/faculty/)
overview of college admissions & requirements: Liberal Arts & Sciences (http://catalog.illinois.edu/schools/has/)
college website: https://las.illinois.edu/
email: cmjenki@illinois.edu or afro-advising@illinois.edu

African American Studies is a field that systematically explores the life and culture of African American peoples and their African Diaspora relationships, patterns, and ties. Those who major in African American Studies will learn about the historical, political, ideological, legal, social, artistic, and economic issues affecting African Americans. They will learn about the dignity-affirming struggles of African American people to have their humanity acknowledged, valued, and understood.

The major in African American Studies (AAS) is to provide students with a transdisciplinary perspective on the origin, role and policy implications of race in the United States and world political economy, society and culture, over time. AAS students will learn diverse concepts, theories and methodologies for analyzing the experiences and perspectives and the cultural and intellectual production of African Americans and African descended people, largely though not exclusively in the United States. An African American studies major will be encouraged to achieve excellence in developing vital creative and critical competencies, including oral and written communication, computer and statistical skills. Students majoring in AAS will also be encouraged to join a new generation of leadership grounded in African American studies knowledge and committed to public engagement to meet the continuing challenges of a diverse democratic society; and to foster national discourse to produce public policy aimed at achieving social justice.

This program is designed to serve undergraduate students primarily interested in the social sciences and humanities, though all students are welcome and encouraged to enroll in the program. This program prepares students for graduate study and research in traditional disciplines and interdisciplinary fields and for careers in the private or public sectors such as teaching, social work, human resources, criminal justice, management and administration, city planning, marketing, policy-making, medicine and law.