January 31, 2026

Dear Members of the ASC Curriculum Committee:

I write to initiate the process of revisions to the African American and Africans studies major requirements. Our goal is for these revisions to the major to be implemented starting with the fall semester of 2026. I have included sample advising sheets, both current and reflective of the proposed changes, approved by the department unanimously at our November meeting.

The current major requires students to take four specific courses (2201: Major Readings in African American and African Studies, 3310: Global Perspectives on the African Diaspora, 3440: Theorizing Race and Ethnicity, and 4921: Intersections) in addition to six elective courses (at least three at the 4000-level and the rest at 2000- or above).

In light of the hiring of multiple new faculty members, we would like to revise these requirements to focus on courses reflective of our department's strengths and to better train students in African Studies and Black Studies methodologies and content.

The proposed changes would lead to a major requiring four specific courses (2201: Major Readings in African American and African Studies, 3310: Global Perspectives on the African Diaspora, and 3269: Global Black Cultural Movements, plus a 4000-level Critical AI course in development as part of the Provost's AI fluency initiative). We are removing 3440 and 4921 from the requirements for the major because these are shared classes not housed exclusively in AAAS (3440 is cross-listed with Philosophy and 4921 is cross-listed with both WGSS and Comparative Studies). Our logic here is that we would like the classes required for the AAAS major to always be taught with a focus on African American and African studies methodologies and content, and for students to take these required courses with faculty in the AAAS department. Instead of the former 3440 and 4921, students will now take 3269, 3310, and 2201 (the latter two already part of the major) because these courses cover significant areas of both content and theory for African American and African Studies. In addition, this new array of required classes reflects the changing demographic of our faculty, more directly aligning with

the research expertise and teaching interests of our roster of new hires than did the previous required courses.

In addition to these three required courses, students would then also be required to take a 3-hour Community Engagement Course. Current options for this course include Ohio Prison Education Exchange Program courses—a program emphasizing the experience of shared education for incarcerated and main campus students, which offers a range of AAAS courses as OPEEP options. Another current option for Community Engagement Course credit would be an internships through the African American and African Studies Community Engagement Center. The CEC was created early in the history of the OSU AAAS department to deliver public-facing scholarship and community-engaged programming. Recent internship opportunities have included working with the CEC Director to develop a run of show for 3-4 episodes of the podcast, *Black to Basics*. This position involved research, preparation of supporting documents and talking points, and development of marketing materials, among other tasks. Another recent internship at the Center was a Summer Associate position, which involved engaging local artists in a competition to enhance the Center's vestibule and lobby through a permanent art installation that pays homage to the Community's vibrant history while also imagining its future potential. This intern developed an artist call for submissions, publicize the artist call through various channels, assisted with developing rubric to evaluate submissions, and hosted information sessions for local artists to tour the Center, among other tasks.

While OPEEP courses and CEC internships offer an immediate pathway for the Community Engagement credit, it is important to note that the new Community Engagement requirement will also allow students to take new Community Engagement courses are currently in development, emerging from and engaging with thd e public-facing work of our current faculty. We expect to have a robust range of Community Engagement courses for our majors in the proposal stage by late spring/early fall of 2026.

Finally, five elective courses would be required, for a total of 15 additional hours. Of these 15 credit hours , 1 (or 3 hours) must be at the 2000-level and 6 (or two courses) must be at the 4000-level.

The total credit hours, 30, would remain the same from the current requirements to our proposed new requirements.

The Embedded Literacies in our major were confirmed by a January 13 communication with Tony Valle, who provided the form listing EL courses alongside majors, attached. Embedded Literacies courses are clearly marked on the attached advising sheets. The major change to EL courses will be that the new AI fluency course will meet the Technology requirement.

Included with this cover letter is an updated Curriculum Map, current and revised Advising Sheets, and a sheet listing our Embedded Literacy courses.

As Director of Undergraduate Studies, I am eager to initiate this process of revising our major to better reflect our department's faculty and focus and to better serve our students. I am happy to answer any questions or provide any material requested by the committee, and I thank you all in advance for your time and consideration.

Yours,

Spencer Dew
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Director of Undergraduate Studies, African American and African Studies
Associate Director of Undergraduate Studies, Comparative Studies
The Ohio State University
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THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Major Program Form

Name: _____ Ohio State E-mail: _____

Student ID Number: _____ Expected Term of Graduation: _____

Major: _____ BA ☐ BS ☐ BFA ☐ BAE ☐ BM ☐ BME ☐ BSD ☐

This form should be submitted to your college office.

Have you filed a graduation application in your college office? Yes ☐ No ☐
(Note: this form is not a graduation application.)

If you are completing two majors, list both below and file a separate form for each one:

1) _____ 2) _____

Part A. Required Prerequisites (and/or supplementary requirements)

Courses	Hours	Grade	Courses	Hours	Grade

Part B. Major Program (Minimum grade of "C-"required. Minimum major GPA of 2.0 required.)

Courses	Hours	Grade	Courses	Hours	Grade
2201: Major Readings	3				
3310: Global Perspectives	3				
3269: Global Black Cultural	3				
Critical AI Course	3				
Community Engagement Course	3				
An additional 15 hours of electives, including 3 hours at the 2000-level and 6 at the 4000-level, the rest at any level.	15				
AAAS Majors must take three embedded literacies courses. Students must take an embedded literacy in Advanced Writing, Data Analysis and Technology . The embedded literacy for advanced writing is included within one of the four core courses, **AFAMAST 2201: Major Readings in African American and African Studies** and the embedded literacy for Technology is fulfilled through the **Critical AI** course. For Data Analysis, students					

can take **AFAMAST 3083, Civil Rights and Black Power Movements or AFAMAST 3086, Black Women in Slavery and Freedom**.					

Total of Part B only: _____

Signature of Faculty Advisor:_____ Date:_____

Name of Faculty Advisor (please print):_____

Department:_____

Faculty Advisor E-mail:_____ Campus Phone:_____

Check whether this is: original ☐   revision ☐

(See reverse for information about major requirements.)

Requirements for the Major

Your major program must consist of at least 30 semester hours of credit in courses numbered 2000 or above as prescribed by your advisor. Please note that many major programs require considerably more than 30 hours of credit.

You must earn at least a C- in a course in order for it to be listed on your major. However, you must receive a 2.0 cumulative GPA for all major course work. If you earn a D+, D, or an E in a course that is required for your major, the course cannot be counted toward the major. Your advisor will decide if the course should be repeated or if another course should be substituted. Courses taken on a pass/non-pass basis cannot be used on the major.

Your advisor must approve all courses comprising your major. If you change from one major or curriculum to another, consult your advisor. Such changes may result in modifying requirements to such an extent that your date of graduation might be delayed.

At least one-half of the credit hours in the major must be credit from completed Ohio State course work. Note: AP/IB/EM credit and transfer credit from other institutions are not considered to be "Ohio State course work."

If you are pursuing multiple majors, course work may overlap between the majors, provided that each major department allows such overlap and that each major has at least 18 unique (non-overlapping) semester hours. Similarly, if you are planning multiple majors, there may be overlap between major course work and the GE—again, with permission of the major department and at least 18 unique non-overlapping semester hours on each major.

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Major Program Form

Name: _____ Ohio State E-mail: _____

Student ID Number: _____ Expected Term of Graduation: _____

Major: _____ BA ☐ BS ☐ BFA ☐ BAE ☐ BM ☐ BME ☐ BSD ☐

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Have you filed a graduation application in your college office? Yes ☐ No ☐
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If you are completing two majors, list both below and file a separate form for each one:

1) _____ 2) _____

Part A. Required Prerequisites (and/or supplementary requirements)

Courses	Hours	Grade	Courses	Hours	Grade

Part B. Major Program (Minimum grade of "C-"required. Minimum major GPA of 2.0 required.)

Courses	Hours	Grade	Courses	Hours	Grade
2201: Major Readings	3				
3310: Global Perspectives	3				
3440: Theorizing Race	3				
4921: Intersections	3				
18 additional hours required – 9 at the 4000-level; the rest at 2000- or above					
AAAS Majors must take three embedded literacies courses. Students must take an embedded literacy in Advanced Writing, Data Analysis and Technology . The embedded literacy for advanced writing is included within one of the four core courses, **AFAMAST 2201: Major Readings in African American and African Studies**. Students can fulfill the embedded literacy for Data Analysis and Technology through one of the six elective courses. For Data Analysis, students can take **AFAMAST**					

3083, Civil Rights and Black Power Movements or AFAMAST 3086, Black Women in Slavery and Freedom. For Technology, students can take **AFAMAST 3450, the Art and Politics of Hip Hop or 4571, Black Visual Culture and Popular Media**. Please note: Student do not need to take more than ten courses to complete the major, but they must make sure they take one elective each with embedded literacies for Data Analysis and Technology.					

Total of Part B only: _____

Signature of Faculty Advisor:_____ Date:_____

Name of Faculty Advisor (please print):_____

Department:_____

Faculty Advisor E-mail:_____ Campus Phone:_____

Check whether this is: original ☐   revision ☐

(See reverse for information about major requirements.)

Requirements for the Major

Your major program must consist of at least 30 semester hours of credit in courses numbered 2000 or above as prescribed by your advisor. Please note that many major programs require considerably more than 30 hours of credit.

You must earn at least a C- in a course in order for it to be listed on your major. However, you must receive a 2.0 cumulative GPA for all major course work. If you earn a D+, D, or an E in a course that is required for your major, the course cannot be counted toward the major. Your advisor will decide if the course should be repeated or if another course should be substituted. Courses taken on a pass/non-pass basis cannot be used on the major.

Your advisor must approve all courses comprising your major. If you change from one major or curriculum to another, consult your advisor. Such changes may result in modifying requirements to such an extent that your date of graduation might be delayed.

At least one-half of the credit hours in the major must be credit from completed Ohio State course work. Note: AP/IB/EM credit and transfer credit from other institutions are not considered to be "Ohio State course work."

If you are pursuing multiple majors, course work may overlap between the majors, provided that each major department allows such overlap and that each major has at least 18 unique (non-overlapping) semester hours. Similarly, if you are planning multiple majors, there may be overlap between major course work and the GE—again, with permission of the major department and at least 18 unique non-overlapping semester hours on each major.

African American and African Studies Major

The **African American and African Studies (AAAS)** major teaches students about the social, cultural, political, economic, historical and intellectual experiences of Africans and their descendants throughout the world.

AAAS encourages students to critically examine the role of race in society through a variety of disciplines within the arts, humanities, and social sciences. Our curriculum promotes an intersectional perspective, emphasizing how race relates to class, gender and sexuality, nationality, ethnicity and other social structures on a global scale.

This major prepares students for multiple career paths, whether in higher education, law, public health, urban planning, social work, the corporate sector or any number of fields that draw on and stand to benefit from the knowledge acquired in AAAS.

Core Courses (four required courses, 12 credit hours)

- AFAMAST 2201: Major Readings in African American and African Studies

- AFAMAST 3310: Global Perspectives on the African Diaspora

- AFAMAST 3440: Theorizing Race and Ethnicity

- AFAMAST 4921: Intersections

Elective Courses (six elective courses, 18 credit hours)

- Of the 18 credit hours, 9 (or three courses)must be at the 4000-level

- The remaining 9 credit hours must be 2000-level or above

Embedded Literacy

   AAAS Majors must take three embedded literacies courses that are a part of the required 30 hours to complete the major. Students must take an embedded literacy in Advanced Writing, Data Analysis and Technology . The embedded literacy for advanced writing is included within one of the four core courses, AFAMAST 2201: Major Readings in African American and African Studies.

Students can fulfill the embedded literacy for Data Analysis and Technology through one of the six elective courses. For Data Analysis, students can take AFAMAST 3083, Civil Rights and Black Power Movements or AFAMAST 3086, Black Women in Slavery and Freedom. For Technology, students can take AFAMAST 3450, the Art and Politics of Hip Hop or 4571, Black Visual Culture and Popular Media. Please note: Student do not need to take more than ten courses to complete the major, but they must make sure they take one elective each with embedded literacies for Data Analysis and Technology.