APPROVAL FORM FOR

DEGREE PROGRAMS

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY

NOTE: This form is a cover sheet that must accompany the degree program change proposal. The actual proposal should be prepared in accordance with format requirements provided in the *Guide and Format for Curriculum Proposals* published by the UCCC. Both cover sheet and proposal should be submitted to UCCC Mail Stop 9702 (281 Garner Hall), Phone: 325-9410.

College Arts & Sciences **Department:** _____

Contact Person: Melanie Loehwing **Mail Stop:** 9706 **E-mail:** mel399@msstate.edu

Nature of Change: Modification **Date Initiated:** 4/2/25

Current Degree (BS, MS, etc.): BA

Current Major: Liberal Arts

Current Concentration(s): Political Communication, Environmental Justice, International Studies, Linguistics, Gender Studies

Current Campus(es): ☑ Starkville ☐ Meridian ☐ Distance ☐ Gulf Coast*

*Gulf Coast campus for Bagley College of Engineering only

New Degree (BS, MS, etc.): BA

Effective Date:

Semester	Year
Fall	2025

**Any new program or modification desiring a starting semester other than fall must include a justification

Proposed Major: Liberal Arts

Proposed Concentration(s): Political Communication, Environmental Justice, International Studies, Linguistics, Gender Studies, African American Studies

Proposed Campus(es)

☑ Starkville
☐ Meridian
☐ Distance
☐ Gulf Coast*

*Gulf Coast campus for Bagley College of Engineering only

Summary of Proposed Changes:

-Adding one new course option to Environmental Justice Concentration
-Adding new optional concentration in African American Studies

Approved: **Date:**

Melissa Kelly — 4/9/2025
Department Head

Dana Pomykal Franz — 4/9/2025
Director of Academic Quality

Alicia Hall — 4/15/2025
Chair, College or School Curriculum Committee

Melissa Kelly — 4/15/25
Dean of College or School

Chair, University Committee on Courses and Curricula

Chair, Graduate Council (if applicable)

Chair, Deans Council

FOR OIRE USE ONLY

- ☐ Substantive Change to SACSCOC
- ☐ Notification to SACSCOC
- ☐ No significant departure

OIRE Representative Initials _____

1. Catalog Description

The existing BALA catalog description will only be edited to add a description of the proposed new concentration option. See curriculum outline below.

2. Proposed Curriculum Outline

CURRENT Degree Description	PROPOSED Degree Description
Degree: Bachelor of Arts Major: Liberal Arts Concentration: Political Communication, Environmental Justice, International Studies, Linguistics, Gender Studies	Degree: Bachelor of Arts Major: Liberal Arts Concentrations: Political Communication, Environmental Justice, International Studies, Linguistics, Gender Studies, **African American Studies**
The College of Arts and Sciences recognizes that students' interests may include more than one discipline and that some majors are not formally available at MSU. Students who prefer to specialize in more than one field of study may earn a B.A. degree in Liberal Arts (BALA). Through BALA, students can pursue a major that crosses two or more disciplines offered in the College of Arts and Sciences. The BALA degree requires satisfactory completion of the following: 1. University General Education and College Core curriculum; 2. College of Arts & Sciences B.A. requirements; 3. Satisfactory completion of the BALA major core; 4. A total of 121 semester hours; 5. A 200-word minimum exit essay; The BALA major core consists of IDS 2111, GLA 4001, and a program of study consisting of at least 36 upper-division hours in approved emphasis areas. Each BALA program of study must consist of a broad, but coherent pattern of courses in 2-4 disciplines within the College of Arts and Sciences. These disciplines make up the emphasis areas within a student's program of study. Students may propose an individualized combination of emphasis areas, or they may select a preestablished concentration pathway that specifies the emphasis areas they must complete. Each emphasis area must comprise at least 9 hours of upper-division coursework in that discipline, and a minimum GPA of 2.0 is required in each area of emphasis. Students seeking admission to the BALA major will be required to submit an application to be reviewed by the Liberal Arts committee. BALA applications must contain the following: competed BALA application form (see BALA advisor); student's proposed program of study; a 100-word minimum entrance essay.	The College of Arts and Sciences recognizes that students' interests may include more than one discipline and that some majors are not formally available at MSU. Students who prefer to specialize in more than one field of study may earn a B.A. degree in Liberal Arts (BALA). Through BALA, students can pursue a major that crosses two or more disciplines offered in the College of Arts and Sciences. The BALA degree requires satisfactory completion of the following: 1. University General Education and College Core curriculum; 2. College of Arts & Sciences B.A. requirements; 3. Satisfactory completion of the BALA major core; 4. A total of 121 semester hours; 5. A 200-word minimum exit essay; The BALA major core consists of IDS 2111, GLA 4001, and a program of study consisting of at least 36 upper-division hours in approved emphasis areas. Each BALA program of study must consist of a broad, but coherent pattern of courses in 2-4 disciplines within the College of Arts and Sciences. These disciplines make up the emphasis areas within a student's program of study. Students may propose an individualized combination of emphasis areas, or they may select a preestablished concentration pathway that specifies the emphasis areas they must complete. Each emphasis area must comprise at least 9 hours of upper-division coursework in that discipline, and a minimum GPA of 2.0 is required in each area of emphasis. Students seeking admission to the BALA major will be required to submit an application to be reviewed by the Liberal Arts committee. BALA applications must contain the following: competed BALA application form (see BALA advisor); student's proposed program of study; a 100-word minimum entrance essay.

To ensure an orderly progression of work toward the degree, interested students should meet with the program's advisor as early as possible.

Liberal Arts is not suitable for students who are uncertain about their choice of a major; these students should see the Undeclared listing in the Academic Affairs section.

Political Communication Concentration

The Political Communication Concentration combines coursework in Political Science and Communication and Media Studies. It prepares students for careers in campaigning, public address and public affairs, and any public-facing roles related to governmental agencies and policymaking. The Political Communication Concentration is particularly useful for students who want to pursue law school or professional careers in legislation, campaigning, lobbying, and community outreach.

Environmental Justice Concentration

Environmental Justice explores the causes and consequences of inequitable distributions of environmental benefits and hazards. It investigates the ethical, political, economic, legal, and sociological aspects of environmental issues, as well as provides students with sufficient natural science background to understand and explain human impacts on the natural world. Our course of study aims to give students an interdisciplinary perspective on the environmental and the social in tandem and how to redress environmental harms meaningfully, effectively, and fairly. The Environmental Justice Concentration is particularly useful for students pursuing careers in fields relating to sustainability, environmental planning, environmental law, and environmental policy.

International Studies Concentration

The International Studies Concentration combines coursework in the social sciences, humanities, and foreign languages to give students a well-rounded understanding of how political, economic, and social changes around the world impact our lives. International Studies is an increasingly popular area of study for students interested in careers in business, national security, politics, and the non-profit sector. It equips students with extensive knowledge of international institutions, the history, cultures, and politics of different regions of the world, and training in languages spoken around the world.

Linguistics Concentration

Linguistics is the study of language, including the structure of sounds, words, and sentences, how our brains process it, how people learn it, and the roles it plays in our societies. Studying

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Linguistics Concentration

Linguistics is the study of language, including the structure of sounds, words, and sentences, how our brains process it, how

linguistics teaches students to analyze patterns in the language of their daily lives and can contribute to careers such as language teaching, editing and publishing, speech therapy, advertising, and more. Only grades of C or higher will be accepted for courses in the emphasis areas for the Linguistics Concentration. Gender Studies Concentration This concentration emphasizes different approaches to understanding gender and sexuality from different disciplinary perspectives. Students take courses in communication studies, English, world literatures, psychology, sociology, and sports studies. Courses emphasize how gender and sexuality are social constructions subject to change and interpretation over time and across cultures, and how inequalities tied to gender and sexuality are explained and addressed from different vantage points. This concentration also emphasizes empirical studies of gender as a form of identity, lived experience, and social inequality. Students draw upon course work in communication studies, criminology, history, political science, sociology, and social work. Courses emphasize the role of media, crime and the criminal justice system, historical constructions of gender, politics, and social problems and the responses to these problems in articulating how key social institutions and culture shape individual lives and societies.	people learn it, and the roles it plays in our societies. Studying linguistics teaches students to analyze patterns in the language of their daily lives and can contribute to careers such as language teaching, editing and publishing, speech therapy, advertising, and more. Only grades of C or higher will be accepted for courses in the emphasis areas for the Linguistics Concentration. Gender Studies Concentration This concentration emphasizes different approaches to understanding gender and sexuality from different disciplinary perspectives. Students take courses in communication studies, English, world literatures, psychology, sociology, and sports studies. Courses emphasize how gender and sexuality are social constructions subject to change and interpretation over time and across cultures, and how inequalities tied to gender and sexuality are explained and addressed from different vantage points. This concentration also emphasizes empirical studies of gender as a form of identity, lived experience, and social inequality. Students draw upon course work in communication studies, criminology, history, political science, sociology, and social work. Courses emphasize the role of media, crime and the criminal justice system, historical constructions of gender, politics, and social problems and the responses to these problems in articulating how key social institutions and culture shape individual lives and societies. **African American Studies Concentration** **The African American Studies concentration allows students to examine African American history and culture from multiple disciplinary perspectives. By taking courses in the humanities and the social sciences, students can pursue the study of African American culture and lived experience through an interdisciplinary critical framework that includes courses in sociology, literature, political science, psychology, anthropology, history and music. Students can take courses that consider the history of Southern politics alongside courses that examine the ideology of race and ethnicity, thereby allowing students to curate an interdisciplinary approach to African American studies that matches their own research interests and professional goals.**

CURRENT CURRICULUM OUTLINE	Required Hours	PROPOSED CURRICULUM OUTLINE	Required Hours
English Composition: EN 1103 English Composition I or EN 1104 Expanded English Composition I EN 1113 English Composition II or EN 1173 Accelerated Composition II	3 3	English Composition: EN 1103 English Composition I or EN 1104 Expanded English Composition I EN 1113 English Composition II or EN 1173 Accelerated Composition II	3 3
Foreign Language: Foreign Language I	3	Foreign Language: Foreign Language I	3

Foreign Language II Foreign Language III	3 3	Foreign Language II Foreign Language III	3 3
Humanities: Literature– A&S core History– A&S core Philosophy– A&S core Humanities Electives[1]	 3 3 3 9	Humanities: Literature– A&S core History– A&S core Philosophy– A&S core Humanities Electives[1]	 3 3 3 9
Quantitative Reasoning: A&S core[2]	 3	Quantitative Reasoning: A&S core[2]	 3
Fine Arts: A&S core	 3	Fine Arts: A&S core	 3
Natural Sciences: Physical Science w/ lab – A&S core Life Science w/ lab – A&S core Natural Science Elective – A&S core	 3-4 3-4 3-4	Natural Sciences: Physical Science w/ lab – A&S core Life Science w/ lab – A&S core[2] Natural Science Elective – A&S core	 3-4 3-4 3-4
Social Sciences: A&S core[2] *Social Science Electives*[3]	 6 12	Social Sciences: A&S core[2] **Social Science Electives[2, 3]**	 6 12
Major Core: IDS 2111 Intro to Interdisciplinary Studies GLA 4001 Senior Project Emphasis Area Courses[4, 5]	 1 1 36	Major Core: IDS 2111 Intro to Interdisciplinary Studies GLA 4001 Senior Project Emphasis Area Courses[4, 5]	 1 1 36
Oral Communication: CO 1003 Fundamentals of Public Speaking or CO 1013 Introduction to Communication[6]	3	Oral Communication: CO 1003 Fundamentals of Public Speaking or CO 1013 Introduction to Communication[6]	3
Jr/Sr Writing: Consult advisor; may be specified in emphasis areas or concentrations	3-4	Jr/Sr Writing: Consult advisor; may be specified in emphasis areas or concentrations	3-4
General Electives: Consult advisor[7]	5-11	General Electives: Consult advisor[7]	5-11
Total Hours	121	Total Hours	121
Note: Students must complete 31 upper-division hours in A&S in residence at MSU. [1] Humanities electives must be courses in A&S and must cover two disciplines. [2] Concentrations may require specific courses; see concentration and consult advisor. [3] Social Science electives must be courses in A&S. The total 18 hours in Social Science must cover four disciplines; maximum of 6 hours per		Note: Students must complete 31 upper-division hours in A&S in residence at MSU. [1] Humanities electives must be courses in A&S and must cover two disciplines. [2] Concentrations may require specific courses; see concentration and consult advisor. [3] Social Science electives must be courses in A&S. The total 18 hours in Social Science must cover four disciplines; maximum of 6 hours per	

discipline; only one EC and one CO from A&S core list allowed. [4] Concentrations require specific courses; see concentration and consult advisor. A minimum GPA of 2.0 is required in each area of emphasis. [5]Courses under concentrations may be substituted with a related course not listed with permission from the concentration sponsor. [6] Concentration may require CO 1003; consult advisor. [7] Concentrations may require other prerequisite coursework. Students should consult advisor and plan to take additional prerequisite courses as general electives.		discipline; only one EC and one CO from A&S core list allowed. [4] Concentrations require specific courses; see concentration and consult advisor. A minimum GPA of 2.0 is required in each area of emphasis. [5] Courses under concentrations may be substituted with a related course not listed with permission from the concentration sponsor. [6] Concentration may require CO 1003; consult advisor. [7] Concentrations may require other prerequisite coursework. Students should consult advisor and plan to take additional prerequisite courses as general electives.	
Political Communication Concentration Mathematics: MA/ST 2113 Introduction to Statistics Social Science: PS 1113 American Government CO 1223 Introduction to Communication Theory Oral Communication: CO 1003 Fundamentals of Public Speaking Jr/Sr Writing: PS 4464 Political Analysis Emphasis Area – Communication Choose 18 hours: CO 3803 Principles of Public Relations CO 4043 Communication and Leadership CO 4203 Nonverbal Communication CO 4213 Political Communication CO 4253 Elements of Persuasion CO 4313 Mass Media Law CO 3813 Public Relations Case Problems CO 3873 Public Relations Multimedia CO 3833 Interviewing CO 4273 Intercultural Communication Emphasis Area – Political Science Choose 18 hours: PS 3013 Political Leadership PS 3033 Gender and Politics PS 3063 Constitutional Powers PS 3073 Civil Liberties PS 3183 Law and Politics PS 4173 Legislative Process PS 4213 Campaign Politics PS 4283 Public Opinion		Political Communication Concentration Mathematics: MA/ST 2113 Introduction to Statistics Social Science: PS 1113 American Government CO 1223 Introduction to Communication Theory Oral Communication: CO 1003 Fundamentals of Public Speaking Jr/Sr Writing: PS 4464 Political Analysis Emphasis Area – Communication Choose 18 hours: CO 3803 Principles of Public Relations CO 4043 Communication and Leadership CO 4203 Nonverbal Communication CO 4213 Political Communication CO 4253 Elements of Persuasion CO 4313 Mass Media Law CO 3813 Public Relations Case Problems CO 3873 Public Relations Multimedia CO 3833 Interviewing CO 4273 Intercultural Communication Emphasis Area – Political Science Choose 18 hours: PS 3013 Political Leadership PS 3033 Gender and Politics PS 3063 Constitutional Powers PS 3073 Civil Liberties PS 3183 Law and Politics PS 4173 Legislative Process PS 4213 Campaign Politics PS 4283 Public Opinion	

PS 4293 Political Behavior PS 4703 Principles of Public Administration Environmental Justice Concentration Life Science w/ lab: BIO 1134 Biology I Social Science: PS 1113 American Government GR 2013 Human Geography PS 2703 Intro to Public Policy AN 1103 Intro to Anthropology SO 1003 Intro to Sociology Jr/Sr Writing: Satisfied by BIO 3104 Ecology in Ecological Studies emphasis area. Emphasis Area – Justice Studies PHI 3313 Environmental Ethics *AN 4173 Environment and Society* PS 4743 Environmental Policy GR 4133 Political Ecology: Space, Nature, and Justice Choose 6 hours: PHI 3173 Social and Political Philosophy HI 3183 World Environmental History HI 4193 U.S. Environmental History HI 4293 History of Gender and Science REL 3113 Religions and Environment FL 4243 Introduction to Ecolinguistics EC 4323International Economics EC 4423 Public Finance Emphasis Area – Ecological Studies BIO 3104 Ecology GR 3113 Conservation of Natural Resources Choose 12 hours: PHI 4143 Philosophy of Science BIO 4123 Behavioral Ecology BIO 4993 Community Ecology BIO 4233 Living with Global Change AN 3333 Primate Behavior AN 4353 Biology and Culture CH 4303 Environmental Chemistry I GR 4203 Geography of North America OR GR 4213 Geography of Latin America OR GR 4223 Geography of Europe OR GR 4233 Geography of Asia OR GR 4243 Geography of Russia and the Former Soviet Republics OR GR 4253 Geography of Africa OR GR 4263 Geography of the South OR GR 4283 Geography of Islamic World AEC 4243 Natural Resource Economics		PS 4293 Political Behavior PS 4703 Principles of Public Administration Environmental Justice Concentration Life Science w/ lab: BIO 1134 Biology I Social Science: PS 1113 American Government GR 2013 Human Geography PS 2703 Intro to Public Policy AN 1103 Intro to Anthropology SO 1003 Intro to Sociology Jr/Sr Writing: Satisfied by BIO 3104 Ecology in Ecological Studies emphasis area. Emphasis Area – Justice Studies PHI 3313 Environmental Ethics **AN/SO 4173 Environment and Society** PS 4743 Environmental Policy GR 4133 Political Ecology: Space, Nature, and Justice Choose 6 hours: PHI 3173 Social and Political Philosophy HI 3183 World Environmental History HI 4193 U.S. Environmental History HI 4293 History of Gender and Science REL 3113 Religions and Environment FL 4243 Introduction to Ecolinguistics EC 4323International Economics EC 4423 Public Finance Emphasis Area – Ecological Studies BIO 3104 Ecology GR 3113 Conservation of Natural Resources Choose 12 hours: PHI 4143 Philosophy of Science BIO 4123 Behavioral Ecology BIO 4993 Community Ecology BIO 4233 Living with Global Change AN 3333 Primate Behavior AN 4353 Biology and Culture CH 4303 Environmental Chemistry I GR 4203 Geography of North America OR GR 4213 Geography of Latin America OR GR 4223 Geography of Europe OR GR 4233 Geography of Asia OR GR 4243 Geography of Russia and the Former Soviet Republics OR GR 4253 Geography of Africa OR GR 4263 Geography of the South OR GR 4283 Geography of Islamic World AEC 4243 Natural Resource Economics	

LA 4843 Sustainable Communities WFA 3133 Applied Ecology GR 4813 Natural Hazards & Processes GG 4543 Community Engagement in Geosciences GG 3133 Intro to Env Geology GG 3613 Water Resources GG 4523 Coastal Environment International Studies Concentration Literature: EN 2283 World Literature after 1600 Mathematics: MA/ST 2113 Introduction to Statistics Social Science: GR 1123 Introduction to World Geography PS 1313 Introduction to International Relations PS 1513 Comparative Government EC 2113 Principles of Macroeconomics OR EC 2123 Principles of Microeconomics Additional Foreign Language: Foreign Language IV Jr/Sr Writing: Satisfied by PS 4323 International Organization in Global Affairs emphasis area. Emphasis Area – Global Affairs PS 4323 International Organization PS 4343 International Conflict and Security Choose 12 hours: PS 4303 US Foreign Policy PS 4623 Politics of the Third World PS 3033 Gender and Politics PS 4373 International Terrorism PS 4633 Democracy and Democratization PS 4643 Ethnic Conflict PS 4383 National Security Policy PS 4613 Civil Wars and Intra-State Conflicts AN 4163 Anthropology of International Development PS 4313 Principles of International Law PS 4333 Theories of International Relations PS 4353 International Political Economy PS 4363 International Peacekeeping PS 4393 The Global Context AAS/EN 4393 Postcolonial Literature and Theory EN 4373 English Literature and the World EN 4813 The World Novel Since 1900 Emphasis Area – Area Studies	3	LA 4843 Sustainable Communities WFA 3133 Applied Ecology GR 4813 Natural Hazards & Processes GG 4543 Community Engagement in Geosciences GG 3133 Intro to Env Geology GG 3613 Water Resources GG 4523 Coastal Environment International Studies Concentration Literature: EN 2283 World Literature after 1600 Mathematics: MA/ST 2113 Introduction to Statistics Social Science: GR 1123 Introduction to World Geography PS 1313 Introduction to International Relations PS 1513 Comparative Government EC 2113 Principles of Macroeconomics OR EC 2123 Principles of Microeconomics Additional Foreign Language: Foreign Language IV Jr/Sr Writing: Satisfied by PS 4323 International Organization in Global Affairs emphasis area. Emphasis Area – Global Affairs PS 4323 International Organization PS 4343 International Conflict and Security Choose 12 hours: PS 4303 US Foreign Policy PS 4623 Politics of the Third World PS 3033 Gender and Politics PS 4373 International Terrorism PS 4633 Democracy and Democratization PS 4643 Ethnic Conflict PS 4383 National Security Policy PS 4613 Civil Wars and Intra-State Conflicts AN 4163 Anthropology of International Development PS 4313 Principles of International Law PS 4333 Theories of International Relations PS 4353 International Political Economy PS 4363 International Peacekeeping PS 4393 The Global Context AAS/EN 4393 Postcolonial Literature and Theory EN 4373 English Literature and the World EN 4813 The World Novel Since 1900	3

Choose 9 hours: PS/AAS 4543 African Politics PS 4553 West European Politics PS 4583 South Asian Politics PS 4583 East Asian Politics PS 4593 Latin American Politics GG 4533 Geosciences Study Abroad GR 4203 Geography of North America GR 4213 Geography of Latin America GR 4223 Geography of Europe GR 4233 Geography of Asia GR 4243 Geography of Russia and the Former Soviet Republics GR 4253 Geography of Africa GR 4283 Geography of Islamic World GR 4293 Caribbean Geography AN 3113 Societies of the World AN 3133 Anthropology of Latin America AAS 4793 Modern Africa AAS 4093 The African Diaspora AN 3153 African Art and Culture MEC/REL 3473 Islam REL 3212 World Religions I REL 3223 World Religions II REL 3453 Hinduism and Buddhism AN 3143 Anthropology of the Middle East AN 3193 African Cultures AN 3533 Rise of Civilization AN 3553 Near Eastern Archaeology HI 3743 History of England HI 3813 Modern Latin America HI 3853 The United States and Latin America HI 4203 Diplomatic History of the U.S HI 4213 History of Grand Strategy & International Security HI 4223 Intelligence Gathering in the 20th Century HI 4493 Terrorism in America HI 4583 China Since 1800 HI 4593 Japan Since 1600 HI 4613 History of the Soviet Union HI 4673 Europe, 1789-1914 HI 4683 Europe: The First World War to Hitler HI 4693 Europe: The Second World War to the Common Market HI 4713 Tudor and Stuart England HI 4723 History of Britain Since 1688 HI 4743 War, Diplomacy, and Statecraft in Europe, 1648-1989 HI 4753 History of Russia HI 4763 History of Modern Germany HI 4773 History of Modern France HI 4853 Modern Mexico HI 4903 The Far East Emphasis Area – Language Studies		Emphasis Area – Area Studies Choose 9 hours: PS/AAS 4543 African Politics PS 4553 West European Politics PS 4583 South Asian Politics PS 4583 East Asian Politics PS 4593 Latin American Politics GG 4533 Geosciences Study Abroad GR 4203 Geography of North America GR 4213 Geography of Latin America GR 4223 Geography of Europe GR 4233 Geography of Asia GR 4243 Geography of Russia and the Former Soviet Republics GR 4253 Geography of Africa GR 4283 Geography of Islamic World GR 4293 Caribbean Geography AN 3113 Societies of the World AN 3133 Anthropology of Latin America AAS 4793 Modern Africa AAS 4093 The African Diaspora AN 3153 African Art and Culture MEC/REL 3473 Islam REL 3212 World Religions I REL 3223 World Religions II REL 3453 Hinduism and Buddhism AN 3143 Anthropology of the Middle East AN 3193 African Cultures AN 3533 Rise of Civilization AN 3553 Near Eastern Archaeology HI 3743 History of England HI 3813 Modern Latin America HI 3853 The United States and Latin America HI 4203 Diplomatic History of the U.S HI 4213 History of Grand Strategy & International Security HI 4223 Intelligence Gathering in the 20th Century HI 4493 Terrorism in America HI 4583 China Since 1800 HI 4593 Japan Since 1600 HI 4613 History of the Soviet Union HI 4673 Europe, 1789-1914 HI 4683 Europe: The First World War to Hitler HI 4693 Europe: The Second World War to the Common Market HI 4713 Tudor and Stuart England HI 4723 History of Britain Since 1688 HI 4743 War, Diplomacy, and Statecraft in Europe, 1648-1989 HI 4753 History of Russia HI 4763 History of Modern Germany HI 4773 History of Modern France HI 4853 Modern Mexico HI 4903 The Far East	

Choose 9 hours: In addition to completing the fourth level of a foreign language, students must complete 9 hours of upper division coursework in one target language or language area. Linguistics Concentration Additional Foreign Language: Foreign Language IV Jr/Sr Writing: Satisfied by either EN/AN/SO/LIN 4623 Language and Culture or EN/AN/SO/LIN 4633 Language and Society in required emphasis area. Up to 6 hours of humanities and 6 hours of social sciences may be satisfied with courses in the Linguistics concentration; 121 total degree hours will still be required. Required Emphasis Area AN/EN/LIN 4403 Introduction to Linguistics EN/AN/SO/LIN 4623 Language and Culture or EN/AN/SO/LIN 4633 Language and Society LIN Upper Division Electives - 12 hours Choose 2 of the following emphasis areas: Emphasis Area – Cognitive Science Choose 9 hours: PHI 4223 Philosophy of Cognitive Science PSY 3343 Psychology of Learning PSY 3713 Cognitive Psychology PSY 4413 Cognitive Neuroscience PSY 4653 Cognitive Science Emphasis Area – Culture & Society Choose 9 hours: AN 4123 Anthropological Theory AN 4143 Ethnographic Methods AN 4163 Anthropology of International Development CO 4273 Intercultural Communication PSY 3623 Social Psychology PSY 4233 Culture and Psychology SO 3003 Social Inequality SO 3013 Society and the Individual SO 3703 Racial and Ethnic Inequality SO 4153 Gender Race & Social Movements Emphasis Area – Language Studies In addition to completing the fourth level of a foreign language, students must complete 9 hours of upper division coursework in one target language or language area.	3	Emphasis Area – Language Studies Choose 9 hours: In addition to completing the fourth level of a foreign language, students must complete 9 hours of upper division coursework in one target language or language area. Linguistics Concentration Additional Foreign Language: Foreign Language IV Jr/Sr Writing: Satisfied by either EN/AN/SO/LIN 4623 Language and Culture or EN/AN/SO/LIN 4633 Language and Society in required emphasis area. Up to 6 hours of humanities and 6 hours of social sciences may be satisfied with courses in the Linguistics concentration; 121 total degree hours will still be required. Required Emphasis Area AN/EN/LIN 4403 Introduction to Linguistics EN/AN/SO/LIN 4623 Language and Culture or EN/AN/SO/LIN 4633 Language and Society LIN Upper Division Electives - 12 hours Choose 2 of the following emphasis areas: Emphasis Area – Cognitive Science Choose 9 hours: PHI 4223 Philosophy of Cognitive Science PSY 3343 Psychology of Learning PSY 3713 Cognitive Psychology PSY 4413 Cognitive Neuroscience PSY 4653 Cognitive Science Emphasis Area – Culture & Society Choose 9 hours: AN 4123 Anthropological Theory AN 4143 Ethnographic Methods AN 4163 Anthropology of International Development CO 4273 Intercultural Communication PSY 3623 Social Psychology PSY 4233 Culture and Psychology SO 3003 Social Inequality SO 3013 Society and the Individual SO 3703 Racial and Ethnic Inequality SO 4153 Gender Race & Social Movements Emphasis Area – Language Studies In addition to completing the fourth level of a foreign language, students must complete 9 hours of upper division coursework in one target	3

Gender Studies Concentration Fine Art: MU 2173 Women in Music Social Science: GS/SO/AN 1173 Introduction to Gender Studies Jr/Sr Writing: Satisfied by EN/SO/GS 4133 Feminist Theories in Perspectives on Gender and Sexuality emphasis area. Emphasis Area – Perspectives on Gender and Sexuality EN/SO/GS 4133 Feminist Theories Choose 15 hours: CO/GS 4233 Gender and Media COE 4743 Gender Issues in Counseling EN/GS 3513 Women and Literature FLS 4213 Mod Spanish Women Writers PSY 3203 Psychology of Gender Differences SO 4403/GS 4413 Sociology of Gender and Sexuality SO/GS 4503 Gender and Work GS 4403 Gender & Sport Emphasis Area - Gender in Society and Culture Choose 18 hours: CO/GS 4263 Gender Communication CRM/SO/GS 3343 Gender, Crime & Justice HI/AAS/GS 3173 History of African American Women HI 4273 Women in American History HI 4283 History Southern Women HI 4823 Issues in Women's History HI 4293 History of Gender & Science PS 3033 Gender and Politics SO/SW/GS 4543 Gender and Food SO/GS/AAS 4143 Gender, Race, and Social Movements		language or language area. Gender Studies Concentration Fine Art: MU 2173 Women in Music Social Science: GS/SO/AN 1173 Introduction to Gender Studies Jr/Sr Writing: Satisfied by EN/SO/GS 4133 Feminist Theories in Perspectives on Gender and Sexuality emphasis area. Emphasis Area – Perspectives on Gender and Sexuality EN/SO/GS 4133 Feminist Theories Choose 15 hours: CO/GS 4233 Gender and Media COE 4743 Gender Issues in Counseling EN/GS 3513 Women and Literature FLS 4213 Mod Spanish Women Writers PSY 3203 Psychology of Gender Differences SO 4403/GS 4413 Sociology of Gender and Sexuality SO/GS 4503 Gender and Work GS 4403 Gender & Sport Emphasis Area - Gender in Society and Culture Choose 18 hours: CO/GS 4263 Gender Communication CRM/SO/GS 3343 Gender, Crime & Justice HI/AAS/GS 3173 History of African American Women HI 4273 Women in American History HI 4283 History Southern Women HI 4823 Issues in Women's History HI 4293 History of Gender & Science PS 3033 Gender and Politics SO/SW/GS 4543 Gender and Food SO/GS/AAS 4143 Gender, Race, and Social Movements **African American Studies Concentration** **Humanities:** **AAS 1063 Introduction to African American Studies** **AAS/EN 2363 Introduction to African American Literature** **Natural Sciences:** **AN 1344 Biological Anthropology** **Social Science:**	

		AAS/AN/SO 2203 Introduction to Race and Ethnicity **Jr/Sr Writing:** **May be satisfied by AAS 4093 or AAS/EN 4343 in African American Art and Culture emphasis area; consult advisor** **Emphasis Area – African American Art and Culture** **Choose 18 hours:** **AN4353 Biology and Culture** **AN4373 Death and American Culture** **AN 4143 Seminar in Cultural Anthropology** **AAS/HI 3013 African American History to 1865** **AAS/HI 3023 African American History since 1865** **AAS/AN/ART 3153 African Art and Culture** **AAS/HI/GS 3713 History of African American Women** **AAS 4093 The African Diaspora** **AAS/EN 4343 Studies in African American Literature** **AAS/HI 4363 African-American History and Culture** **AAS/HI 4373 History of Modern Civil Rights Movement** **AAS 4383 African American Leadership in the Twentieth Century** **AAS/EN 4393 Postcolonial Literature and Theory** **AAS/HI 4783 African Civilization to 1880** **AAS/HI 4793 Modern Africa** **AAS/HI 4983 African Americans and the Law** **EN 4383 Digital Ethnic Studies** **HI 4863 Issues in African American History** **PHI 3183 African American Philosophy** **REL 3143 African American Religious Experience** **Emphasis Area - African American Social and Political Thought** **Choose 18 hours:** **AAS/PS 3043 Modern Civil Rights Law** **AAS/AN 3193 African Cultures** **AAS/SO/CRM 3353 Race, Crime and Justice** **AAS/GS/SO 4143 Gender, Race, Social Mov** **AAS/GR 4263 Geography of the South** **AAS/PS 4273 African American Politics** **AAS/PS 4543 African Politics** **AAS/CO/SO 4643 Race and the Media** **AN 4303 Human Variation and Origins** **PS 4253 Southern Politics** **PS 4523 Democracy and Inequality** **PS 4643 Ethnic Conflict**	

		SO 3003 Social Inequality **SO 3123 Policing and Society** **SO 3703 Racial and Ethnic Inequality** **SO 4333 Sociology of Sports**	

3. Justification

African American Studies:
African American studies has a relatively recent history in the academy although its critical approaches go back more than a century to the scholarship of W.E.B. Du Bois and others. Since its formal inception as a program of study in the late 1960s, African American Studies has become a staple in most institutions of higher learning. Although African American Studies was borne out of political protest and activism, the field is best understood now as having gained "a particular niche in the academy" (Shaffer and Rojas, 2009, p. 443). Despite gaining an important foothold in the academy, however, AAS programs are subject to institutional challenges that always place them at risk for failure. As Shaffer and Rojas have observed, "Black Studies is very similar to other interdisciplinary fields, like American studies, that have achieved a place in the academy but do not have the status associated with larger and older fields such as English or history" (p. 443) Thus, a liberal arts major with a concentration in African American Studies does the important work of growing the African American Studies program while providing students the opportunity to pursue an interdisciplinary major in the field. Furthermore, the creation of the major would establish AAS as a formal area of study at MSU with an extensive curriculum that more closely reflects current programs at peer and aspirant institutions of higher learning. MSU currently offers a minor in African American Studies, but has no existing undergraduate major.

[1] Shaffer, D & Rojas, F. (2009). What Should We Learn From the Black Studies Experience. Souls 11 (4): 442–447, 2009 / Copyright # 2009 The Trustees of Columbia University in the City of New York

The knowledge gained from AN 1344 provides students with a critical understanding of the concepts of race from an evolutionary standpoint. The specified humanities and social sciences, including AAS 1063, AAS/EN 2363, and AAS/AN/SO 2203, provide the necessary foundation for understanding African American culture and lived experience from an interdisciplinary framework.

4. Effective Date

Fall 2025

5. Four-Letter Abbreviation

AAST

6. Letter of Support

See attached.

MISSISSIPPI STATE
UNIVERSITY

College of Arts & Sciences
Dean's Office

P.O. Drawer AS
175 President Circle, 208 Allen Hall
Mississippi State, MS 39762

P. 662.325.1665
F. 662.325.8740
www.cas.msstate.edu

January 15, 2025

Members of the UCCC:

The African American Studies Program supports the new African American Studies concentration in the Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Art major, proposed by the College of Arts and Sciences.

Members of the African American Studies Program's Curriculum Committee and I have reviewed the proposal and support the utilization of our courses in this project. We understand that the concentration in African American Studies may include our courses, and we support the use of our courses in this effort.

Sincerely,

Dr. Donald Shaffer
Director of African American Studies

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY

College of Arts & Sciences
Dean's Office

P.O. Drawer AS
175 President Circle, 208 Allen Hall
Mississippi State, MS 39762

P. 662.325.1665
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www.cas.msstate.edu

January 15, 2025

Members of the UCCC:

The Department of Anthropology and Middle Eastern Cultures supports the new African American Studies concentration in the Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Art major, proposed by the College of Arts and Sciences.

Members of the Department of Anthropology and Middle Eastern Cultures's Curriculum Committee and I have reviewed the proposal and support the utilization of our courses in this project. We understand that the concentration in African American Studies may include our courses, and we support the use of our courses in this effort.

Sincerely,

Dr. James Hardin
Department Head

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY

College of Arts & Sciences
Dean's Office

P.O. Drawer AS
175 President Circle, 208 Allen Hall
Mississippi State, MS 39762

P. 662.325.1665
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www.cas.msstate.edu

March 28, 2025

Members of the UCCC:

The Department of Philosophy and Religion supports the new African American Studies concentration in the Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Art major, proposed by the College of Arts and Sciences.

Members of the Department of Philosophy and Religion's Curriculum Committee and I have reviewed the proposal and support the utilization of our courses in this project. We understand that the concentration in African American Studies may include our courses, and we support the use of our courses in this effort.

Sincerely,

Dr. Robert Thompson
Department Head

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

TO: Andy Perkins
Chair, University Committee on Courses and Curricula

FROM: Megan Smith
Chair, Department of English Curriculum Committee

RE: BALA Concentration in African American Studies

DATE: February 27, 2025

The English Department Curriculum Committee voted on February 12, 2025 to support the inclusion of the following EN courses in the proposed Concentration in African American Studies in the Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts. The faculty of the English Department voted to approve these changes on February 26, 2025.

Courses: EN 2643 Introduction to African American Literature
EN 4343 Studies in African American Literature
EN 4393 Postcolonial Literature and Theory
EN 4383 Digital Ethnic Studies

Signed,

Megan Smith, Chair

Emily Stinson

Ginger Pizer

Meg Marquardt

Dhanashree Thorat

Andrea Spain

Saddiq Dzukogi

Peter De Gabriele

Ashleigh Murdock

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY

College of Arts & Sciences
Department of Communication

P.O. Box PF
216 President's Circle
Mississippi State, MS 39762

P. 662.325.3320
F. 662.325.3210
www.comm.msstate.edu

January 27, 2025

Dear Curriculum Committees:

The curriculum committee of the Department of Communication has met and supports the new African American Studies concentration in the Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Art major, proposed by the College of Arts and Sciences. We also support the utilization of our courses for this new proposed concentration.

Faculty Member	Approve	Faculty Member	Approve
Wendy Roussin, MFA *Associate Professor & Chair*	X	Amy Knight, MA *Instructor II*	X
Marcus Hunter, BA *Associate Professor of Practice*	X	Carrie McCormick, JD *Instructor*	X
Heesook Choi, PhD *Assistant Professor*	X	Josh Foreman, MFA *Instructor*	X
Jesse Wade, MFA *Assistant Clinical Professor*	X		

MISSISSIPPI STATE
UNIVERSITY

Department of Geosciences
108 Hilbun Hall
355 Lee Blvd.
P.O. Box 5448
Mississippi State, MS 39762
Phone (662) 325-3915
FAX (662) 325-9423

March 24, 2025

College of Arts and Sciences and the University Courses and Curriculum Committees

Mississippi State University

RE: Liberal Arts Degree Concentrations – African American Studies

Dear Curriculum Committee,

The Department of Geosciences Curriculum Committee has reviewed and supports the proposal from the College of Arts & Sciences for the Liberal Arts degree program to use the Geosciences course "Geography of the South" to fulfill requirements for the new concentration in African American Studies. If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Respectfully,

Andrew Mercer — Digitally signed by Andrew Mercer Date: 2025.03.28 13:31:49 -05'00'

Andrew Mercer (Committee Member)

Brian Williams — Digitally signed by Brian Williams Date: 2025.03.28 15:32:57 -04'00'

Brian Williams (Committee Member)

Boniface O Fosu — Digitally signed by Boniface O Fosu Date: 2025.03.27 09:22:28 -05'00'

Boniface Fosu (Committee Member)

Varun Paul — Digitally signed by Varun Paul Date: 2025.03.28 13:45:51 -05'00'

Varun Paul (Committee Member)

Sarah Radencic Lalk — Digitally signed by Sarah Radencic Lalk Date: 2025.04.01 09:23:43 -05'00'

Sarah Lalk (Committee Chair)

Cc: Dr. John C. Rodgers, Department Head of Geosciences

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES
Gender Studies Program

P.O. Box 5226
208 Allen Hall
Mississippi State, MS 39762

www.genderstudies.msstate.edu

January 15, 2025

Members of the UCCC:

The Gender Studies Program supports the new African American Studies concentration in the Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Art major, proposed by the College of Arts and Sciences.

Members of the Gender Studies Program's Curriculum Committee and I have reviewed the proposal and support the utilization of our courses in this project. We understand that the concentration in African American Studies may include our courses, and we support the use of our courses in this effort.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Kelly, Ph.D.
Director of Gender Studies
Professor of Sociology
kkelly@soc.msstate.edu | 662-325-2498

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

February 3, 2025

To the Members of the UCCC:

The Department of History supports the new African American Studies concentration in the Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Art major, proposed by the College of Arts and Sciences.

Members of the Department of History's Curriculum Committee and I have reviewed the proposal and support the utilization of our courses in this project. We understand that the concentration in African American Studies may include our courses, and we support the use of our courses in this effort.

Sincerely,

Dr. Alan Marcus
Department Head

Mailbox H, Mississippi State, MS 39762 · 662.325.3604 · http://www.history.msstate.edu/

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

Department of Sociology
P.O. Box C
456 Hardy Road/207 Bowen Hall
Mississippi State, MS 39762
P. 662.325.2495
F. 662.325.4564
www.sociology.msstate.edu

February 7, 2025

Dear University Committee on Courses and Curriculum,

On behalf of the Department of Sociology, we express our support for the inclusion of our courses within the new African American Studies concentration in the Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts (BALA) major, proposed by the College of Arts and Sciences. This concentration represents an important step in expanding interdisciplinary studies. The Department of Sociology voted to support this initiative during our faculty meeting on Friday, February 7, 2025.

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please feel free to contact Dr. Ashley Vancil-Leap, Chair of the Undergraduate Curriculum and Policies Committee, at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Department of Sociology, Criminology and Social Work
Undergraduate Curriculum and Policies Committee

Ashley Vancil-Leap (Chair)

Raymond Barranco

Robert Boyd

Dana Dillard

Margaret Ralston

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY

College of Arts & Sciences
Dean's Office

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January 15, 2025

Members of the UCCC:

The Department of Political Science and Public Administration supports the new African American Studies concentration in the Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Art major, proposed by the College of Arts and Sciences.

Members of the Department of Political Science and Public Administration's Curriculum Committee and I have reviewed the proposal and support the utilization of our courses in this project. We understand that the concentration in African American Studies may include our courses, and we support the use of our courses in this effort.

Sincerely,

B. Shoup

Dr. Brian Shoup
Department Head