Proposal for a Graduate Certificate in African Studies  
Submitted by the African Studies Institute  
Director- Akinloye Ojo

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 has ensured 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 to not only provide knowledge about Africa and the field of African Studies but to also 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.

Through the proposed GCAS, 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, our 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. It will be for the graduate students wishing to gain international perspectives before entering the global marketplace.

Finally, the interdisciplinary inquiry-oriented design of the GCAS will ensure that graduate students acquire in-depth knowledge regarding issues of commerce, history, economics, culture, politics, urban poverty, pollution, industrialization, language use, religious practice, and infrastructural management on the African continent and how these issues impact society and education absolutely. The proposed GCAS will be situated in the multi-disciplinary ASI which works with units and academic programs across UGA interested in the study of Africa. Core and Affiliate Faculty members participating in the academic life (teaching, researching and advising) of ASI are housed in various departments of Franklin College and in all colleges and schools of the University. This diverse and multi-disciplinary academic workforce ensures that no additional staffing will be required to implement the GCAS.

**Summary of proposed GCAS:**

Students seeking the graduate certificate in African Studies must take the following courses:

- AFST 7010 (Graduate Introduction to African Studies)
- Either: AFST 6200 (Critical Issues in Contemporary Africa)  
  Or AFST 6465 (Globalization and Indigenous Cultures in Africa)
- Nine credit hours of graduate level AFST, AFST cross-listed, or pre-approved courses complementary to the student’s major field program of study and
- Make a presentation as part of the ASI APERO Africana Brown bag lecture series.

Students must undergo advisement concerning the certificate at the Institute for African Studies prior to beginning and at the completion of the certificate program requirements.
GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN AFRICAN STUDIES (GCAS) 15 hours

Requirements (Briefly):

I. REQUIRED COURSES Choose two 6 units
   - AFST 7010
   - Choose between AFST 6200 or AFST 6465

II. AFRICAN STUDIES ELECTIVES Choose three 9 units
    - Three elective courses from listed AFST or cross-listed courses

III. APERO REQUIREMENT
    - Make one APERO presentation before completion of Certificate
GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN AFRICAN STUDIES (GCAS)

Requirements for the Graduate Certificate 15 hours

I. APERO REQUIREMENT
Each candidate must make a presentation in the APERO Brownbag Lecture series prior to the completion of the GCAS program.

II. REQUIRED COURSES Choose two 6 units
Candidates must choose two required courses from the three listed courses. These will include AFST 7010 and a choice between AFST 6200 and AFST 6465 (3 units each):

AFST 7010 Graduate Introduction to African Studies (awaiting ASI faculty approval)
AFST 6200 Critical Issues in Contemporary Africa
AFST 6465 Globalization and Indigenous Cultures in Africa

III. AFRICAN STUDIES ELECTIVES Choose three 9 units
Candidates must choose three elective courses from the listed courses. All courses are 3 units each and are already on the books unless otherwise stated:

AFST 6245 Oral Literature in Africa
AFST 6260 Black & Green Atlantic: Crosscurrents of the African & Irish Diasporas
AFST 6291 African Music
AFST 6461 African Ethnography
AFST 6470 African Theatre: An Historical Overview
AFST 6500 Studies in African History
AFST 6515 African Slavery and Slave Trades
AFST 6531 Africans in the Americas
AFST 6540 Conflict in 20th Century Southern Africa
AFST 6545 Comparative Postcolonial Studies
AFST 6550 Christianity and Colonialism in Africa
AFST 6620 African Religion in Diaspora
AFST 6625 Eschatology in African Religion
AFST 6700 Model African Union
AFST 6710 International Agricultural Development
AFST 6710E International Agricultural Development
AFST 6800 Education and Sports in Africa
AFST 6861 Applied Ethnomusicology: African Music
AFST 6880 The Origins of African Literature
AFST 6890 Postcolonial African Literature
AFST 6531 Africans in the Americas
AFST 6700 Model African Union
AFST 6460 History of Dramatic Art: Special Topics
AFST 7010 Graduate Introduction to African Studies
Additional Options for electives (limit of 3 units or one elective course):

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.

Proposal Summary / Announcement:

The African Studies Institute offers graduate students a graduate certificate in African Studies

Graduate Certificate in African Studies

Students seeking the graduate certificate in African American Studies must take the following courses:

- AFST 7010 (Graduate Introduction to African Studies)
- Either: AFST 6200 (Critical Issues in Contemporary Africa) or AFST 6465 (Globalization and Indigenous Cultures in Africa)

- Nine credit hours of graduate level AFST, AFST cross-listed, or pre-approved courses complementary to the student’s major field program of study.

Students must undergo advisement concerning the certificate at the Institute for African Studies prior to beginning and at the completion of the certificate program.