Five College Certificate in African Studies

Overview

This program allows students to take advantage of the substantial resources for the study of Africa in the Five Colleges: 40 faculty whose research and teaching focus primarily on Africa offer almost 150 courses. The wide array of course offerings allows students to develop a concentration of study devoted to Africa that complements any major. By focusing intensely on the continent of Africa, students develop a keen appreciation of the rich connections between history, politics, economics, cultures, and the humanities.

Requirements for the Certificate

Courses

- A minimum of six courses from at least four different departments, programs, or disciplines. Each course should carry at least three credits, and at least fifty percent of its content should be devoted to Africa. These must include:
  - at least one course providing historical perspective on Africa. (Normally the course should offer at least a regional perspective.
  - at least one course on Africa in the social sciences (anthropology, economics, geography, political science, sociology)
  - at least one course on Africa in the fine arts and humanities (art, folklore, literature, music, philosophy, religion)
- Proficiency through the level of the second year of college, in either an indigenous or colonial language in Africa other than English. This requirement may be met by examination or course work; such language courses may not count toward the minimum of six courses required for the certificate.

Other

- Students should work closely with an African Studies certificate advisor in choosing courses.
- No more than three courses in any one department may be counted toward the minimum requirement for this certificate.
- Students must receive a grade of at least B in each course counting toward the certificate. None of the courses may be taken on a pass/fail basis.
- Courses must be 3 credits or more to count toward the certificate.
- A candidate may present courses taken in Africa, but normally at least three of the required courses must be taken in the Five Colleges.
- Students are also strongly encouraged to pursue opportunities for study in Africa and to complete the certificate program with an independent study course that integrates previous work.

Faculty/Contact

For further information, contact one of Mount Holyoke’s advisors for this certificate program: Sarah Adelman (economics; on leave fall 2015), Catherine Corson (environmental studies), Samba Gadjigo (French), Holly Hanson (history and africana studies; on leave Spring 2015), Girma Kebbede (geography), John Lemly (English), Olabode Omojola (music), or Preston Smith (politics) or see www.fivecolleges.edu/sites/african/.