

PROPOSAL TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY TO ESTABLISH OR MODIFY AN UNDERGRADUATE MINOR

Title of the proposed minor: Creation of an Undergraduate Minor in Sub Saharan African Languages (SSAL)

Sponsoring unit(s): Department of Linguistics, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences;
College contact: Associate Dean Ann Mester, 3-1350, mester@uiuc.edu; Department
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Brief Description of the Program of Study

The minor in SSAL is designed for students who are interested in developing proficiency in any one of the languages for which there is faculty expertise, as a complement to their disciplinary major. Possible African Languages include: Bamana, Lingala, Swahili, Wolof and Zulu.

Justification: The Department of Linguistics at UIUC offers one of the largest African languages programs among the current Title VI National Resource Centers in the nation and leads similar programs both in terms of the scope of course offerings and enrollments. The Program in African Languages (PAL) currently provides instruction in six African languages (AL) that offer courses from elementary to the 5th year: **Arabic** (1st–5th year), **Swahili** (1st-5th year), **Lingala** (1st-4th), **Wolof** (1st-4th), **Bamana** (1st-2nd), and **Zulu** (1st-2nd). These AL are critical/investment languages in the regions in which they are spoken, and are included in the U.S. Federal Government's list of critical languages.

Since PAL embarked on its current curriculum in the late 1990s, students have expressed interest in pursuing a minor in four of its languages: Arabic, Lingala, Swahili, and Wolof. Students interested in Arabic can pursue the Interdisciplinary Minor in the Study of the Islamic World. The creation of a minor in Bamana, Lingala, Swahili, Wolof, and Zulu is now feasible with the hiring of a Lecturer in Swahili this past spring to complement the two resident scholars on African linguistics (Prof. Benmamoun, Semitic languages, and Prof. Bokamba, Bantu languages). Adding a minor in African languages will strengthen the B.A. in International Studies and respond nationally to the need to build expert capacity in less commonly taught languages and cultures. The minor in these languages will draw on the available expertise in African Studies in the selected areas: African Studies, Anthropology, History, Linguistics, and Political Sciences.

Budgetary and Staff Implications:

We expect any budget or staffing implications to be minimal as the courses have been taught for many years. The Center of African Studies already has a large amount of material on African Languages, so impact on library resources would also be minimal.

Requirements:

The minor in SSAL requires at least 18 hours of coursework:

- 6 hours of advanced study of a Sub-Saharan African language beyond the second year courses (403/404). Note: New course outlines for Advanced Bamana (BMNA 405/406 and Advanced Zulu (ZULU 405/406) have been prepared and are in the approval process.
- 6 hours of African linguistic courses at the 300-400 levels.
- 6 hours of African studies courses related to the minor and selected from an approved list of 200-400 level courses in humanities and social sciences, 3 of which must be at the 300-400 level.

Prerequisites for the Minor:

The minor presupposes the completion of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences foreign language requirement.

Expected Enrollment in the Minor:

We expect the number of students in the minor to reach 20, with adequate advertising.

Admission to the Minor:

The Director of the Program in African Languages (PAL), in consultation with the coordinators of the other languages to be included, will monitor the admission to the minor.

Minor Advisor:

The Director of PAL, in consultation with Head of the Linguistics Department and the appropriate language coordinators, will serve as the advisor to the students enrolled in the SSAL minor.

Certification of Successful Completion:

Certification of completion of the minor will be done by the Advisor: the Director of PAL.

Proposed Effective Date: Upon approval

CLEARANCES:

Head, Department of Linguistics

3-15-07

Date

Dean of the college of the sponsoring department or unit

Chair, Senate Educational Policy Committee

Statement for the Programs of Study Catalog (to be inserted on the Linguistics POS entry):

Minor in Sub-Saharan African Languages

The minor in Sub-Saharan African Languages is designed for students who are interested in developing proficiency in any one of the languages for which there is faculty expertise, as a complement to their disciplinary major. Possible African Languages include: Bamana, Lingala, Swahili, Wolof and Zulu. Completion of the minor requires at least 18 hours.

Hours	Requirements
6	Language Advanced African Language courses beyond the second year courses chosen in consultation with the minor advisor. Only one African Language can be chosen to fulfill this requirement.
6	African Linguistics LING 420- Intro to African Linguistics LING 412-Lang in African Culture & Soc Or a similar course at the 300 or 400-level approved by the advisor
6	African Studies (3 hours must be at the 300- or 400-level.) One course in the Humanities from the approved course list One course in the Social Sciences from the approved course list
18	Total

Appendix A
Approved Courses in the Humanities

AFST 410- Modern African Fiction
AFST 213- African Oral Literature
HIST 210- History North & West Africa
HIST 211- History East & Southern Africa

Appendix B
Approved Course in the Social Sciences

AFST 222- Introduction to Modern Africa
ANTH 267- Memoirs of Africa
ANTH 469- Kinship-Culture-Power-Africa
PS 242- Introduction to Modern Africa
PS 243- Pan Africanism
PS 341- Gov & Pol in Africa