

MEMO

**ATTENTION: Senate**

FROM: Jonathan Driver, Vice-President, Academic &amp; Provost, and Chair, SCUP

RE: Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences: Full Program Proposal for a Certificate in African Studies in the Departments of History and Political Science (SCUP 09-11)

DATE: March 18, 2009

At its February 25, 2009 meeting SCUP reviewed and approved the full program proposal for a Certificate in African Studies in the Department of History and Department of Political Science in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

**Motion**

That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors, the proposal for a Certificate in African Studies in the Department of History and Department of Political Science in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

encl.

c: J. Busumtwi-Sam



OFFICE OF THE  
ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT ACADEMIC AND ASSOCIATE PROVOST

MEMO

To:	Senate Committee On University Priorities
FROM	Bill Krane, Chair Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies <i>Bill Krane</i>
RE	Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences - Political Science (SCUS 09-16)
DATE	February 11, 2009

Action undertaken by the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies at its meeting of February 5, 2009 gives rise to the following recommendation:

**Motion:**

“that SCUP approve and recommend to Senate the full program proposal for the Certificate in African Studies.”

**The relevant documentation for review by SCUP is attached.**



FACULTY OF  
ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

MEMO

TO: Jo Hinchliffe, Secretary  
Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies

FROM: Paul Budra, Chair  
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Curriculum Committee

RE: Certificate in African Studies (FPP)

DATE: January 26, 2009

On January 22, 2009, the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Curriculum Committee approved the full program proposal for the Certificate in African Studies, as submitted by the Department of Political Science. The Notice of Intent was forwarded to SCUP on October 7, 2008

Would you please place this item on the agenda of the next meeting of SCUS.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "P. Budra".

:pl  
Att.

**Full Program Proposal**  
**CERTIFICATE IN AFRICAN STUDIES**  
**Simon Fraser University**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

To support the broader internationalization goals of the University, and to recognize both growing student interest and greater academic depth and breadth in the region, we propose the creation of an undergraduate Certificate in African Studies. This Certificate Program will recognize individual achievement in the study of Africa and further will crystallize the diversity of current offerings on Africa into a coherent program and complementary menu of courses

**1. CREDENTIAL TO BE AWARDED**

Students will be awarded a Certificate in African Studies that packages a diverse and multidisciplinary array of Africa-relevant courses and teaching/research expertise into a coherent undergraduate certificate program.

**2. LOCATION OF PROGRAM**

The Certificate in African Studies will be located in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby Campus.

**3. DEPARTMENTS OFFERING PROGRAM**

The Certificate will be jointly run by the History and Political Science departments, and administered by a steering committee comprised of faculty members from participating units/departments

**4. ANTICIPATED PROGRAM START DATE**

September 2009.

**5. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

**5.1 Purposes & Objectives**

The Certificate in African Studies will allow SFU to:

- Provide students with a strong foundation in the study of Africa, both in the historical and contemporary contexts

- assist students in determining and developing the skills, international learning outcomes, and knowledge requirements for citizenship in a multicultural and diverse domestic environment
- help students to determine and to develop the skills, international learning outcomes and knowledge requirements for employment in Africa or in areas with relevance to Africa

## **5.2 Contribution to University's Strategic Plan**

The University is expanding its slate of international programming through curricular revision and the creation of the School for International Studies, the Faculty of Health Sciences, the graduate Certificate in Development Studies, and the new Faculty of Environment. The programs offer a focus in various aspects of international development, and an important complement to these increasingly important programs is a stream that specializes in Africa.

In *The President's Agenda – SFU at 40* SFU President Dr Michael Stevenson states his conviction

...

that a university education in an era of ever-greater global interconnection must provide a sophisticated understanding of international and intercultural diversity. All students should be expected to acquire some direct experience of a different culture and society, and they should be supported in finding ways to do so that will be reflected in academic credit.

Thus, the Certificate in African Studies contributes to the University's strategic plan by:

- Complementing existing Asian, European, Latin American and Middle Eastern programming and centres that will be crucial in entrenching curricular diversity at SFU and developing further contacts and expertise in a region of the world demanding our attention
- formally recognizing academic and mobility experience focusing on Africa
- better identifying, formally recognizing and facilitating the learning opportunities provided in and about Africa
- better delivering international curriculum at SFU complementing the skills and knowledge gained through academic coursework and international programming

## **5.3 Target Audience**

The Certificate is targeted at students in diverse fields in the arts, social sciences, and humanities, as well as the various applied sciences (including health science, REM, environmental science) who are seeking ways to further their education in and knowledge of Africa. The multidisciplinary Certificate represents an important way for students to bring intellectual coherence to selecting courses on Africa. By focusing intensely on the African continent (and related environs such as the Middle East), students develop a keen appreciation of the rich tapestry of African history, politics, economics, culture, and environment.

### **5.3.1 Evidence of Interest**

A combination of factors including changing demographics, evolving events on the world stage, and institutional changes have created a demand for increased Africa programming at SFU. With respect to changing demographics, there is a significant (and growing) constituency of African Canadians and others with an interest in Africa within the Lower

Mainland. Census and CIC statistics, for example, show the total number of African Canadians in the GVRD to be 30,095 as of end-2006. Institutionally, an obstacle that constrained SFU's ability to develop an African studies concentration was the lack of qualified and interested faculty on Africa. This is no longer the case as SFU now has a sizeable faculty complement with knowledge and interest in Africa (*see list of faculty members in appendix 2*). Students are seeking greater opportunities to gain greater knowledge of Africa through course work, research, exchanges, and partnerships. National and international governmental and non-governmental agencies are seeking people knowledgeable about Africa to help address the challenges facing that continent. To complement this, SFU has qualified staff, notable African alumni, a positive working relationship with an active African Diaspora, and an interested Canadian population, which make a fuller engagement with Africa necessary, desirable, viable and mutually beneficial.

#### **5.4 Content and Graduation Requirements**

Prospective students must apply to Simon Fraser University for admission and meet the normal admission requirements prior to undertaking the Certificate program.

The certificate requires a minimum of 30 credit hours – 18 credit hours at the lower division and 12 credit hours at the upper division.

Certificate courses are drawn from existing courses offered by participating departments/units in the FASS. Special topics courses relevant to Africa may be included with the permission of the certificate program committee. (*See list of courses in appendix 1*)

#### **5.5 Distinctive Characteristics: Mobility Opportunities**

A number of mobility opportunities will be available to support the Certificate, and new ones will be sought, including:

- Research terms with partner universities
- SFU has one existing Field School in Africa – the West Africa Contemporary Arts and Culture program in Ghana – and another Field School is under discussion from the History Department, in the modern history of South Africa.
- Exchange programs exist in South Africa – with the University of Cape Town – and are under discussion with Stellenbosch University in South Africa and with the University of Ghana in Legon.

#### **5.6 Completion time**

Admission to the program will be open to all undergraduate students registered and in good academic standing at SFU. Program completion is possible in one year but additional semesters may be required.

#### **5.7 Student Evaluation**

Students must maintain a minimum grade point average of 2.0 calculated on all courses applied to the Certificate. Duplicate courses are counted only once.

## **5.8 Program Assessment**

The program committee will evaluate the Certificate biennially.

## **5.9 Resources**

No new resources are required for the Certificate. It draws on existing courses taught by regular faculty members in participating units.

There would be no fees for the Certificate other than the regular tuition, exchange, field school or other program fees related to a specific program. There would be no application fee for the Certificate.

## **5.11 Related Programs**

A number of universities in Canada have African studies programs and more universities are creating African studies concentrations. In the Lower Mainland, only UBC has a Minor in African Studies.

## **6. CONTACT PERSON**

Dr. James Busumtwi-Sam, Associate Professor, Department of Political Science  
Ph. 778-782-4346, email: [jbusumtw@sfu.ca](mailto:jbusumtw@sfu.ca)

## 7. APPENDIX 1 – COURSES

The certificate requires a minimum of 30 credit hours – 18 credit hours at the lower division and 12 credit hours at the upper division. Special topics courses relevant to Africa may be included in place of those listed below (see following List of Courses) with the permission of the certificate program committee.

### Certificate Program Courses

#### *Lower Division Courses (18 credits)*

Students must complete six of the following:

ARCH 252-3	Ancient Egypt and Africa
HIST 146-3	Africa after the Transatlantic Slave Trade
HIST 151-3	The Modern Middle East
HIST 231-3	History of Africa to the Nineteenth Century: From Ancient Times to the Slave Trade
HIST 249-3	Classical Islamic Civilization
IS 210-3	Comparative World Politics: Trajectories, Regimes, Challenges
POL 231-3	Comparative Politics
POL 241-3	Introduction to International Politics

#### *Upper Division Courses (12 credits)*

Students must complete three of the following: (\* students need to satisfy course prerequisites)

HIST 343-4	Africa and the Slave Trade
HIST 344-4	Themes in Modern East Africa
HIST 348-4	A History of twentieth Century South Africa
HIST 354-4	Imperialism and Modernity in the Middle East
HIST 466-4	Religion and Society in Africa, Nineteenth and Twentieth Century
HIST 467-4	Modern Egypt
HIST 473-4	The Making of South African Society
POL 374-4	Africa in the Global Political Economy
POL 470-4	African Social and Political Thought



## LIST OF COURSES

### 1. Existing African Content Courses

#### Archaeology

ARCH 252-3 Ancient Egypt and Africa

#### History

HIST 146-3 Africa after the Transatlantic Slave Trade  
HIST 231-3 History of Africa to the 19<sup>th</sup> Century: From Ancient Times to the Slave Trade  
HIST 251-3 Western Imperial Presence in the Middle East and North Africa  
HIST 343-4 Africa and the Slave Trade  
HIST 344-4 East Africa  
HIST 348-4 A History of Twentieth Century South Africa  
HIST 354-4 Imperialism and Modernity in the Middle East  
HIST 466-4 Religion and Society in Africa, Nineteenth and Twentieth Century  
HIST 467-4 Modern Egypt  
HIST 473-4 Making of South African Society

#### Political Science

POL 231-3 Introduction to Comparative Politics and Government  
POL 241-3 Introduction to International Politics  
POL 374-4 Africa in the Global Political Economy  
POL 470-4 African Social and Political Thought

### 2. Selected Topics Courses that could be on Africa

#### Geography

GEOG 263-3 Selected Regions

#### International Studies

IS 427-4 Selected Topics - Globalization, Poverty and Inequality

#### Political Science

POL 359/459-4 Selected Topics in Governance  
POL 349/449-4 Selected Topics in International Relations  
POL 339/438/439-4 Selected Topics in Comparative Government and Politics

#### Sociology/Anthropology

SA 363-4 Process of Development and Underdevelopment (S or A)  
SA 463-4 Special Topics in Development Studies

### 3. Other Emerging World/Development Courses

#### Communications

CMNS 347-3 Communication in Conflict and Intervention  
CMNS 444-3 Political Economy of International Communication

CMNS 446-3 The Communication of Science and the Transfer of Technology

Economics

ECON 355W-3 Economic Development

Geography

GEOG 422-3 Theories and Practices of Development

Health Sciences

HSCI 340-3 Social Determinants of Health

HSCI 486-3 Senior Seminar in Global Health

International Studies

IS 311-4 Democratic Transition in Comparative Perspective

IS 410-4 Politics, Institutions and Development

Political Science

POL 342-4 Developing countries in Global Politics

POL 346-4 International Organizations

POL 433-4 Comparative Developing Systems

Sociology and Anthropology

SA 302W-4 Global Problems and the Culture of Capitalism (S or A)

SA 361-4 Gender, Colonialism, Post-Colonialism

SA 418-4 International Health: Global Policies and Local Realities (S or A)

SA 429-4 Sex, Work and International Capital

SA 430-4 States, Cultures and Global Transitions (S or A)

Women's Studies

WS 200-3 Women in Cross-Cultural Perspective

WS 309-3 Gender and International Development

WS 314-3 Race, Class and Gender Relations

## **8. APPENDIX 2: FACULTY**

### **Primary Specialization in Africa**

- Alison Ayers (Political Science)
- Felicitas Becker (History)
- James Busumtwi-Sam (Political Science)
- Parrin Dossa (Sociology and Anthropology)
- Sandra MacLean (Political Science)
- Michael Stevenson (Political Science, Univ. President)
- Ed Mills (FHS)
- Robert Hogg (FHS)
- Wayde Compton (Continuing Studies)
- Albert Smith (Contemporary Arts)

### **Related or Complementary Specialization in Africa/International Development**

- Robert Anderson (CMNS)
- Yildiz Atasoy (Sociology and Anthropology)
- John A.C. Brohman (Geography/LAS)
- R. Canac-Marquis (French)
- Kitty Corbett (FHS)
- Maureen Covell (Political Science)
- Catherine D'Andrea (Archaeology)
- Don DeVoretz (Economics)
- John Harriss (SIS)
- Michael Hayes (Health Sciences)
- Eric Hershberg (Political Science/LAS)
- Anil Hira (Political Science/LAS)
- Craig Janes (FHS, Global Health)
- A. Karaivanov (Economics)
- Duncan Knowler (REM)
- Martin Laba (CMNS)
- D. N. MacLean (History)
- Gerardo Otero (Sociology and Anthropology/LAS)
- Stacey Pigg (Sociology and Anthropology)
- Mark Roseland (CSCD)
- Michael Wilson (Archaeology)
- Habiba Zaman (Women's Studies)