



AFRICAN
STUDIES
CENTER

WHY
AFRICA?

BOSTON
UNIVERSITY

DID YOU KNOW?

- Africa is the birthplace of the human species.
- There are 54 countries in Africa.
- Africa's population is more than 900,000,000—14 percent of the world's total.
- With a total of 11,608,000 square miles, Africa is large enough to contain Europe, the United States, and China.
- About two thousand languages are spoken in Africa, one-third of the world's total.
- Four Africans have been awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature and eight have received the Nobel Peace Prize.
- Africa is the most rapidly urbanizing continent in the world, with 35 percent of its population currently living in cities, and that amount is expected to rise to 50 percent by the year 2030.
- South Africa is the world's leading producer of gold. Botswana is the leading producer of gem-quality diamonds. The Democratic Republic of the Congo has 80 percent of the world's known reserves of coltan, a rare mineral essential in the production of cell phones and other electronic devices.
- The USA now imports more oil from Africa than from the Middle East.



THE AFRICAN STUDIES CENTER

The African Studies Center at Boston University was founded in 1953 with the mission of providing a center of excellence for scholarly research, study, publication, and teaching about Africa. The Center hosts many activities:

THE UNDERGRADUATE MINOR IN AFRICAN STUDIES

The Undergraduate Minor requires six African Studies courses from three or more disciplines—four of which must be outside the student's major and three at an advanced level—and completion of a significant research paper under Center supervision.

THE UNDERGRADUATE MINOR IN AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

Six African Studies courses are required for this minor. Four courses must be in African language, two in African literature, and a significant research paper under Center supervision must be completed.

INDEPENDENT CONCENTRATION IN AFRICAN STUDIES

Ten African Studies courses from three or more departments are required. Half must be at the advanced levels, and the divisional requirements of the College of Arts and Sciences must be completed.

THE GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN AFRICAN STUDIES

The certificate program is open to all graduate students at Boston University. It requires 16 credit hours of graduate coursework from the African Studies Curriculum, courses from at least two departments or schools, and completion of significant research such as an MA, MPH, MFA, or doctoral dissertation.



THE AFRICAN LANGUAGE PROGRAM

A diverse array of African languages is offered each year, such as Swahili, Zulu, Xhosa, Wolof, and Pulaar.

STUDY ABROAD IN AFRICA

BU-hosted programs currently operate in Niamey, Niger, and Dakar, Senegal. Other study abroad options are offered in cooperation with associated programs nationally.

THE SUMMER COOPERATIVE AFRICAN LANGUAGE INSTITUTE (SCALI)

In cooperation with cognate programs nationally, SCALI offers a full year of intensive African language instruction during the summer.

THE AFRICAN STUDIES CENTER OUTREACH PROGRAM

The program works with educators, museums, and the media to increase public understanding of Africa. Outreach leads professional development programs and creates teaching materials. See www.bu.edu/africa/outreach.

PUBLICATIONS

The African Studies Center publishes a wide range of materials on African studies, including *The International Journal of African Historical Studies* and two working paper series: *The PSAE Research Series*, and *Working Papers in African Studies*. See www.bu.edu/africa/publications.

THE PROGRAM FOR THE STUDY OF THE AFRICAN ENVIRONMENT (PSAE)

PSAE is a unit of Boston University's African Studies Center that promotes interdisciplinary research on the environmental history and human ecology of Africa.

THE FRANCOPHONE AFRICA RESEARCH GROUP/ GROUPE DE RECHERCHES SUR L'AFRIQUE FRANCOPHONE (GRAF)

GRAF is a consortium of scholars whose past, current, or projected research and interests deal either with "Francophone" Africa, or with Franco-African relations.

WEST AFRICAN RESEARCH ASSOCIATION (WARA)

Founded in 1989, WARA has housed its U.S. headquarters at Boston University's African Studies Center since 2001. WARA's mission is to promote research on West Africa and the Diaspora through support to individual scholars; hosting institutes, symposia, and workshops on critical topics; and maintaining the West African Research Center (WARC) in Dakar, Senegal. See www.africa.ufl.edu/WARA.



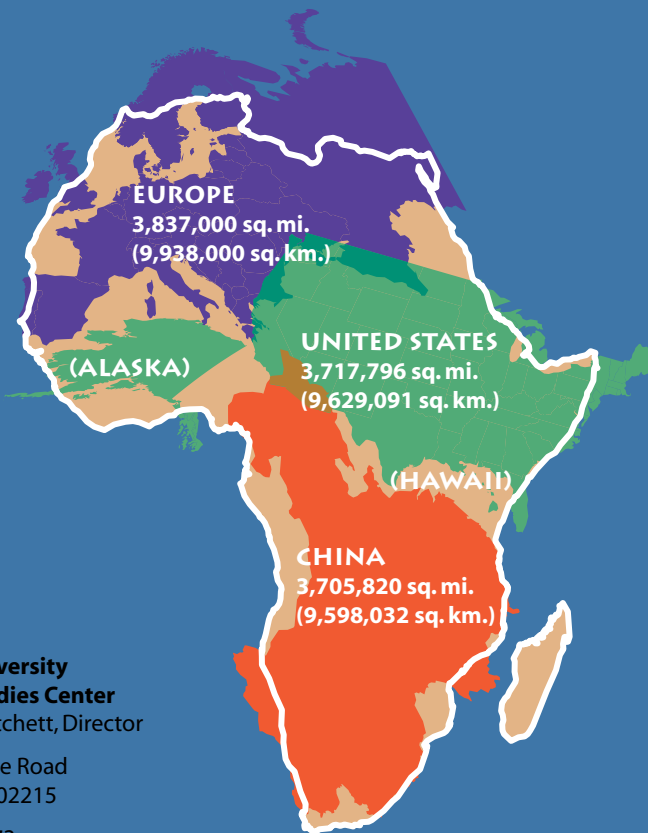
THE AFRICAN STUDIES CENTER OFFERS MANY OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS, FACULTY, AND THE COMMUNITY, INCLUDING:

- The African Film Series
- African Language Theater Night
- The Walter Rodney Seminar Series
- Bradford Morse Distinguished Lectures
- The African Studies Library



APPROXIMATE AREA IN SQUARE MILES

Africa	11,608,000 (30,065,000 sq. km.)
China	3,705,820
Europe	3,837,000
USA	3,717,796
Total	11,260,616 (29,165,123 sq. km.)



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African Studies Center**
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Mollweide Equal Area Projection

PHOTOS:

Front cover: Sao Tome Island, Republic of Sao Tome and Principe, James L. Stanfield/National Geographic Image Collection. *Inside spread, clockwise from upper right:* Cape Coast Castle, Ghana, James Pritchett; ©CIDA Photo/Roger LeMoyné; Faculty and students in Dakar, Senegal, photo courtesy of Boston University's International Program; Agadez, Niger, 2007/Cynthia Becker; An abandoned mining headframe sits in front of skyscrapers in downtown Johannesburg, South Africa, Michael S. Lewis/National Geographic Image Collection. *Back Cover, left to right:* Capetown, South Africa, Walter Bibikow/Getty Images; Great Mosque, Djenne, Mali, Sarah Leen/National Geographic Image Collection