

BLACK STUDIES

Black Studies offers an interdisciplinary approach to understanding the experiences of Black people across multiple continents, a range of countries, and many intellectual and ethnic traditions. The intersectionality of race, gender, sexuality, class, nation and political orientations are the major concerns of Black Studies. How Black people have responded to these concerns is the starting point of a serious appreciation of the Black experience as a quest for liberty and flourishing.

Learning Goals and Objectives

1. Help students to develop and strengthen critical writing and analytical skill, while challenging traditional ways of thinking about difference;
2. Foster a critical consciousness about global relations and how Black people play a constitutive and performative role in these relations;
3. Enable students to understand how knowledge of the Black experience will enhance their engagement with contemporary social, cultural, and political issues and prepare them for world citizenship;
4. Provide an inter-cultural dimension to student's growing store of knowledge and encourage critique of received wisdom;
5. Allow students to learn and practice an interdisciplinary and global model for knowledge production that is grounded in the Black experience; and
6. Instill an appreciation of the liberal arts as useful for understanding and solving the challenges of race, class, gender, nationality, and region.

Requirements for the Minor

Code	Title	Credits
BLS-201	Introduction to Black Studies ¹	1
BLS-401	Capstone Seminar ²	1
Black Studies Electives		3
Total Credits		5

¹ BLS 201: Introduction to Black Studies. This is the methods course for the field. Ideally minors will take this course in the fall or spring of their sophomore year. This course will introduce students to the history, methodology, and major problems in Black Studies through an interdisciplinary survey of literature, cultural theories, and historical works.

² BLS 401: Capstone Seminar in Black Studies. Students will demonstrate facility with Black Studies methods and familiarity with Black Studies sources by preparing a substantial and original work of research and analysis and by giving a public presentation of their work (which might include a conference presentation).

BLS-201 Introduction to Black Studies

This is the methods course for the field. Ideally minors will take this course in the fall or spring of their sophomore year. This course will introduce students to the history, methodology, and major problems in Black Studies through an interdisciplinary survey of literature, cultural theories, and historical works.

Prerequisites: none

Credit: 1

Distribution: Literature/Fine Arts

BLS-270 Special Topics

The objective of this class is to develop the student's ability to think interdisciplinarily. Through the analysis of a particular theme, topic, cultural expression, or political movement, students will gain a greater understanding of Black Studies scholarship and methodology/ies. Since the content of this course varies from year to year, it may be repeated for credit upon the instructor's approval.

Prerequisites: none

Credit: 1

Distribution: Literature/Fine Arts

BLS-280 Special Topics

The objective of this class is to develop the student's ability to think interdisciplinarily. Through the analysis of a particular theme, topic, cultural expression, or political movement, students will gain a greater understanding of Black Studies scholarship and methodology/ies. Since the content of this course varies from year to year, it may be repeated for credit upon the instructor's approval.

Prerequisites: none

Credits: 0.5-1

Distribution: History/Philosophy/Religion

BLS-300 Special Topics

Prerequisites: none

Credits: 0.5-1

BLS-370 Independent Study Black Studies stud

Individual research projects. The manner of study will be determined by the student in consultation with the instructor. Students must receive written approval of their project proposal from a faculty member before registering for the course.

Prerequisites: Take BLS-201;

Credit: 1

Distribution: Literature/Fine Arts

BLS-387 Independent Study in Black Stu

This course will allow students to engage in individual research projects. The manner of study will be determined by the student in consultation with the instructor. Students must receive written approval of their project proposal from a faculty member before registering for the course

Prerequisites: Take BLS-201;

Credit: 1

Distribution: Literature/Fine Arts

BLS-388 Independent Study in Black Stu

This course will allow students to engage in individual research projects. The manner of study will be determined by the student in consultation with the instructor. Students must receive written approval of their project proposal from a faculty member before registering for the course

Prerequisites: Take BLS-201;

Credit: 1

Distribution: Literature/Fine Arts

BLS-401 Capstone Seminar

Students will demonstrate facility with Black Studies methods and familiarity with Black Studies sources by preparing a substantial and original work of research and analysis and by giving a public presentation of their work (which might include a conference presentation).

Prerequisites: Take BLS-201;

Credit: 1

Distribution: Literature/Fine Arts

The Black Studies minor is administered through a steering committee comprised of Affiliated Faculty and chaired by the Malcolm X Institute of Black Studies (MXIBS) Faculty Coordinator.

Timothy Lake, English
Richard Warner, History
Adrien Pouille, Modern Languages