

SPRING 2024

Course Descriptions

BLACK STUDIES

BLCK 1101 - Introduction to Black Studies
Instructor: Various

This course provides a developmental introduction to the interdisciplinary origins and methods of Black Studies (also known as African & African Diaspora, Africana, African American, and Pan-African Studies). Students compare and contrast historical, cultural, economic, and social phenomena in Africa to African-descended people in the Americas, Europe, Oceania, and Asia. Students learn about Black Studies as a field of intellectual inquiry and key contributions of pioneers from a variety of disciplinary backgrounds.

BLCK 1102 - Issues in Black Studies
Instructor: Various

This course provides an overview of key concepts, problems, themes, strategies, and methods of Black Studies (also known as African Diaspora, Africana, African American, and Pan-African Studies). Students explore recent political, economic, and social problems facing the African Diaspora, especially issues of race, class, gender, religion, and ethnicity. Students learn how Black Studies alumni have used their expertise in addressing these issues and how the discipline is relevant to their own career path.

BLCK 3300 - Black Popular Culture
Instructor: Dr. Regina Bradley


This course is a critical analysis of popular culture in the US, the Caribbean, African, and/or other region in the African Diaspora. A particular offering of the course could focus on a specific area of popular culture in film and/or media (e.g., books, music, sports, language, food, mass consumption or advertising) or a survey several of those topics.

BLCK 3310 - Introduction to Hip Hop Studies
Instructor: Dr. Carlton Usher

This course is an introduction to Hip Hop Studies. Students will learn the pillars of Hip Hop, map its development from an urban youth culture in New York to a global phenomenon, and use Hip Hop to interrogate shifting ideas of race, gender, and identity in the 20th and 21st centuries. Through an interdisciplinary framework consisting of readings (both critical and creative), music, film, and television, students investigate the implications of the commodification and consumption of Hip Hop Culture.

BLCK 3390 - Black and Minority Entrepreneurship
Instructor: Dr. Masonya Bennett

This course explores the history and contemporary challenges of minority-owned businesses in the United States. Students in this course will become familiar with critical issues in entrepreneurship through multicultural and multidisciplinary perspectives of African Americans, Latino/Hispanic-Americans, Asian Americans, Native Americans, and women through critical readings and community-engaged projects.



BLCK 3520- Black Masculinities

Instructor: Dr. Kenneth Williamson

This course introduces students to the experiences, theoretical contributions, and representations of Black men and masculinities in the U.S. from social science, literary, and historical perspectives. The course pays particular attention to: (a) the intersection of race, gender, sexuality and class for Black men historically and contemporaneously; (b) the various ways that Black men cope with and resist their oppression; (c) the various ways that Black men create new masculinities.

BLCK 3780 - Contemporary Topics & Trends in Black Studies

Instructor: Dr. Luciane Rocha

This course provides an in-depth analysis of a selected contemporary topic, trend, issue, or problem in the field of Black Studies (also known as African and African Diaspora Studies, Africana, African American, and Pan-African Studies). Particular attention is paid to how socio-demographic variables, such as race, gender, class, religion, and/or ethnicity impact the issues facing the African Diaspora.

BLCK 4031 - Black Panthers

Instructor: Dr. Seneca Vaught

Black Panthers is an in-depth interdisciplinary examination of figures and issues of the Black radical imagination using the Black Panther Party and the Marvel Comics superhero Black Panther. Through the discussion of film, music, comics, and other texts, students learn how historical, political, cultural, and community-based models of the Black Panther party and superhero are applied to a variety of fields of study, careers, and projects for social change.