

Course Descriptions

BLACK STUDIES

BLCK 1101 - Introduction to Black Studies
Instructor: Dr. Luciane Rocha

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 3390 - Black & Minority Entrepreneurship
Instructor: Dr. Seneca Vaught

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 3500 - The Black Woman
Instructor: Dr. Griselda Thomas

This course introduces students to the experiences, theoretical contributions, and representations of Black women in the United States from feminist, literary, historical, and psychological perspectives. Students learn: (a) the impact of racial and gender oppression in the lived experiences of Black women historically and contemporarily; (b) the various ways Black women have coped with and resisted their oppression; and (c) the intersectional effects of class and sexual identity on Black women's lives.

BLCK 3510 - Black Women Writers
Instructor: Dr. Griselda Thomas

This course is a comparative study of literature by Black women writers from the U.S., the Caribbean, Africa, and/or any region in the African diaspora. Readings for the course may include poetry, short fictions, novels, drama, biography, and autobiography. Topics include narrative strategies, modes of representation, and textual depictions of the intersections of race, gender, sexuality, ethnicity, class, nationality, and/or generation.



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 4500 - Social Policy & Grassroots Organizing

Instructor: Dr. Seneca Vaught

This course explores how to transform grassroots social movements into sustainable institutions with organizational, political, and policy objectives. The aim of the course is to bring marginalized perspectives to the challenges facing activists and policymakers. In this course, students foster more awareness on how interdisciplinary strategies and grassroots collaborations can bring about sustainable social change.

FALL 2024

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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 2100 - Career Success with Black Studies **Instructor: Dr. Masonya Bennett**


This course introduces students to occupations and job opportunities in the public, private, and non-profit sectors relevant to the field of Black Studies. Students engage in exercises designed to assist in successfully progressing and completing the Black Studies major. Topics include an overview of the Black Studies undergraduate major, career options relevant to Black Studies, preparation for employment with a bachelor's degree, and preparing for and succeeding in graduate school.

BLCK 2200 - Black Thought Matters **Instructor: Dr. Masonya Bennett**

This course offers an introduction to Black Political Thought. It analyzes traditions and trajectories of Black intellectual discourse during the 20th Century. Emphasis is placed on foundational texts in the field of Black Studies, yet students will engage with a range of works representing the diversity of Black thought in the 20th Century. This course examines the goals, viewpoints, and strategies of various intellectuals, social movements, and other political voices from the African Diaspora.

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 regions 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 of 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 3500 - The Black Woman

Instructor: Dr. Griselda Thomas

This course introduces students to the experiences, theoretical contributions, and representations of Black women in the United States from feminist, literary, historical, and psychological perspectives. Students learn: (a) the impact of racial and gender oppression in the lived experiences of Black women historically and contemporarily; (b) the various ways Black women have coped with and resisted their oppression; and (c) the intersectional effects of class and sexual identity on Black women's lives.

BLCK 4550 - Black Genocide

Instructor: Dr. Luciane Rocha

This course provides students with a scholarly examination of violence imposed on the African Diaspora with a focus on the Black populations in both the United States and Brazil. Students investigate how Black lives can matter. Students examine cases of police violence, the dynamics of incarceration, racial segregation, and dehumanization to sustain class discussions. The course challenges students to make connections between local, national and global trends in the African Diaspora.