

Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies
1030F/G -Introduction to Black Studies

Course Description

Black Studies is comprised of the knowledge production practices and worldviews among African and African descendant peoples across the globe. It is rooted in rich histories, cultures, and philosophies that have given rise to anti-colonial, anti-racist, the Negritude, Pan-African and civil rights movements, including #BlackLivesMatter; as well as contributions to worldmaking. This survey course introduces students to foundational debates, ideas, and practices in the Black intellectual tradition. With an emphasis on interdisciplinarity indicative of diverse perspectives, course materials include book chapters, journal and magazine articles, music, film, art, and poetry. We will locate contemporary topics (e.g., identity, aesthetics, gender, race, sexuality, and popular culture, etc.) in historical frameworks, with a focus on resilience and resistance in Black life. The purpose of the course is to deepen our understanding of how social, political, economic, and cultural issues are taken up in the Black intellectual-activist tradition.

Learning Objectives

- Explore issues of relevance to Black studies
- Address key terminologies in the discipline
- Discuss how resilience and resistance are central to Black life
- Understand key aspects of the Black intellectual-activist tradition
- Examine how historical experiences shape contemporary realities in Black life

Learning Outcomes

- Familiarity with debates in the black intellectual tradition
- Improved knowledge about Black histories
- Identify connections between historical experiences and contemporary events
- Improved research and writing skills
- Critical evaluation and analytical skills
- Application of theory/analysis to issues and events

Evaluation & Assignments

- Attendance & Participation 10%
- Critical assessment paper 25%
- Creative research assignment 30%
- Final exam 35%