

BA in Interdisciplinary with Emphasis in Black Studies

Degree Program Description

Students in Black Studies learn about the varied experiences of people of Africa and the African diaspora from various fields, including arts, humanities, social sciences, sciences and technology, public policy, education, and law, to name a few. This interdisciplinary field focuses on African Americans, Africans, and other people in the African Diaspora. A BA in Interdisciplinary Studies with an emphasis in Black Studies challenges students to learn about and critically analyze the global experiences of people of African descent, including conditions that have shaped their past as well as their present lives. The degree provides knowledge in the following: critical thinking skills to understand and effectively articulate experiences and contributions of the people who share a common heritage; ability to critically think, research, write, and analyze the Black experience; communication (both oral and written), problem-solving, strategic planning and a range of research skills. Students acquire such skills while they develop in-depth knowledge that is beneficial to careers in multicultural, cross-cultural, and diversity consulting, all of which are critical in 21st-century employment. In addition, our graduates often pursue employment or graduate studies in academic fields such as Social and Intellectual Movements, Politics, Sociology, Literature, Psychology, Music, Art, History, and many others.

Major Program Requirements

Students may earn a Bachelor of Arts in the College of Arts and Science with an Interdisciplinary Studies major and an emphasis in Black Studies.

A student majoring in Interdisciplinary Studies with a Black Studies emphasis must complete a total of 30 Black Studies credits. In addition, students must complete all university graduation requirements and Arts and Science Foundation Requirements. A minimum grade of C- is required for each course taken in the major. A minimum cumulative GPA in all major coursework is 2.0.

Emphasis core requirements

- Completion of an interdisciplinary area of concentration of at least 30 credits in Black Studies and related courses.
- Courses cross-listed with Black Studies receive Black Studies credit.

In selecting a second language to meet general education requirements in the College of Arts and Science, students are encouraged to consider Spanish or French.

In addition to University (<http://catalog.missouri.edu/academicdegreerequirements/universityrequirements/>), general education (<http://catalog.missouri.edu/academicdegreerequirements/generaleducationrequirements/>), and College of Arts and Science (<http://catalog.missouri.edu/collegeofartsandscience/#undergraduatetext>) requirements, students must also meet the following major program requirements. All major requirements in the College of Arts and Science must be completed with grades of C- or higher unless otherwise indicated.

Students must take a minimum of two additional courses (6 hours) in one of the areas of concentration to total 9 hours in one concentration area.

- A minimum of 15 hours numbered 2000 or above, 12 of which must be completed at MU, are required in the major.
- A minimum grade of C- or above is required in each major course.
- A minimum GPA of 2.0 in all combined major coursework is required to earn the major.
- The major must include one writing-intensive (WI) course numbered 3000 or above.

Required Coursework

BL_STU 1000	Introduction to Black Studies	3
BL_STU 2975	Traditions and Concepts in Black Studies	3
BL_STU 3977	Black Studies Methodologies	3
BL_STU 4977	Black Studies Capstone	3
Students must complete at least one course (3 hours) from each of the following areas of concentration:		
Area 1: Black Politics		
BL_STU 1704	Introduction to Black Politics	3
BL_STU 2704	African Political Thought	3
BL_STU 2804	Black Political Thought	3
BL_STU 3200	Black Freedom Movement, 1955-1973	3
BL_STU 3230	Studies in Black Sexual Politics	3
BL_STU 3850	Gender, Hip Hop, and the Politics of Representation	3
BL_STU 4130	African-American Politics	3
BL_STU 4303	Black Studies in Race, Class, Gender, and U.S. Policy	3
BL_STU 4415	African Americans and American Justice	3
BL_STU 4640	African Politics	3
BL_STU 4720	Third World Politics	3
BL_STU 7303	Black Studies in Race, Class, Gender, and U.S. Policy	3
BL_STU 7415	African Americans and American Justice	3
BL_STU 7604	Advanced Studies in Black Politics	3
Area 2: Arts, Literature, and Culture		
BL_STU 1250	World Theatre Workshop	2
BL_STU 1335	Introduction to Soul and Country	3
BL_STU 1705	Introduction to Black Studies in Culture	3
BL_STU 1720	African-American Theatre History	3
BL_STU 2150	African-American Cinema	3
BL_STU 2310	Literature of the African Diaspora	3
BL_STU 2400	Introduction to African Diaspora Literature	3
BL_STU 2601	Languages of Africa	3
BL_STU 2604	Caribbean History and Culture	3
BL_STU 2715	Studies in Black Culture	3
BL_STU 2720	African-American Visual Culture	3
BL_STU 3100	African American Psychology	3
BL_STU 3303	Black Athletes	3
BL_STU 3400	Survey of African American Literature, Beginnings to 1900	3
BL_STU 3410	Survey of African American Literature, 1900-Present	3
BL_STU 3420	Periods and Genres in African Diaspora Literature	3
BL_STU 3427	Periods and Genres in African Diaspora Literature, 1603-1789	3

BL_STU 3428	Periods and Genres in African Diaspora Literature, 1789-1890	3
BL_STU 3429	Periods and Genres in African Diaspora Literature, 1890-Present	3
BL_STU 3625	Comparative Approaches to Black Studies in Culture	3
BL_STU 3705	Themes in Black Culture	3
BL_STU 4181	Themes in Literature by Women	3
BL_STU 4220	Religion in Afro-American Literature	3
BL_STU 4352	Historical Studies in African Music	3
BL_STU 4407	Studies in African Diaspora Literature, 1603 to 1789	3
BL_STU 4408	Studies in African Diaspora Literature, 1789 to 1890	3
BL_STU 4410	Major Africana Diaspora Writers	3
BL_STU 4480	Major African Diaspora Women Writers	3
BL_STU 4487	Major African Diaspora Women Writers, 1603 to 1789	3
BL_STU 4488	Major African Diaspora Women Writers, 1789 to 1890	3
BL_STU 4489	Major African Diaspora Women Writers, 1890 to Present	3
BL_STU 4530	Caribbean Women Writers	3
BL_STU 4710	Themes in African Diaspora Folklore	3
Area 3: Africa and African Diaspora Studies		
BL_STU 1410	African American History	3
BL_STU 1790	History of Early Africa	3
BL_STU 1800	History of Modern Africa	3
BL_STU 1801	Introduction to Africa and the African Diaspora	3
BL_STU 1810	History of South Africa	3
BL_STU 2210	The Black Americans	3
BL_STU 2570	Black Religion	3
BL_STU 2701	Black Dionysus: Greek Drama in Africa and the African Diaspora	3
BL_STU 2750	Black Religion in America	3
BL_STU 2904	Black Studies in Slavery and Freedom	3
BL_STU 3022	Peacebuilding and Peacemaking in the Modern Caribbean	3
BL_STU 3590	Religious Biography: Black Religion	3
BL_STU 3670	Global History of Black Power	3
BL_STU 3804	Resistance in the Black Atlantic	3
BL_STU 4270	African-Americans in the Twentieth Century	3
BL_STU 4835	Race and Politics in South Africa	3
BL_STU 4875	Black Studies: Study Abroad-Humanities	3
BL_STU 4877	Black Studies: Study Abroad-Social Science	3
Area 4: Gender, Race, Sexuality, Class		
BL_STU 2200	Social Inequalities	3
BL_STU 2410	African American Women in History	3
BL_STU 2425	Race and the American Story	3
BL_STU 3024	Black Diaspora Women and Reproductive Justice	3
BL_STU 3700	Black Studies in Gender, Race, Sexuality, and Class: Advanced	3
BL_STU 3800	Women in African History	3
BL_STU 4020	Studies in Black Feminist Thought	3

BL_STU 4230	Women, Development, and Globalization	3
BL_STU 4300	The Black Family: Past, Present and Future	3
BL_STU 4335	The Wire: Race, Urban Inequality, and the "Crisis" of the American City	3
BL_STU 4418	Major African Diaspora Writers, 1789 to 1890	3
BL_STU 4489W	Major African Diaspora Women Writers, 1890 to Present - Writing Intensive	3
BL_STU 4420	Africana Womanism	3
BL_STU 4804	Historical Studies of Black Women	3
BL_STU 4904	Historical and Contemporary Slavery	3

** Consult the Black Studies Department website (<https://blackstudies.missouri.edu/undergrad/black-studies-major/>) for other course options.

Departmental Honors Requirements

To graduate with departmental honors, you must be an undergraduate majoring in Black Studies, have a 3.5 GPA or above in Black Studies coursework, have a 3.3 GPA overall, and complete the Black Studies Departmental Honors Program's three-course sequence:

1. Required: BL_STU 2975 Traditions and Concepts in Black Studies
2. Required: BL_STU 3977 Black Studies Methodologies
3. Choose one of the following, depending on your goals and track:
 - a. BL_STU 4975 Black Studies Internship
 - b. BL_STU 4977 Black Studies Capstone
4. Complete a presentation of your project or experience at a venue approved by your faculty advisor and/or the Director of Undergraduate Studies.

We also offer minors the opportunity to earn a Certificate of Distinction by completing all minor requirements in addition to doing one of the following courses:

1. BL_STU 4975 Black Studies Internship
2. BL_STU 4977 Black Studies Capstone

Semester Plan

First Year			
Fall	CR	Spring	CR
BL_STU 1000		3 BL_STU 1800 or 1790	3
ENGLISH 1000		3 MATH 1050, 1100, or STAT 1200	3
Social Science (MO STATE LAW)		3 Second Language	4
Second Language		4 Humanities and Fine Arts	3
Behavioral Science		Writing Intensive 1000+	3
			13
			16

Second Year			
Fall	CR	Spring	CR
BL_STU 2975		3 Black Studies Major	3
Bio/Phys/Math Science course		3 Bio/Phys/Math Science Course	3
Social Science		3 Social Science	3
Second Language		4 Humanities and Fine Arts	3

Course in Minor or Second Major	3 Course in Minor or Second Major	3
16		15

Third Year			
Fall	CR	Spring	CR
BL_STU 3977		3 Black Studies Major	3
Black Studies Major		3 Black Studies Major	3
Biology or Physical Science Lab		3 Humanities and Fine Arts	3
Course in Minor or Second Major		3 Course in Minor or Second Major	3
Course in Minor or Second Major		3 Course in Minor or Second Major	3
15		15	

Fourth Year			
Fall	CR	Spring	CR
BL_STU 4977 or 4975		3 Black Studies Major	3
Black Studies Major/WI 3000+		3 Humanities and Fine Arts	3
Behavioral Science		3 Course in Minor or Second Major	3
Course in Minor or Second Major		3 Course in Minor or Second Major	3
Elective		3 Elective	3
15		15	

Total Credits: 120