

Educational Policy Committee
Report to the Faculty of Arts and Sciences
December 3, 1996

The EPC wishes to make one motion and to inform the Faculty of a change in procedure for GER courses.

Motion

The Educational Policy Committee moves that a new interdisciplinary concentration and minor in Black Studies under the auspices of the Charles Center be instituted.

Discussion of the Motion

Developing from a May 1995 Faculty Seminar on Black Studies, the Black Studies Advisory Committee was formed in Fall 1995 to develop a program in Black Studies. The Advisory Committee developed a core course, INTR 205 (Introduction to Black Studies), which was first taught in Fall 1996 when it was fully enrolled. The Committee also spent the past year developing the program described below. Excluding topics courses which may be used for the concentration when the topic is appropriate, fifty seven courses have been identified by the Advisory Committee as approved for the concentration. In what follows, "BLS 3/4letter-letter" indicates courses that will shortly be proposed by the Advisory Committee for approval by the EPC.

BLACK STUDIES

ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Braxton (American Studies), Chast (Theater), Ely (History), Gundaker (American Studies), Gutwein (Music), Ito (Sociology), Knight (American Studies), Lowry (American Studies), McLendon (English), Nicols (Modern Languages), Pinson (English), K. Price (English), R. Price (Anthropology), S. Price (Anthropology), Rodgers (Economics), Walker (History), Welbeck (Associate Vice-Provost)

Black Studies provides an interdisciplinary focus for teaching and research in the expressive, political, economic, and racial experience of people of African descent in the Americas. The curriculum engages students in the critical examination of issues of race, race relations, and black diasporic cultural traditions. Students will examine the experiences of black people through such fields as history, sociology, economics, anthropology, literature, music, film and the visual arts, and will consider those experience in African, Caribbean, and especially North American contexts. Black Studies places African-American culture at the center of the discourse on the North American experience.

Administered through the Charles Center, the Concentration requires the student to complete a minimum of 37 credit hours including three core courses, nine elective course chosen from the list of courses approved by the Advisory Committee, and the one credit capstone course, BLS 4xx, Senior Colloquium. The concentration allows the student, in consultation with a member of the Advisory Committee, to design an interdisciplinary program in which the elective courses emphasize the humanities or social sciences (sometimes both). The humanities emphasis is reflected in the following courses: AMST 409; Anth 241, 308, 312, 482; ARTH 383, 479; ENGL 437, 460, 461, 465; FR 383, 386; LCST 201, 301, 351, 401; MUS 171, 173, 241; REL 348, 368; TH 150. The social science emphasis is reflected in the following courses: ANTH 309, 330, 335, 336, 429, 484, 490; ECON 344, 345, 400, 451, 452; GOVT 327, 337, 355, 383, 454; HIST 211, 307, 308, 351, 352, 353, 405, 406, 441, 442, 463, 464, 465, 489, 490, 491; SOC 203, 204, 328, 354360, 406; WS 205, 405.

Students may also choose to enroll in several individualize courses including BLS 480, Independent Study, or a similar interdisciplinary course, or in BLS 495-496, Senior Honors.

Concentration Requirements

A concentration in Black Studies requires successful completion of at least 37 credits as follows:

1. Three core courses: INTR 205, History 351 or 352, BLS 3xx.

2. Nine elective courses from two sets of courses:

- a. Concentrators must take at least two courses from at least two of the following areas (for a minimum of four courses):

- I. African: ANTH 335, 336, 482; FR 385, 386; GOVT 327, 337; HIST 307, 308, 353, 405-03, 406, 407-03, 490; LCST 351*, 401*; REL 368.

- II. African-American: AMST 470*; ANTH 429, 482, 484, 490; ARTH 479*; BLS 4zz; ECON 400; ENGL 460, 461, 465*; HIST 211*, 351, 352, 465, 489, 490*, 491*; LCST 351*, 401*; REL 348; SOC 328.

- III. Latin and Caribbean: ANTH 330; HIST 441, 442; LCST 351*, 401*.

NOTE: * designates a topics course that may be selected when the topic applies.

- b. Concentrators must take at least two courses from the following list:

- I. African: ANTH 308, 309, 312; GOVT 383; LCST 201, 301; MUS 241; SOC 354.

- II African-American: AMST 409; ARTH 383, ECON 344,

345, 451, 452; ENGL 437; GOVT 355, 454; HIST 463, 464, 490; LCST 201, 301; MUS 171, 173; SOC 203, 204, 360, 406; WS 205, 405.

III. Latin and Caribbean: ANTH 241, 312, 320; LCST 201, 301.

3. All Black Studies concentrators are also required to complete BLS 4xx, Senior Colloquium.

Sample Program of Study

As noted above, students will design their own programs of study in conjunction with a member of the Black Studies Advisor Committee. Below is a sample program of study to provide students with a sense of how to construct a focused concentration.

Core Courses:	INTR 205: Introduction to Black Studies
	HIST 351 or 352: Introduction to African-American History
	BLS 3xx: Junior Seminar
	BLS 4xx: Senior Colloquium
Electives:	AMST 409: American Performance Culture
	AMST 470-02: Introduction to African-American Literature and Culture
	ANTH 330: Caribbean Cultures
	ANTH 429: Exploring the Afro-American Past
	ANTH 484: Collecting and Exhibiting Culture
	BLS 4zz: Workshop on Black Expressive Culture
	BLS 495/496: Senior Honors
	ENGL 437: Literature of the Americas
	ENGL 460: Early Black American Literature
	ENGL 461: Modern Black American Literature

Language Requirement

Students are strongly encouraged to gain proficiency in at least one foreign language. Upper-level courses may also fulfill a portion of elective requirements. Students interested in building a language component into their program of study should consult with a member of the Black Studies Advisory Committee.

Computer Proficiency Requirement

Each concentrator must fulfill the Computing Proficiency Requirement by earning a grade of C- or better in the Computer Science course designed to fulfill the requirement or in a course within the program designated by the student. The Black Studies Advisory Committee must approve the designation of courses which fulfill this requirement.

Concentration Writing Requirement

A grade of C- or better in BLS 3xx will fulfill the Concentration Writing Requirement.

Minor in Black Studies

The minor requires 18 credits, including INTR 205 and BLS 3xx. The remaining credits will be fulfilled through elective courses selected from the electives list in consultation with a member of the Advisory Committee. Note that courses from the department in which the student is concentrating cannot be counted toward the minor; in the case of students concentrating in other interdisciplinary programs, courses being counted toward the student's concentration requirements cannot also be counted toward the Black Studies minor.

EPC Change in Procedure

Under the Area-Sequence curriculum, students were awarded retroactive A/S credit for courses which they took before the course was designated A, S, or A/S. Students had to petition the Committee on Degrees to obtain the retroactive credit. These petitions had to be approved in writing by the relevant Department/Program Chair before being reviewed by the Committee on Degrees.

In order to provide students with the same opportunity for retroactive credit under the GER curriculum, the EPC will change the current GER forms as described below. In order to streamline the process and to ensure equity for students affected, retroactive GER credit will be awarded to all students who took the pre-existing course for up to four years without the requirement of petition to the Committee on Degrees.

The following questions will be added to the GER designation forms:

1. Does the proposed GER course have the same content as the pre-existing course? Yes No
2. If yes, did the pre-existing course have this same content for the previous four academic years?
Yes No
3. If no, please specify the change(s) in content and in which academic year the changes occurred.

On the basis of the responses, the EPC will decide whether the retroactive GER credit will be granted for the previous four years or some portion thereof. All students who took the pre-existing courses during the period approved for retroactive GER credit will be notified by the Registrar of the change in their records.