

**College: CLAS**  
**Department: Black Studies**  
**Degree(s): B.A./B.S.**

### **Introduction**

The Department of Black Studies is an academic interdisciplinary unit within the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. The primary focus is in the social sciences and liberal arts. The Department of Black Studies is devoted to the exploration and analysis of the history, politics, and culture of African people in the United States, the Caribbean, and Africa. It seeks to objectively explore the black experience, to illuminate the contributions of African people to world culture, and to provide an alternative to traditional approaches to the study of world history that have bypassed the African experience.

The objectives of the Department of Black Studies include providing comprehensive learning programs aimed at greater understanding by all people of the black experience, past, present, and future. The Department of Black Studies seeks to expose students from all cultural, religious, and ethnic backgrounds to academic experiences beyond those generally found in traditional college curricula.

The program will provide students with a general historical background of the black experience in Africa and the Western hemisphere, as well as provide detailed examination of cross-cultural and multi-ethnic dynamics in the contemporary social-political context.

In addition, this program will enhance the student's ability to function in current job markets that serve multi-cultural and multiethnic populations, particularly where the black experience is crucial. It will also give students a competitive advantage in obtaining careers in those areas and within communities that interact with African, African American, and Caribbean cultures.

### **Undergraduate Program Learning Outcomes**

Students will acquire and demonstrate proficient use of research skills (e.g., primary and secondary source data/ information retrieval; quantitative and qualitative data collection and analytical methods; uses of oral history; experiences with archeological and archival resources; understanding basic research designs, etc.) that enable students to critically analyze, conduct research and develop explanations for the complex relationships in Black experience domestically & internationally.

Students will develop leadership capacities through the practice of using communication skills (speaking, use of technologies for presentations, newspaper and report writing, etc.; working with and in community organizations; and developing on campus programs.

Students will examine trends in the organization of Black Studies, patterns in courses on the Black experience, issues of Afro-centricity, Africology, etc.

Students will experience field-based and on-site cultures in Africa, South America, and Caribbean and in local urban communities like Portland, Oregon.

Students will show proficiency in critical thinking and analysis. Students will demonstrate ability to communicate and share critical analytical data on definitions of Black Studies.

Students will understand and be able to critically examine Black Identities in their various forms and contexts such as African America, Afro Caribbean, and Africans in Central and South America.

Students will understand how symbolic representations and characterizations of people of African descent in media and popular culture can distort the meaning of being Black and the ways these representations have and are being contested

Students will understand that there are multiple perspectives on our collective understanding of history, culture, politics, psychology, etc. and that these fields of study themselves are socially constructed and often highly politicized.

Students will understand the concepts of “race,” racism, culture, ethnicity, class, and gender. Students will be able to describe how these concepts manifest various forms of oppression that have arisen historically.

Students will understand the history & contemporary cultures of people of African Ancestry throughout the African Diaspora (i.e., African, Latin American & Caribbean, and North America).