

Announcement of
Program in Black Studies

Swarthmore College

Beginning in the fall of 1969 students who have been accepted as majors in certain departments may also concentrate in Black Studies. Students wishing to concentrate in this area must see Professor Pierson of the Economics department before Registration Day, May 19. He will be assisted in advising students by Don Mizell.

This announcement describes the concentration in its present form and possible future structure.

General Description

The purpose of the concentration is to give students the opportunity to develop a deeper and broader understanding of the experiences, culture and goals of black people, especially those in Africa and the Americas. In keeping with this purpose the program is designed to help students use this understanding, within the framework of Swarthmore's high academic standards, to deal with actual racial problems in this country and abroad. Such an understanding may be gained not only through courses offered in the traditional manner of lectures and seminars, but also through individual reading and through participation in the experiences of the black community outside of Swarthmore.

Accordingly, students in this concentration will be given considerably more flexibility than in the more traditional disciplines. Course offerings and field work openings will vary frequently. Faculty appointments will rotate often and course content and presentation will change. It will therefore be necessary for students to work very closely with the chairman of the concentration program and the chairman of their major department in planning their programs for each semester.

In the interest of making a return to the black community for research materials and other resources it contributes to the program, it is understood that information gathered as part of the program will be made available to the forum for such material in Philadelphia as well as to other outside groups. Students concentrating in Black Studies who want an exception from the general regulations specified below should address their requests to the chairman of the program.

Specific Features

Students majoring in any subject bearing on Black Studies will be permitted to concentrate in this area as an aspect of the work in their major. At present, the subjects falling in this category are Art History, Economics, English, History, Music, Political Science, and Sociology-Anthropology. However, it is highly possible that students seeking careers in such fields as urban planning through an engineering major or in health planning or research in diseases common to black people through a biology major will seek a Black Studies concentration through their respective departments.

To concentrate in Black Studies, a student must take at least 5 semester courses in the program as well as fulfill the requirements of his major. The courses selected should accord with the following pattern of distribution:

- (1) All students in the concentration must take either a basic course in black history or in black consciousness, or both. It is recommended that students in the program seek to study some area which explains the values and philosophies of the black movement; attendance at programs sponsored by SASS for the college is advised.
- (2) As one of their 5 courses in Black Studies, students must take a course involving work off-campus which would be directly concerned with black problems, in accordance with criteria recently adopted by the faculty for such work in other areas.

The work of students concentrating in Black Studies will be reviewed and evaluated when completed by whatever means, such as a comprehensive or a thesis, considered appropriate by the chairman of the program.

Course Offerings

As already noted, courses in Black Studies will vary in particular semesters but the principal offerings which will be generally available are listed below (for precise titles and descriptions of courses, see department statements in the Catalogue).

Economics

Social Economics	Fall semester
Economics of the Black Community	Spring semester

English

Black Literature	Spring semester
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History

African History	Fall semester
Topics in African History	
Afro-American History	Fall semester
Topics in Afro-American History	Spring semester

Philosophy

Black Philosophical Thought

Spring semester

Political Science

Politics of Africa

Fall semester

Politics of the Urban Ghetto

Spring semester

ReligionNegro Contributions to Religious
Thought

Fall semester

Black Theology

Spring semester

Sociology-Anthropology

African Modernization

Fall semester

Race and Ethnic Relations in the
United States

Spring semester

Future Possibilities

Careful attention will have to be given to strengthening the work in such areas as black community politics, Afro-American and African music and art, Latin-American black societies and Afro-American literature. Special emphasis will need to be given to developing field work arrangements with various community groups and organizations such as the Independent Urban Educational Program, Heritage House, Wells Springs Ecumenical Council, black churches, black social groups and the like. Close liaison will also have to be maintained with other colleges and universities to coordinate offerings, share staff members and promote inter-institutional activities. Similarly, it will be necessary to experiment with different teaching methods such as utilizing black student-course leaders to assist white instructors in courses within the concentration. Encouragement will also need to be given students to find field work opportunities, including the option of working within the white community as it relates to the black community.