

Black Studies at NSU

Black History, Cultures, Experiences, and Intellectual Traditions

What Is Black Studies?

Black Studies at NSU draws on the traditions of ethnic studies, which is the interdisciplinary study of race, ethnicity, and indigeneity. Black Studies focuses particularly on the experiences, histories, perspectives, cultures, and scholarship of African-American, African, and African Diaspora peoples. Black Studies and American Indian Studies are the first ethnic studies programs at NSU.

A Minor With Purpose

Black Studies is a minor you can take with any major and that complements nearly any field of study.

Community-Driven

This program was inspired by the students at NSU who wanted to learn more about their history. It is guided by an advisory board which includes NSU faculty and staff as well as members of surrounding communities. Throughout the year, Black Studies and the other ethnic studies programs host guest speakers and student events to help build community.

The Big Picture

As a Black Studies student, you will start with two courses that help frame your remaining studies. Each can be taken as an anthropology or sociology track (see your advisor to determine which is best for you).

ANTH/SOC 1015, *Survey of Race in the U.S.*

This course investigates how beliefs about race developed in the U.S., exploring why race does not exist in a biological sense as an explanation of human variation, even though race beliefs and experiences of race remain so dominant in society. You will learn how race and racism have been experienced by different groups over time in the U.S. and understand the processes that maintain these beliefs.

ANTH/SOC 2015, *Standing Up for Diversity and Equity*

In this course, you will learn about U.S. civil rights and anti-discrimination laws and how these protect you, and you will also reflect on and learn about effective ways to stand up for equity and diversity in different contexts.

These classes are shared with the American Indian and Indigenous Studies program and will be shared with future ethnic studies programs so that you can experience community and share ideas with students in the other programs.



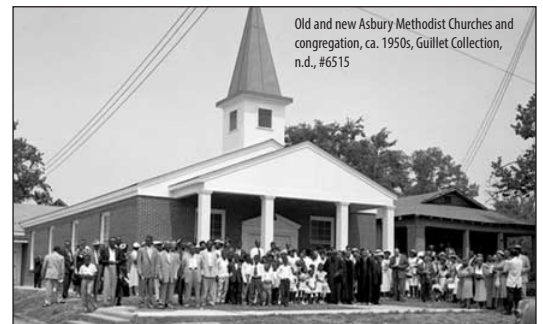
Urbach Collection, Box 3, 1954, Cammie G. Henry Research Center, Northwestern State University [CHRC]



Fifth Street Package Store and Restaurant, Urbach Collection, Box 4, 1954, CHRC



Guillet Collection, #2561, n.d., CHRC

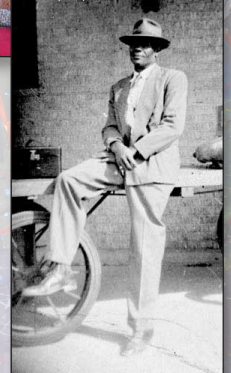


Old and new Asbury Methodist Churches and congregation, ca. 1950s, Guillet Collection, n.d., #6515



Clementine Hunter

Patron outside of Mama Fannie's boarding house, Guillet Collection, #2376, n.d., CHRC



A Focus on Black History

Black Studies students take at least two semesters of Black History:

HIST 3510, African-American History Through Reconstruction (1691-1877)

Students will survey African-American History through the end of Reconstruction, using primary and secondary materials. Themes include the struggle for freedom and equality and the survivance of Black culture(s) and people.

HIST 3520, African-American History After Reconstruction (1877 to present)

This class will survey Black History in the U.S. after Reconstruction, using primary and secondary materials. Themes include the struggle for full citizenship and for educational equality, the movement against segregation, redlining and other institutional forces that contributed to the economic gap, mass incarceration, Black Power and Black nationalism, the complex intersections of gender and race, and contemporary issues.

Interdisciplinary Pathways

In addition to the four required courses, students will choose three classes (nine hours) from courses across NSU. Students may also complete independent research or an internship as part of this program. Courses currently offered include:

- ENGL3800 Reading Blackness
- ENGL3930 Black British Writers
- GEOG3030 Geography of Africa
- HIST4070 Slavery in the Americas
- ANTH4040 Creole Studies: A Proseminar
- ANTH4050 Creole Ethnography
- MUS2000 American Jazz Beginnings: From Creole Bands Through the Early 20th Century
- MUS3600 History of African-American Music
- Other Courses Approved by the Program Coordinator

From time to time, the program coordinator or affiliated faculty may also offer special topics classes in different disciplines in response to student interest.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

DR. JASMINE WISE

Coordinator of Black Studies

School of Social Sciences and Applied Programs

Kyser Hall Room 343F

wisej@nsula.edu | 318-357-6928



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Dayna Bowker Lee



Sheila Richmond, 1998



Urbach Collection, Box 8, 1958, CHRC



Knights of Pythagoras, Young Masons organization, ca. 1960: Urbach Collection, Box 12, 1960, CHRC



Guillet Collection #1199, n.d., CHRC

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