

Rochester INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Minor Program proposal form

college OF LIBERAL ARTS

**Department of Sociology and Anthropology**

**Name of Minor:** Black Studies

**Brief description of the minor to be used in university publications**

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| The interdisciplinary minor in Black Studies examines the social construction of racial differences and its relation to the perpetuation of racism and racial domination. A key component of this minor is to investigate the meanings and dimensions of Blackness that reverberate from slavery and colonialism to the persistent political, social, and cultural implications in the twenty-first century. The minor emphasizes how Blackness intersects with other ethnic identities and how it is shaped by gender, sexuality, and economic inequities. The aim is to refine and advance students’ knowledge of Black life-worlds and experiences across the globe. |

**1.0 Minor Program Approvals**

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|  | Approval request date: | Approval granted date: |
| Academic Unit Curriculum Committee | 4-18-2017 | 4-19-2017 |
| College Curriculum Committee | 4-20-2017 | 4/26/2017 |
| Inter-College Curriculum Committee | 4/27/2017 | 5/3/2017 |

**2.0 Rationale:**

A minor at RIT is a related set of academic courses consisting of no fewer than 15 semester credit hours leading to a formal designation on a student's baccalaureate transcript

How is this set of academic courses related?

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| Black Studies is an interdisciplinary minor that examines the state and place of the Black population globally. The minor draws on courses from a range of disciplines, including anthropology, communication, criminal justice, English, history, modern languages and cultures, and sociology. Different disciplines bring with them differing perspectives that can enrich an area or field of study. One strength of this minor is that the courses in Black Studies expose students to a diversity of ideas and discussions, which, despite the differences in disciplinary approaches, can produce unexpected connections and insights as a foundation of knowledge for the future. The courses in the minor, from their unique disciplinary perspectives, are thereby related by a common focus: they all examine what Blackness means in different parts of the world and how concepts of Blackness influence life experiences. The courses share a concern with documenting, investigating, and assessing the conditions that impede the equality of life for members of Black communities in the United States and globally. |

**3.0 Multidisciplinary involvement:**

If this is a multidisciplinary minor spanning two or more academic units, list the units and their role in offering and managing this minor.

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|  | The Department of Sociology and Anthropology will sponsor and administer this minor. |
| Departments and units contributing courses: Sociology & Anthropology, History, School of Communication, Performing Arts and Visual Culture (FNRT), English, Modern Languages and Cultures, Criminal Justice. | |

**4.0 Students ineligible to pursue this minor:**

The purpose of the minor is both to broaden a student's college education and deepen it in an area outside the student’s major program. A minor may be related to and complement a student’s major, or it may be in a completely different academic/professional area.   It is the responsibility of the academic unit proposing a minor and the unit’s curriculum committee to indicate any home programs for which the minor is not a broadening experience.

Please list below any home programs whose students will not be allowed to pursue this minor, provide the reasoning, and indicate if this exclusion has been discussed with the affected programs:

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| N/A |

**5.0 Minor Program Structure, Sequence and Course Offering Schedule:**

Describe the structure of the proposed minor and list all courses, their anticipated offering schedule, and any prerequisites.

* All minors must contain at least fifteen semester credit hours;
* Minors may be discipline-based or interdisciplinary;
* In most cases, minors shall consist of a minimum of two upper division courses (300 or above) to provide reasonable breadth and depth within the minor;
* As per New York State requirements, courses within the minor must be offered with sufficient frequency to allow students to complete the minor within the same time frame allowed for the completion of the baccalaureate degree;
* Provide a program mask showing how students will complete the minor.

Narrative of Minor Program Structure:

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| The minor in Black Studies consists of 5 courses (15 SCH):   * One course is required: SOCI-210 African American Culture; * Students select four elective courses (these cannot all be from the same subject area). * At least two courses taken for the Minor must be at the 300-level or above. |

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| Course Number & Title | SCH | Required | Optional | Fall | Spring | Annual/biennial | prerequisites |
| SOCI-210  African-American Culture | 3 | X |  |  | X | annual | none |
| ANTH-225  Globalizing Africa | 3 |  | X | X | X | annual | none |
| ANTH-310  African Film and Popular Culture | 3 |  | X | X | X | biennial | none |
| ANTH-345 Genocide and Post-Conflict Justice | 3 |  | X |  | X | annual | none |
| COMM-306 Rhetoric of Race Relations | 3 |  | X | X | X | annual | none |
| CRIM-285 Minority Groups and the Criminal Justice System | 3 |  | X |  | X | annual | CRIM-110 or equivalent |
| ENGL-316 Global Literature: Black Feminist Thought | 3 |  | X | X | X | biennial | none |
| ENGL-316 Global Literature: Caribbean Literatures | 3 |  | 3 | X |  | biennial | none |
| FNRT-304 African American Playwrights | 3 |  | X |  | X | annual | none |
| FNRT-322 Survey of Jazz | 3 |  | X | X |  | annual | none |
| FNRT-323 Survey of African American Music | 3 |  | X |  | X | annual | none |
| FNRT-324 Sounds of Protest | 3 |  | X |  | X | annual | none |
| FNRT-371  African-American Art | 3 |  | X | X |  | biennial | none |
| HIST-245  American Slavery and Freedom | 3 |  | X | X |  | biennial | none |
| INGS-210/HIST-210 Culture and Politics in Urban Africa | 3 |  | X |  | X | annual | none |
| INGS-310/HIST-310  Global Slavery and Human Trafficking | 3 |  | X | X | X | biennial | none |
| MLSP-352 Caribbean Cinema | 3 |  | X |  | X | biennial | none |
| SOCI-220  Minority Group Relations | 3 |  | X | X | X | annual | none |
| SOCI-330 Urban (In)Justice | 3 |  | X |  | X | annual | none |
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| Total credit hours: 15 |  |