Black Studies is a multidisciplinary approach to understanding the society, culture and history of Africans and people of African descent. The program draws on the expertise of scholars of the African and African-American experience in the fields of sociology, literature, the visual and performing arts, history, political science, education, economics and anthropology.

Overview of skills developed

The contributions of Black peoples are crucial to the story of the United States and to world history. The Black Studies minor offers an interdisciplinary approach to understanding the society, culture, and history of Africans and people of African descent. The goals of the Black Studies minor include: emphasizing the African and African-American contribution to world development; broadening and deepening students’ understanding of Africa, the African diaspora and the American identity; and providing students with an opportunity to pursue a program of study relevant to their own experience and expose as many students as possible to African and African-American Studies.

Curriculum outline

The Black Studies Minor offers an innovative curriculum drawing upon research from the social sciences, humanities, arts, sciences, education, economics, and anthropology. The department is truly multidisciplinary, with faculty across many areas of expertise including Art History, English, Political Science, Music, Women’s and Gender Studies, Sociology, Crime and Justice Studies, History, and more.

Course offerings include:

- African-American Literature
- Ethnic Politics
- Women Writers
- Modern Africa
- The Politics of Policing
- Jazz: A Listener’s Guide
- Civil Rights Movements in the United States
- Cape Verdean Politics & Society
- Religion and Music of the African Diaspora
- Abolitionism

More info

- Work with The Frederick Douglass Unity House
- Black History 4 Seasons Events
- Study abroad
- Honors College
- Undergraduate research opportunities

Top Jobs

- Social Workers (median salary: $50,470)
- Social and Community Service Managers (median salary: $67,150)
- Recovery Specialists (median salary: $46,910)
- Registered Nurses (median salary: $73,300)
- Lawyers (median salary: $122,960)
- Political Scientists (median salary: $122,220)
- Community Advocates (median salary: $46,910)
- Mental Health Counselors (median salary: $46,050)
- Correctional Treatment Specialists (median salary: $54,290)
- Paralegals (median salary: $51,740)

Internship sites

- Immigrant Family Services Institute
- College for Social Innovation
- Public Higher Education Network of Massachusetts
- Coalition of Social Justice
- Bristol County Juvenile Court
- Commonwealth of Massachusetts
- Greater Boston Legal Services
- Foley Law Offices

Graduate school placements

- Boston College
- University of Massachusetts Amherst
- Howard University
- New England Law-Boston
- University of Massachusetts Dartmouth
- Simmons College
- Duke University
- Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences

Career placements

- MA Department of Children and Families
- Northeastern University
- High Point & Affiliated Organizations
- Massachusetts Trial Court
- Berklee College of Music
- Boston Public Schools
- New England Law Clinical Office
- Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital
- Massachusetts Department of Mental Health

umassd.edu/programs/black-studies/