

Course Specification

Course Summary Information			
1	Course Title		BA (Hons) Black Studies
2	BCU Course Code	UCAS Code	US0630 L330
3	Awarding Institution		Birmingham City University
4	Teaching Institution(s) (if different from point 3)		
5	Professional Statutory or Regulatory Body (PSRB) accreditation (if applicable)		

6	Course Description
	<p>The BA (Hons) Black Studies course at BCU will help you to engage with the contributions of Black scholars, activism and communities in this expanding interdisciplinary field.</p> <p>This unique course is the first of its kind in Europe. If you are interested in the history, politics, popular cultures, artistic and social movements of people across the African diaspora, Black Studies will provide you with the big picture perspective through this growing discipline.</p> <p>Your course will be taught by leading, research-active lecturers and tutors, where you will encounter a range of viewpoints, as well as gaining valuable experience within the wider community.</p> <p>What's covered in the course?</p> <p>The purpose of Black Studies at BCU is to foster innovative teaching, learning and research that addresses historical and contemporary Black social life, culture and political activism both in Britain and across the African Diaspora. There has been a long tradition of Black studies in the United States. The discipline originally emerged on US campuses during the 1960s in an effort to open up universities to a more diverse student body, as well as recognising the contributions of Black scholars and activists. However, in the UK, Black Studies has been taught more sporadically in higher education without having an independently named degree programme or disciplinary home. It is therefore important to recognise that Black Studies in Britain has also thrived within various local community settings in Britain and through forms of independent self-learning and activism.</p> <p>Black Studies at BCU is an interdisciplinary subject that is committed to working with the wider community. The course aims to make a transformative impact upon society. Throughout the degree, we will engage you in the thinking and practice of contextualising your work within communities, and where possible, connecting you to projects and organisations outside of the University.</p> <p>The course seeks to enable students with the capacities and skills needed to apply decolonising intellectual knowledge to a range of strategies for advancing community self-representation, social justice and global human rights. These commitments are based on the understanding that the perspectives and lives of people throughout the Black diaspora are entangled in complex intersecting power relations, structures and processes.</p>

	<p>By looking at the contributions and intellectual traditions of people in the African diaspora, we can study a range of different perspectives that can transform how we understand and address the role of race and coloniality in shaping the modern world. We also focus on a broad range of topics from exploring popular culture to understanding social theories in the international context of the Caribbean, Latin America, Europe and Africa. Students will have a distinctive focus on the Black presence in Britain, including exploring histories of migration along with the contributions Black peoples have made to contemporary British life.</p> <p>Consequently, the study of the Black experience in Britain and the African diaspora can only be successfully advanced by attention given to difference and the intersectional nature of social categories, and to the national, transnational, diasporic and global politics of location. We understand that the production of decolonizing knowledge is central to the on-going struggle to achieve human, social and environmental justice, flourishing and survival.</p> <p>Black Studies prepares students on this programme for a range of graduate outcomes in a variety of occupations and occupational sectors (e.g. Public, Voluntary and Private). Black Studies graduates can go on to work in areas such as community development, charitable and voluntary organisations, NGOs, further and higher education, industry, retail and commerce, local and central government, human resources, social research, social work and youth work, amongst many others.</p>
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7	Course Awards		
7a	Name of Final Award	Level	Credits Awarded
	Bachelor of Arts with Honours Black Studies	6	360
7b	Exit Awards and Credits Awarded		
	Certificate of Higher Education Black Studies	4	120
	Diploma of Higher Education Black Studies	5	240
	Bachelor of Arts Black Studies	6	300

8	Derogation from the University Regulations
	Not applicable

9	Delivery Patterns		
	Mode(s) of Study	Location	Duration of Study
	Full Time	City Centre	3 Years
	Sandwich	City Centre	4 Years
	Part Time	City Centre	5 Years*
			Code
			US0630
			US0630S
			US0864

* If you study this course part-time, you will study modules alongside full-time students in daytime hours (not evenings or weekends). The duration of the course will depend on how many modules you take per year, and will be agreed before you commence your studies. To qualify as a PT student you cannot undertake more than 90 credits in any one year.

10	Entry Requirements
	<p>The admission requirements for this course are stated on the course page of the BCU website at https://www.bcu.ac.uk/, or may be found by searching for the course entry profile located on the UCAS website.</p>

11	Course Learning Outcomes
1	Students will have the ability to understand a range of knowledge, experiences and histories of the African Diaspora and Britain's Black populations with a focus on their contributions to global society. They will be equipped with a rigorous understanding of the Black Studies discipline appreciating the complexity and diversity of this subject.
2	Students will have the capacity to be socially, critically and intellectually engaged citizens, driven by a desire for high achievement and success by having the skills to work independently and in partnership to develop original research and community impact.
3	Students will understand the relevance of Black Studies and the application of its methods and knowledge in working in partnership with community stakeholders.
4	Students will have the ability to identify, formulate and design a range of critical research strategies and methods, and to comment on their relative advantages and disadvantages for Black Studies. They will be equipped with the skills of applied research methods that can enable them to make use of their knowledge to critically analyse social phenomena, arts and culture.
5	Students will be knowledgeable in their understanding that the ethics and values of Black Studies are decolonial, democratic, intersectional and inclusive of perspectives on gender, sexuality, disability and social class.
6	Students will acquire competences in applying decolonial theoretical perspectives and values in the modern world in order to develop critical thinking, cutting edge research and inclusive transformative practice.
7	Students will have the ability to recognise the relevance of Black arts and culture as key sites for exploring Black Studies globally and throughout the UK.
8	Students will be equipped with the knowledge and ethics to formulate a commitment to education for social justice with an understanding of the social context that recognises intersecting forms of discrimination and abuses of power developing arguments and evidence to challenge these.
9	Students will be able to identify a range of qualitative data sources, across different modalities (visual, oral, material or digital) that are interdisciplinary and relevant to artistic, cultural, social, public and civic policy and practice.
10	Students will acquire skills in critical self-reflection and reflexivity about their own assumptions and the social processes and structures that shape forms of knowledge and the organisation of social life.

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12a	<p>Level 4:</p> <p><i>In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete all the following CORE modules (totalling 120 credits):</i></p> <table><tr><th>Module Code</th><th>Module Name</th><th>Credit Value</th></tr><tr><td>SOC4021</td><td>Understanding Society</td><td>20</td></tr><tr><td>SOC4030</td><td>Introduction to Black Studies</td><td>20</td></tr><tr><td>SOC4029</td><td>State and Society</td><td>20</td></tr><tr><td>SOC4XXX</td><td>Researching Black Lives</td><td>20</td></tr><tr><td>SOC4027</td><td>Black Intellectual Thought</td><td>20</td></tr><tr><td>SOC4026</td><td>City, Community and Culture</td><td>20</td></tr></table> <p>Level 5:</p> <p><i>In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete all the following CORE modules (totalling 100 credits):</i></p> <table><tr><th>Module Code</th><th>Module Name</th><th>Credit Value</th></tr><tr><td>SOC5054</td><td>Black Political Activism</td><td>20</td></tr><tr><td>SOC5057</td><td>Exploring Popular Culture</td><td>20</td></tr><tr><td>SOC5055</td><td>Black Studies Methods</td><td>20</td></tr><tr><td>SOC5053</td><td>Black Feminism</td><td>20</td></tr><tr><td>SOC5059</td><td>Race, Racism and Ethnicity</td><td>20</td></tr></table> <p><i>In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete at least 20 credits from the following list of OPTIONAL modules.</i></p> <table><tr><th>Module Code</th><th>Module Name</th><th>Credit Value</th></tr><tr><td>SOC5010</td><td>Sociology of the Media</td><td>20</td></tr><tr><td>SOC5056</td><td>Black Studies Placement</td><td>20</td></tr><tr><td>CRI5075</td><td>Youth, Socialisation and Identity</td><td>20</td></tr></table> <p>Level 6:</p> <p><i>In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete all the following CORE modules (totalling 80 credits):</i></p> <table><tr><th>Module Code</th><th>Module Name</th><th>Credit Value</th></tr><tr><td>SOC6038</td><td>Black Arts Movement</td><td>20</td></tr><tr><td>SOC6XXX</td><td>Blackness in Britain</td><td>20</td></tr><tr><td>SOC6039</td><td>Black Studies Project</td><td>40</td></tr></table>	Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value	SOC4021	Understanding Society	20	SOC4030	Introduction to Black Studies	20	SOC4029	State and Society	20	SOC4XXX	Researching Black Lives	20	SOC4027	Black Intellectual Thought	20	SOC4026	City, Community and Culture	20	Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value	SOC5054	Black Political Activism	20	SOC5057	Exploring Popular Culture	20	SOC5055	Black Studies Methods	20	SOC5053	Black Feminism	20	SOC5059	Race, Racism and Ethnicity	20	Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value	SOC5010	Sociology of the Media	20	SOC5056	Black Studies Placement	20	CRI5075	Youth, Socialisation and Identity	20	Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value	SOC6038	Black Arts Movement	20	SOC6XXX	Blackness in Britain	20	SOC6039	Black Studies Project	40
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In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete at least 40 credits from the following list of OPTIONAL modules.

Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value
SOC6042	Visual Sociology	20
SOC6037	Activism, Social Movements and Social Change	20
SOC6032	Music and Society	20
SOC6040	Globalisation, People and Society	20
SOC6036	Self, Identity and Society	20

12b Structure Diagram

Please note list of optional modules is indicative only. Students' choice will not be guaranteed for optional modules but a fair and transparent process will be adopted and shared with students.

If you study this course part-time, you will study modules alongside full-time students in daytime hours (not evenings or weekends). The duration of the course will depend on how many modules you take per year, and will be agreed before you commence your studies. To qualify as a PT student you cannot undertake more than 90 credits in any one year.

Full Time Course Structure

Level 4

Level 4 HE Learner Programme (e.g. Two weeks)				
Level 4	Semester 1	SOC4021: Understanding Society (20 Credits)	SOC4029: State & Society (20 Credits)	SOC4030: Introduction to Black Studies (20 Credits)
	Semester 2	SOC4026: Black Intellectual Thought (20 Credits)	SOC4026: City, Community & Culture (20 Credits)	SOC4025: Sociological Imagination (20 Credits)

Level 5

Level 5 Transition Programme				
Level 5	Semester 1	SOC5057: Exploring Popular Culture (20 credits)	SOC5054: Black Political Activism (20 credits)	SOC5055: Black Studies Methods (20 credits)
		Optional International Exchange		
	Semester 2	SOC5053: Black Feminism (20 credits)	(20 credits) SOC5059: Race, Racism and Ethnicity	OPTION (20 credits)
		Optional International Exchange		

Level 6

Work Placement (e.g. 12 months)				
Level 6 Transition Programme				
Level 6	Semester 1	SOC6028: Power & Inequality (20 credits)	SOC6039: Black Studies Project (40 credits)	OPTION (20 credits)
	Semester 2	SOC6038: Black Arts Movement (20 credits)		OPTION (20 credits)

Part Time Course Structure

Year 1	Semester 1	L4. State and Society (20 Credits)	L4. Introduction to Black Studies (20 Credits)
	Semester 2	L4. City Community Culture (20 Credits)	
Year 2	Semester 1	L4. Understanding Society (20 Credits)	
	Semester 2	L4. Black Intellectual Thought (20 Credits)	L4. Sociological Imagination (20 Credits)
Year 3	Semester 1	L5. Black Political Activism (20 Credits)	L5. Black Studies Methods (20 Credits)
	Semester 2	L5. Black Feminism (20 Credits)	L5. Option (20 Credits)
Year 4	Semester 1	L5. Understanding Popular Culture (20 Credits)	L5. Black Studies Placement (20 Credits)
	Semester 2	L6. Option (20 Credits)	L6. Option (20 Credits)
Year 5	Semester 1	L6. Black Arts Movement (20 Credits)	L6. Power and Inequalities (20 Credits)
	Semester 2	L6. Black Studies Project (40 Credits)	

13 Overall Student Workload and Balance of Assessment

Overall student *workload* consists of class contact hours, independent learning and assessment activity, with each credit taken equating to a total study time of around 10 hours. While actual contact hours may depend on the optional modules selected, the following information gives an indication of how much time students will need to allocate to different activities at each level of the course.

- *Scheduled Learning* includes lectures, practical classes and workshops, contact time specified in timetable
- *Directed Learning* includes placements, work-based learning, external visits, on-line activity, Graduate+, peer learning
- *Private Study* includes preparation for exams

The *balance of assessment* by mode of assessment (e.g. coursework, exam and in-person) depends to some extent on the optional modules chosen by students. The approximate percentage of the course assessed by coursework, exam and in-person is shown below.

Level 4

Workload

% time spent in timetabled teaching and learning activity

Activity	Number of Hours
Scheduled Learning	216
Directed Learning	254
Private Study	730
Total Hours	1200

Balance of Assessment

Assessment Mode	Percentage
Coursework	70%
Exam	0
In-Person	30%

Level 5

Workload

% time spent in timetabled teaching and learning activity

Activity	Number of Hours
Scheduled Learning	216
Directed Learning	205
Private Study	779
Total Hours	1200

Balance of Assessment

Assessment Mode	Percentage
Coursework	100%
Exam	0
In-Person	0

Level 6

Workload

% time spent in timetabled teaching and learning activity

Activity	Number of Hours
Scheduled Learning	142
Directed Learning	292
Private Study	766
Total Hours	1200

Balance of Assessment

Assessment Mode	Percentage
Coursework	80%
Exam	0
In-Person	20%