B.A. in Black Studies

Students graduating with a B.A. in Black Studies should be able to:

Interdisciplinary and Multi-disciplinary Knowledge Skills:

- Describe how perceptions about racial difference have shaped the making of the modern world.
- Describe how institutionalized racism has shaped both racial advantage and disadvantage among racial and ethnic groups within the United States.
- Explain how cultural representations of African Americans have shaped the social, political, and economic experiences of blacks.
- Provide specific historical and contemporary examples illustrating how African Americans have resisted oppression in spite of institutionalized inequalities.
- Explain how the intersection of race, gender, class, and sexuality shape the life chances and experiences of all African Americans.

Research Skills:

- Distinguish a research question from a research argument.
- Produce original research papers involving the construction of a coherent research question, literature search, literature review, construction of data collection items, completion of a Human Subjects Protocol where necessary, data collection, and analysis of qualitative, textual, and/or visual data.
- Write compelling essays applying interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary knowledge to identify a problem and offer solutions.

Critical Thinking Skills:

- Recognize, synthesize, and juxtapose readings, theories, arguments, and ideas.
- Compare and contrast readings, theories, arguments, and ideas.
- Organize evidence into logical and persuasive arguments.
- Identify various approaches to a problem.
- Identify arguments that fail to hold up to empirical and logical scrutiny.

Attitudinal Skills:

- Continue to draw on Afro-diasporic epistemologies and ontologies as a life-long learner.
- Support the intellectual and cultural contributions of people of African descent.
- Show tolerance of various points of view within and outside of academia.