

December 13, 2022

Associate Professor Brad Steinmetz
Chair, Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee

Re: Approval of Black Studies Certificate

Dear Brad and Members of the Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee,

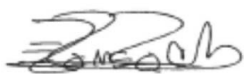
At its meeting on Wednesday, December 7, 2022 the ASCC Arts & Humanities Panel 2 unanimously approved the certificate in Black Studies proposed by the AAAS Department. This is a 12-credit hour certificate that aims to provide students with a robust introduction to the discipline of Black Studies. Upon completing the certificate, students will be able to understand and communicate the significance of Black Studies as a discipline, in terms of its history, scholarly breadth, and commitment to community activism and engagement.

As a type 1a (stand-alone post-high school diploma); type 1b (embedded undergraduate post-high school); and type 2 (stand-alone post-bachelor undergraduate) certificate, it will be available for both in-person and online course work. The combination in-person and online coursework will allow those who do not have access to the OSU campus for in-person courses to complete the certificate without any problems. This certificate aims to serve three primary student populations: Teachers who would like to integrate Black Studies content into their curricula and pedagogy; college and high school students looking to pursue further focused study in the discipline and/or to explore African American and African Studies (AAAS); and non-educator working professionals engaged in a variety of fields who could benefit from foundational study in AAAS to better serve their clients and communities.

The certificate has 3 core courses AFAMAST 1101 (Introduction to African American and African Studies, 3 credits), AFAMAST 1111 (Introduction to Africa, 3 credits) AFAMAST 1112 (Introduction to the Black World, 3 credits) and 1 elective course, at the 2000-level or above in AAAS. Students who finished the certificate will be assessed in each of the core courses. In AFAMAST 1101, students will have to write a final graded exam essay answering the question "What is the significance of Black Studies?". In AFAMAST 1111, "Introduction to Africa," and AFAMAST 1112, "Introduction to the Black World:" students will write an ungraded reflection essay focusing on how the content of each course applies to the students' life and career path. When students have completed the 12-credit certificate program, they will complete an anonymous online survey about their career plans and how the certificate has impacted their relationship to and engagement with communities of African descent in various life areas or spaces.

We have no doubt that the certificate will be attractive to many students, particularly teachers who are planning on incorporating Black Studies into their curriculum. Besides this certificate program being timely and relevant, there are no other certificate programs that match the proposed Black Studies certificate, in terms of both curriculum and mode of delivery. We concur that the proposed certificate is unique in terms of its proposed curriculum (Black Studies at the intersection of African American, African Diaspora, and African Studies) and mode of delivery (with both online and in-person options). Thus, we advance the proposed certificate to the Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee with a motion to approve.

Regards,



Eugenia Romero, PhD
Associate Professor of Iberian Studies
Vice-Chair and Director of Undergraduate Studies
Department of Spanish and Portuguese