

## Report of the Curriculum Committee on Black Studies

### Preamble

At a meeting on April 24, 1969, the Curriculum Committee of Emory College authorized the appointment of a representative Sub-committee on Afro-American Studies charged initially to consider the question "Should Emory have a Black Studies Program?" The first meeting of this Sub-committee was held Wednesday afternoon, May 14, 1969. Following several intensive sessions the Sub-committee voted unanimously to approve in principle the establishment of an Afro-American Studies Program.

On May 28, 1969, shortly after this decision by the Sub-committee but acting independently of it, the Faculty of Emory College voted overwhelmingly to go on record as

"strongly endorsing the guidelines signed by the President and presented to the University Convocation this morning. We urge that in acting upon these commitments, the President review the priorities upon which allocations of the University's financial resources are based and in planning the University's development he begin by giving priority to...substantial funds for scholarships and tutorial services for culturally distinct students and for the operation of a quality Afro-American Studies program."

Since that time, the Afro-American Studies Subcommittee has devoted its attention primarily to the type of program to be recommended rather than to the rationale for such a program. We believe, nevertheless, that the following observation is worthwhile.

The Black man's experience in this country, since he was first brought to Jamestown, Virginia in 1619 as a slave, has been unique. This uniqueness has impinged on practically every facet of the American experience—economic, social, cultural, and religious. The Black man is an essential part of the American

experience. Yet the non-Blacks have never bothered in an ordered sort of way to understand either the Black man or his impact on the American experience. One sad result of this is that the Black man has understood neither himself nor his impact on the non-Black majority in this country. The program that we propose is an attempt at least to make a beginning towards solving both these problems.

We take as our premise that there cannot be forever one Black society and one non-Black society in these United States: that is, in an academic sense, that it is untenable to fashion one educational program for Blacks and another for non-Blacks. To do either would be to indulge in propoganda [[propaganda]] and not in education. Therefore, we offer this program as one for all Emory students who may be interested in it.

#### General Recommendation

We recommend that an inter-disciplinary program in Black Studies be instituted at Emory College, that a person be able to elect a major in this program for the B.A. degree, and that due announcement of this be included in the College Catalog.

We recommend that a coordinator of Black Studies be appointed to be in charge of this program, that he be a properly qualified academic, Black person, and that he teach in the program.

#### Specific Recommendations

##### I. Course Offerings

We recommend that the Black Studies Program at Emory emphasize the Black American experience; however, other courses dealing with Black experiences in places other than the United States, will be included.

##### A. Core Courses

We recommend that the coordinator of Black Studies initiate fundamental courses dealing with the Black experience and that one of these courses may be

used to fulfill five hours of the uniform requirements in either Humanities or Social Sciences (at the student's discretion).

#### B. Departmental Courses

We recommend that course offerings listed in this program include upper division courses in all disciplines that will take due account, within the total complex of the American experience, of Black contributions to and special problems in such disciplines.

(A listing of course presently offered in Emory College that would be acceptable for such a Black Studies Program is included in the appendix.)

#### C. Applied Courses

We recommend that the program include a component of at most 15 hours embodying some appropriate practical experience (e.g., in Black urban areas) to be recommended by the coordinator of Black Studies and approved by the Curriculum Committee.

#### D. Courses Outside Emory College

We recommend that relevant courses outside Emory College be included in this program upon recommendation by the coordinator of Black Studies and approval by the appropriate College Committee. The number of hours credit to be allowed for such courses shall be consistent with current Emory policy. We recommend further that the Dean of Emory College continue to explore those avenues of cooperation with neighboring educational institutions that might lead toward increased effectiveness of this Black Studies Program.

### II. A Major in Black Studies

We recommend that Emory College offer a major for the B.A. degree in Black Studies. The hours requirement for this major shall be consistent with the revised curriculum as adopted by the Faculty of Emory College on February 2, 1970. Specifically, we recommend that the requirements governing concentration in departments under the new curriculum apply also to the Black Studies Program.

### III. The Initial Program

(a) Concentration

Non-Black Studies prerequisites	20
Core (Black Studies)	5
Field (Black Studies)	15
Courses to be selected from at least three departments with major emphasis in one. These courses are jointly listed in the Black Studies Program and existing Departments.	50
	90

It is anticipated that the student wishing to major in Black Studies will have several options within the Program depending upon individual interests, whether literary and artistic, political, sociological, or other. Such interest will determine the areas emphasized and the assignment of field project.

(b) Non-concentration

Without attempting to be at all precise, a student might select uniform requirements and some electives in the following germane areas:

- (1) language facility: English and perhaps French or Spanish,
- (2) statistics and psychological testing,
- (3) biology and genetics.

IV. Implementation

We believe that courses now offered, and scheduled to be offered, in Emory College are adequate to warrant the initiation of this Program. We recommend that Emory College establish September 1970 as target date for the inauguration of the Program.

It is clear, however, that we cannot approach adequate implementation of the Program without the presence of a coordinator and without the core program that he will devise. We recommend that an intensive search begin immediately for

a suitable coordinator of the Program, that he be hired at the earliest possible date, and that syllabi [[syllabi]] for core courses to be offered in the Program be submitted to the Curriculum Committee as soon thereafter as practicable.

We recognize the difficulties inherent in the search for a coordinator of Black Studies and that he may not be identified by the beginning of the academic year 1970-71. We recommend that a steering committee be appointed by the Dean of Emory College which shall

- (1) assist actively in the search for a coordinator,
- (2) be responsible for this Program until a coordinator is appointed,
- (3) act in an advisory capacity to the coordinator during his first year in residence.

We recommend that further action towards implementation of the Program be the responsibility of the coordinator. In the meantime, however, we suggest that appropriate steps be taken by the Dean of Emory College to ensure that courses of the kind recommended in I B, above, be available by the academic year 1971-72.

## Appendix

### Related Courses Offered During The Current Year

Education 232 - Tutoring of Urban Children

Education/Political Science 246 - Politics Of Education, Fall 1969

English 264 - Afro-American Literature, Winter 1969

History 225 - History of Afro-Americans: A Survey, Summer 1970

History 255 - The South in American History, Spring 1970

History 289F - Negro in American History, Winter 1970

History Of Art 265 - Studies in the Art & Architecture of Africa, Winter 1970

Music 275 - Music of the Twentieth Century, Spring 1970

Political Science 243 - Politics of Public Policy, Winter 1970

Political Science 252 - Ethnic Politics in the U.S., Winter 1970

Political Science 261 - Politics of Opposition, Winter 1970

Political Science 275 - Politics of Tropical Africa, Spring 1970

Political Science 276 - Political Cultures of Southern Africa, Winter 1970

Political Science 349 - Seminar in Civil Liberties, Spring 1970

Political Science 381 - Problems of Political Development, Winter 1970

Political Science 386 - Problems of Public Administration in Developing Areas, Spring 1970

Religion 253 - Religion and Black Culture, Spring 1970

Sociology 216 - Cultures of Africa, Spring 1969

Sociology 247 - Racial & Ethnic Relations, Spring 1970

