

Black Studies major offered for first time

A long time often passes from the birth of an idea to its fruition, but in the case of establishing a major in Black Studies at YSU, the gestation period lasted only two years.

The results of all the planning are evident this fall at YSU as for the first time students will be able to enter the Black Studies program in either a major or minor.

The purpose of this interdisciplinary major, according to program director Alfred L. Bright, is "to facilitate the academic investigation and analysis of the historical, social and aesthetic impact of the people of African descent on the American society and the world. It also provides for the systematic study of the problems confronting the modern multi-racial world."

One of the first and one of the few Ohio state universities to have an academic major in Black Studies, YSU joins a select group of colleges and universities nationwide who also have such a program.

The major in Black Studies is included in a program leading to the bachelor of arts degree and students electing this major must satisfy all requirements for the B.A. degree.

The major must complete a minimum of 48 total hours from approved Black Studies courses with at least 28 hours in upper division work. For a minor, the University lists 21 hours in Black Studies courses and/or courses directly relevant to Black Studies

as listed in the catalog.

The core courses consist of two sections of Black Studies Introduction, a Black Studies Seminar and African Civilization. The introductory courses concentrate on the social-historical experience of Black people in Africa and the Americas, and the cultural and intellectual heritage of these people as reflected in literature, philosophy and art.

Black Studies major may then choose from 8-16 hours from among the following social studies courses: American Studies, Educational Sociology Seminar, Black Man in American History (I and II), Select Problems in American History, Select Problems in American History, Problems in Third World Minority Groups, The Black Family, The Black Community, and Anthropology: African Culture.

Other courses are also available in African Art, Honors Seminar (Landmarks in Literary History), Black Man in American Literature, and Black Church in America.

The Black Studies Program was established in the fall of 1970, offering its first actual course last year entitled "introduction to Black Studies, I."

The team-taught course focused on the social-historical experience of Black People in Africa and the Americas, and was the forerunner of this year's introductory courses.