

# Black Studies

## Learning Goals

1. To develop knowledge and skills that will prepare students to engage effectively in many academic or work settings. These include: Intensive listening, critical thinking, and effective oral and written expression.
2. To learn strategies for working independently and with faculty and peers in group settings.

## About the major

Middlebury's interdisciplinary Black Studies Program focuses on the intellectual, cultural and political aspects of Black life and Black people in a global framework. Black Studies courses compare black experiences in various parts of the world, allowing students to learn to analyze blackness as a dynamic formation across time and within local, global, and historical contexts.

The program draws on diverse disciplinary perspectives and pedagogical methods, allowing students to link coursework across the curriculum. It is committed to producing and advancing knowledge about Black people in Africa and the communities of African descent in the Americas, the Caribbean, and Europe. The program allows students to explore diverse theoretical and methodological perspectives to deepen their understanding of local, national, transnational, diasporic, and global processes. Of necessity, the debates that ensue will engage the voices and lived experiences of Black people past and present.

## Reasons you might choose this minor

- You are interested in the rich heritage of Black intellectual, cultural, and scientific inquiry and activity.
- You wish to seek forms of knowing the world, transnational histories, and power dynamics from the perspective of marginalized people towards the goal of social justice.
- You want to learn about Black politics and social movements in comparative perspective.
- You understand the importance of language, performance, and other forms of expression in experiences of Blackness.
- To want to explore the development and influence of Black music, literatures, visual arts, and religious expressions.
- You are interested in the analysis of race and the ways that it intersects with gender, class, sexuality, and disability.
- You have an interest in examining the advent, implications, and legacies of colonialism and trans-Atlantic enslavement.
- You care deeply about racism and its effects on societies as well as on knowledge production.
- You are invested in acquiring the conceptual and practical tools of social engagement, organizing, and action toward social justice.



## Translating Learning into Professional Competencies

Throughout your time at Middlebury, you will develop and enhance the following core professional competencies, skills, and dispositions highly valued by employers that will prepare you for leadership and success in any given field:

**Critical Thinking:** Exercise sound reasoning to analyze issues, make decisions, and overcome problems.

**Oral/Written Communications:** Articulate thoughts and ideas clearly and effectively in written and oral forms.

**Teamwork/Collaboration:** Build collaborative relationships with colleagues and customers from diverse backgrounds.

**Leadership:** Leverage the strengths of others to achieve common goals, and use interpersonal skills to coach and develop others.

**Professionalism/Work Ethic:** Demonstrate personal accountability and effective work habits.

**Global/Intercultural Fluency:** Value, respect, and learn from diverse cultures, races, ages, genders, sexual orientations, and religions.

**Digital Technology:** Leverage existing digital technologies ethically and efficiently to solve problems, complete tasks, and accomplish goals.

**Career Management:** Identify and articulate one's skills, strengths, knowledge, and experiences relevant to career goals, and identify areas necessary for professional development.

## Where black studies majors go

### Applying your learning through internships . . .

Students pursue internships and research in a variety of fields, enabling them to apply their liberal arts learning in real-world settings. Internships, research, and self-directed projects enrich your academic experience and help prepare you for life after Middlebury. Since this is a new major, we don't yet have an official list of internships Black Studies majors have participated in. Below is a list Black Studies majors may have chosen.

Breakthrough Collaborative

Power in Place

Yale Office of International Affairs—Africa Initiative

The GO Project

Diversify Ice

Team4Tech

1000 African American Genome Project, Cobb Laboratory at Howard University

Mikva Challenge

N.Y. State Attorney General's Office

Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage

Gardens for Health International

Upward Bound

Global Family Initiative

Cultural Survival

Cape Town Refugee Development Center

Informing the Kenyan Identity Through Stories (self-directed project)

Word Theatre

Teach Rwanda

A Better Chance

Addison County Parent Child Center—DEI Initiatives—developing an anti-racism curriculum

Legal Aid Society

InnerCity Struggle

Congresswoman Stacey Abrams of Georgia (part of the work was on voter suppression policies)

The Very Black Project

Spark Action

Enlace Chicago

### . . . leading to meaningful, dynamic, and engaging career paths.

See just some of the many interesting ways our graduates have applied their liberal arts learning to engage the world. If you want to see what other Middlebury alumni are doing now, log into Midd2Midd and search by major. [go/midd2midd](#)

Health Science Charter School, *Middle School Director*

Barings, *Real Estate Assistant Portfolio Manager*

Krush Careers, *Integrated Marketing Manager*

Princeton University Preparatory Program, *College Admissions/Personal Development Instructor, Doctor Student in Sociology*

Pride of Bristol Bay/Cairnspring Mills, *Outreach and Content Coordinator/Sales Coordinator*

PIMCO, *Senior Associate, university Partnerships and Diversity Recruiting*

Etsy, *Trust and Safety Training Specialist/Diversity and Inclusion Partner*

Faraday, *CEO and Founder*

Aviation Cinemas, *Operations Manager*

Primerica, *Regional Vice President*

Middlebury College, *Senior Assistant Director of Admissions and Coordinator of Diversity, Inclusion, and Access Initiatives*

Center for Effective Government, Harris School of Public Policy, *Graduate Assistant and MPP Student*

Barrel, *Solutions Architect*