Black To Front Student Activities: 2023 – 2024

Following our 'Black to Front' Symposium of Spring 2023, we are developing different activities with students to make Black Studies more visible on campus. We are looking to attract and engage the involvement of undergraduate students in amplifying Black Studies at Northwestern. Each suggestion can be evaluated at the end of the year.

1. Black Hot Topics in 60 Minutes: Starting Fall late October/early November we will be holding weekly and/or bi-weekly topics of the week, chosen by Black studies students for public discussion. If you can think of a hot topic or challenging issue facing the Black Studies community that has arisen recently or is of long-standing, then put it in the form of a question, and partner with another student (undergraduate or graduate) or faculty professor, to discuss the question. One of you will present for 10 minutes, the other respond for five minutes, and then the attendees will discuss for the remaining 45 minutes. Contact Professor Barnor Hesse, asap, with your suggestions for topic questions and partnerships: at hb-hesse@northwestern.edu

2. Black History Month: During Winter our Departmental Student Ambassadors will take the lead in organizing a series of events called ‘Controversial Blackness’ for each week of Black History Month. The idea of ‘Controversial Blackness’ describes challenging, transgressive, and difficult subject matter associated with trying to understand the meaning, impact, and significance of Blackness, socially, economically, politically, culturally, philosophically, and so on. The aim is to hold imaginative events. If you would like to be involved with this contact: Professor Barnor Hesse: at hb-hesse@northwestern.edu

3. Black Question Time: Near the end of Spring Quarter, we will hold a Black Question Time Event, comprising a panel of two invited external guests (chosen from suggestions by students) and two Northwestern faculty, who will discuss pre-selected questions from students on any public or scholarly issue concerning Black
experiences that have arisen during 2024. We will start soliciting for questions and ideas for invited external guests at the beginning of the Winter Quarter. If you want to know more about this or have any ideas for questions and guests, then contact: Professor Barnor Hesse: at hb-hesse@northwestern.edu

4. **Black Studies Societies:** As part of our on-going activities we are encouraging Black studies students to partner with the Department in forming societies that are dedicated or devoted to aspects of Black studies not necessarily addressed by our curriculum or concerning areas that require greater exploration. We are looking to sponsor the development of societies that are both educational and recreational. Earlier this year we sponsored and assisted in the development of the 'Black Poetry Society' (contact: CydneyBrown2026@u.northwestern.edu) which had its inaugural event in April. If you have an idea for a Black Studies Society, then identify a faculty professor from our department who can work with you to develop this. Or if this interests you and you only have preliminary ideas you want to discuss then contact: Professor Barnor Hesse: at hb-hesse@northwestern.edu