Black To Front Series: Student Activities, 2024 – 2025

The Department of Black Studies is committed to intellectual and social activities with our students in developing the Black studies community on campus. In our 'Black to Front' series we aim to stimulate and support student-led public dialogue, discussion and collaboration on a variety of Black studies topics and events. Throughout the year we will engage students in a series of 'Black to Front' activities that highlight the significance of Black studies, as well as the idea of community, in the Black Studies community. Below are the Black To Front activities proposed for 2024-2025, though as always we remain open to new ideas for public events.

Black Hot Topics: Each academic quarter we will hold at least 2 Black Hot Topic events. Black Hot Topics are discussion events organized around a controversial, contested or debatable topic, that is or should be the focus of interest in the Black Studies community. These topics are chosen by, chosen by Black studies students. So if you can think of a Black Hot Topic that is a challenging issue or concern facing the Black Studies community, whether it 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 present and discuss the question at an public event we will help you organize. One of you will present for 10 minutes, the other respond for 10 minutes, and then the attendees will discuss for the remaining 60 minutes. Topics last year included, 'Do Black Women have a moral duty to marry Black men?'; 'What's Black Studies got to do with the Israel-Palestine Colonial War?; 'Should Black Studies use the N-Word?'.

Contact Professor Barnor Hesse, asap, with your suggestions for topic questions and partnerships: at hbhesse@northwestern.edu

Black History Month: During the Winter our Departmental Student Ambassadors will take the lead in organizing events for different weeks of Black History Month that specifically address the question of Black Histories and Black Futures. The Ambassadors will be looking to involve other students in the planning of these events. The aim is to

hold imaginative and challenging events. If you would like to be involved with Black History Month contact: Professor Barnor Hesse: at hb-hesse@northwestern.edu

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 preselected questions from students on any public or scholarly issue concerning Black Studies and 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

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. 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 and sponsor this idea. 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