

Michael Wright
August 31, 1970

To: Academic Council Members
From: Michael Wright, Director, Black Studies Institute

Re: Proposed Black Studies courses in Photography, Graphic Design,
Crafts and Political Analysis

The following is a list of courses descriptions as provided by the
proposed instructors:

Black Photography

Ronald Hammers

Hours: by arrangement
Place: by arrangement

This workshop is designed to acquaint those familiar
Photographic students as well as the advanced student
with photoskills, the emphasis being on seeing photo-
graphy through new eyes. As seen from a black perspect-
ive, to increase the ability to see blackness with a
new awareness. The class consists of talks, reading
material, field trips and weekly critique of work
produced.

Black Graphic Design

Carolyn Laws

Personal objectives: To attempt to create an academic
atmosphere in which the study of graphic design can
begin to be approached from a more relevant and thus
realistic perspective.

It is basic to the social cognizance of the Black
community to establish a "black esthetic" of which the
graphic media is an essential facet.

Description: Graphic Design with a Black Perspective.

(Special Studies, Graphic Design pre-requis.)

Graphic Design majors only

BASIC PATTERNS OF THE
COMMUNICATIONS PROCESS

- A. Two lectures on the "realism and role of a Graphic Designer".
- B. One lecture on the "realism and role of a Graphic Designer".
- C. Lectures on a designers tools.
- D. Lectures on how to sketch for graphic layouts.
- E. One lecture on "papers suitable for printing".
- F. One lecture on the four main printing methods.
- GG. Continual lectures throught out course in processing artwork
for printing.
- H. One lecture on some main categories in type-face design.

In between all of these lectures there will be at least three
working assignments. Approx. 24-25 art projects to be anticipated.
Graphic range: Poster, logos, book jacket design, brochures,
album jackets, some corporate image involvement, newspaper and
magazine laypats, some package design.
Mid-term and Final: Presentation of a portfolio.

Black Craft: Textile Design

Sheryle Butler

Course of study centers around techniques of loom and non-loom textile arts of African origin and the use of these techniques in reinforcing and developing the Afro-American lifestyle. Exploration of dress, construction of dress of a primitive or African origin, and research into the position of the crafts in the changing lifestyle of Afro-America. Each student is required to produce primitive technique samples and to research into one specific technique with the end result as two finished projects, one mid-semester, one final, and a related final paper.

Crafts is quickly moving itself out of the sphere of the purely functional art, and even "vocational", and into the sphere of the purely fine art. But, I feel, neither extreme best suits the changing attitudes of the public at large, the public which we as students unfortunately divorce ourselves from and often are not prepared to become members of that same community. The purely esthetic fine art or crafts reaches a very small audience, mainly of middle-income or higher and too often white. The black community is starving for art but it must suit their physical needs as well as their esthetic feelings. Function is a strong point in African art, but function does not override beauty, rather it enhances beauty. I would like to see art, crafts specifically as that is my field, to come out of the gallery and into the community, be it white, black, red, yellow or brown.

*Black Political Analysis: Seminar

Michael Wright

(recomm. for Black students, enrollment by re-arrangement with instructor)

The course is designed to equip the student with the essential analysis tools which to investigate the socio-political history of the Black colony within the United States specifically and that of the international Black community in general. An approach that is well grounded in materialist history will hopefully give context and dimension to the contemporary world stage upon which the Afro-American colony finds itself an actor of singular importance.

The course work will include the study of the political semantics of the Black community; "Integration," "Separatism," national consciousness, national culture, class character, Pan-Africanism, scientific socialism, Communism, Marxist-Leninism, etc. such organizations as the Black Muslims, SNCC, SCLC, the Panthers, the Communist Party, USA, Progressive Labor Party, Black Economic Development Conference, etc. will be analyzed.

In addition there will be class projects that relate to the program of the Black Studies Institute. All lectures will touch

*Black Political Analysis (cont)

upon the concepts and applications of political art, the relation, orientation, and attitudes of the Black artist to his social community.

*This is a core course for Institute members and one may by participating in class projects earn additional credit by way of special studies.