The minor in Black Women’s Studies draws on cross cultural, humanistic and socioeconomic perspectives to provide a coherent interdisciplinary approach to the study of Black women’s lives and history. As a specialty in the fields of Women’s Studies and African American Studies, it will provide students with tools for understanding the social and cultural contexts in which race, gender, class, sexuality, ethnicity, nation and other dimensions of difference intersect to influence the lives and experiences of Black women. As an interdisciplinary, comparative course of study, the minor will explore the cultural practices and creative activities of women of Africa and the African Diaspora. In addition, through this course of study, students will analyze how Black women have empowered themselves through community work, political activism, and cultural production. Fifteen credits of coursework are required.

**Specific Course Requirements**

a. All students are required to take two of three basic courses. These courses are designed to introduce the cross-cultural, historical, humanistic and social scientific approaches characterizing this specialty field. They define and provide examples of fundamental concepts of race, racism, gender, sexuality, ethnicity, colonialism, class, culture and society and provide the historical grounding for understanding and interpreting contemporary patterns and practices. The courses are:

   WMST263: Introduction to Black Women's Studies OR WMST265: Constructions of Manhood and Womanhood in the Black Community

   AND

   AASP313/WMST314: Black Women in U.S. History

b. In addition to the two required foundational courses, students will select three additional courses from the approved a list of courses (see below), in accordance with criteria designed to insure that students gain more advanced knowledge of both humanities and social science approaches to the field as well as its cross-cultural and comparative aspects.

   i. At least one class must be comparative or non-U.S. in focus
   ii. At least one class must be from the humanities
   iii. At least one class must be from the social sciences
   iv. At least two courses must be taken at the 300-400 level
   v. In addition, no more than six credits taken at an institution other than the University of Maryland and no course with a grade of less than a C, will count toward the minor.
   vi. A maximum of two courses in the minor may count toward either a Women's Studies major or an African American Studies major.
   vii. No single course may count for more than one of the requirements in i, ii, and iii above.
**APPROVED COURSES** from which students may select the remaining 9 credits are:

**Humanities Courses**
- WMST263  Introduction to Black Women's Studies
- WMST298*  Black Women's Art and Culture
- THET240  African Americans in Film & Theater
- ENGL362+  Caribbean Literature in English
- FREN478B+  Themes and Movements of French Literature in Translation: Francophone Women Writers
- THET496  African American Women Film Makers

**Social Science Courses**
- WMST265  Construction of Manhood and Womanhood in the Black Community
- HIST319  Women in the Civil Rights Movement
- WMST360+  Caribbean Women
- WMST370  Black Feminist Thought
- WMST410+  Women of the African Diaspora
- WMST488  Senior Seminar: Black Women in the Public Eye
- AASP498*+  Gender, Race & Labor
- AASP493*  Feminist and Nationalist Thought in Black Communities
- WMST498  Womanisms and Feminisms: Theories and Methods
  (proposed course)

Other once-a-semester special courses deemed appropriate by the AASP and WMST advisors may count toward the minor.

*These courses have been submitted for VPAC approval for regular numbers
+Courses with a comparative or non-US focus.