

SUMMER WORKSHOP IN BLACK STUDIES
(A PRELIMINARY PROSPECTUS)

Prepared by:

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INSTITUTE OF THE BLACK WORLD
Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Center

Atlanta, Georgia

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WHAT: 6 Week Summer Workshop in Black Studies

WHERE: Atlanta, Georgia

WHEN: June 16 - August 1, 1969

SPONSOR: INSTITUTE OF THE BLACK WORLD
The Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Center

COORDINATOR: Abd-al-Hakimu Ibn Alkalimat
(who was called Gerald McWorter)

WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS: Black students and faculty interested
in developing materials and models for
Black Studies Programs (approximately 35)

ROOM AND BOARD: To be arranged and announced in May, 1969

I. PURPOSE OF WORKSHOP

The Workshop on Black Studies Programs is the first major activity of the Institute of the Black World. This was designed to begin the task of reconstructing the educational and research experiences of Black students, fully realizing that the work required would only begin during a Summer Workshop. We are proposing a workshop composed of Black students (and faculty) who are involved and/or interested in developing Black Studies. The workshop will be a working experience based on a six-day week culminating in a national conference to be called by the Institute. While the Workshop will attempt to develop a set of preliminary documents for use during the 1969-70 academic year, we at least hope to raise a set of meaningful questions that will clarify the central issues involved.

II. ACTIVITIES OF THE WORKSHOP

The Workshop will undertake five activities as a group and as individuals. As stated above, the primary goal is to evaluate ongoing programs, and to build new models of Black studies programs as well as begin to build materials for such programs.

A. Evaluative Analysis of Curriculum Offerings

The Institute staff has already begun the task of collecting descriptive materials on Black studies programs throughout the United States of America (and some materials from the Caribbean as well as Africa). This material will be used as well as the material each Workshop participant will bring concerning the program at his (her) school. We will be concerned with:

1. Philosophical basis for the program
2. Overall design of the program
3. Selected specific course of the program
4. Degree and kind of specialization within the program
5. Relevance of the program for the Black community
6. The inclusion of Third World studies

B. Evaluative Analysis of Black Studies Program Innovation

The Workshop will select a number of specific programs to examine the process involved in founding a Black studies program with various kinds of institutional structures (e.g., private colleges, large state university, etc.). We will be concerned with:

1. Developing a selected number of case studies (probably written by participants about their own experiences)
2. Development of goals by Black student groups
3. The involvement and reactions of the white students, faculty, administration, and trustees
4. Inter-program cooperation within each school as well as between schools
5. Involvement and participation of the Black community
6. The question of Brown and Third World studies

C. Documentation of Issues and Answers

The Workshop will not attempt to develop a consensus position on the major question involved in Black studies programs. Rather, there will be an attempt to clarify the central questions and begin to specify alternative solutions. These questions and solutions will be both based on real situations that have occurred as well as those that will be anticipated by workshop participants. There will be an attempt to be as theoretically comprehensive as possible.

D. Inventory of Black Studies Programs

The workshop will develop forms for the purpose of obtaining comparable information on each Black studies program. The Workshop staff will assist the workshop in building as complete an inventory as possible. The Workshop will also have the cooperation of a doctoral candidate working on the development of Black studies programs who has collected materials from at least a hundred programs that have been announced thus far.