What do the Black Panthers have to do with the founding of American Ethnic Studies at UW? This course explores the intellectual arm of the Black Power Movement -- the fight for Black Studies and Ethnic Studies departments in higher education. During the height of the Black Power era, Black students organized sit-ins and petitions that fundamentally transformed colleges and universities all across the nation. This "Black Student Movement" resulted in the teaching of Black Studies, the enrollment of Black students at predominantly white institutions, and the expansion of financial aid. Indeed, American Ethnic Studies was born out of the politics of Black Power.

This course examines both primary sources and secondary texts to understand the connections. Course materials will also explore a parallel movement in South Africa -- the Black Consciousness Movement, which was led by students with similar demands to teach Black history and culture as fundamental to any educational experience and as absolutely necessary for liberation.

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