

# Black Studies Course Proves Relevant to Founding Class

The course was organized too late to be listed in the University of Wisconsin catalog, but about 300 students — 50 of them black — signed up for it.

To them, Afro-American Cultural and Intellectual Tradition appeared to be a "relevant" offering. At the completion of classes recently, individual evaluations said it was.

"I think I will remember this as the outstanding course in college," wrote a member of the founding class. "Thank you. It has been a valuable experience," another said.

Prof. Fred M. Hayward, political science, and Prof. John R. Willis, history, organized the course. They brought in outside lecturers who ranged from the black man in bondage to the black man in revolt.

"ONE THING that pleases us," Prof. Hayward said, "was that we put together a lot of ma-

terial that had not been taught at the University of Wisconsin before, even though it dealt with a very important cultural and intellectual sector of our society."

In another location on the Madison campus, more than 120 students — about 30 of them black — finished class sessions this week in Black Literature in Modern America, another course offered for the first time this semester.

To teach the course, Dr. Darwin T. Turner came from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical College, where he is professor of English and dean of

the Graduate School.

Prof. Turner began with the period before the Civil War with black writers including Phillis Wheatley, Sterling A. Brown, and Frederick Douglass. He moved on to a section entitled "Reconstruction to Renaissance," lecturing on Paul Laurence Dunbar, Charles Chestnutt, W. E. B. DuBois, and James Weldon Johnson, whose "Autobiography of an ex-Coloured Man" was required reading.

Under the heading, "The Harlem Renaissance and After," he discussed the early influences of Carl Van Vechten, Ann Locke, and Claude McKay, and then he moved on to works of Jean Toomer, Countee Cullen, Langston Hughes, and Zora Neale Hurston.

Section 4 was "The Coming of Age," with time devoted to the works of Richard Wright and his followers, Frank Yerby, and the poets Margaret W. Alexander, Melvin Tolson, and Gwendolyn Brooks. Miss Brooks is on the University campus this semester as Rennebohm Professor of Creative Writing.

The final section of the course was comprised of Ralph Ellison's "Invisible Man," James Baldwin's "Go Tell it to the Mountain," and other contemporary novelists and dramatists.