BLACK STUDIES PROGRAM MISSION STATEMENT

The Black Studies Program (BLST) is concerned with the African, African-American, and the global African diaspora communities, with a special focus on transnational perspectives in relation to the U.S. and the Black world. The Program expects to reward a Bachelor Degree to majors who have attained a working knowledge of the main theories, events, and/or issues associated with:

- The history, sociocultural dynamics, and problems and possibilities in the Black world
- Theories of oppression based on race, color, socioeconomic class, gender, and sexuality along with their interrelationships, as well as practical ways to struggle against these types of oppression
- The history and future of science and technology originating inside and outside of the Black world
- The political economies of Black world societies in the global context
- The history of black achievement
- The history and creative output of black peoples in the literary, visual, musical, and performing arts

With these outcomes, the program’s mission is twofold:

- To provide an intellectual setting in which students from the Black world can grow and develop into productive lifelong learners, citizens, and activists seeking to improve their communities, their nations, and the world
- To provide an intellectual setting in which students from all communities can gain a knowledge of the Black world, assisting in their development into productive, lifelong learners, citizens, and activists seeking to improve their communities, their nations, and the world

AWARDS

- William Hallett Greene Award
- Black Faculty and Staff Annual Scholarship Awards
- Annual Convocation Awards for Outstanding Services
- Edward Scobie Award for Africana Social Science Research
- Wilfred Cartey Award for Africana Literary and Creative Excellence
- Marshariki Chaney Award for Achievement and Community Service
- Best Black Studies Essay Award
- The Allen Isaacman Prize in Africana Studies
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Prof. Gibbons, William
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Prof. Hunther, TK.
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Prof. Thompson, Michelle
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mthompson@ccny.cuny.edu
## Black Studies Professors

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Unsure what to do with a Black Studies Major?

Graham Hodges
Professor, Colgate University

Michelle Obama
First Lady of the United States

Eungie Joo
Curator, The New Museum

Angela Bassett
Actress, American Horror Story

Look what they did!

Cheryl Sterling, PhD
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@IAMBSCCNY
African Heritage and the Afro-American Experience
BLST 10100  Sec (B-LEC)  Code (22498)  Instructor: Howard, T.
M, W 9:30a.m.-10:45a.m.  RM: NAC 7/306

Introduction to Black “roots” from ancient Africa to contemporary America as an orientation to the nature of Black Studies emphasizing its relationships to world history, Europe, Asia, the Americas, slavery, Reconstruction, colonization, racism, and their politico-economic and cultural impact upon African descendants worldwide.

3 HR./WK.; 3 CR.

African Heritage and the Afro-American Experience
BLST 10100  Sec (P-LEC)  Code (22499)  Instructor: Hunter, T.
T, Th 2:00p.m.- 3:15p.m.  RM: NAC 6/328

Introduction to Black "roots" from ancient Africa to contemporary America as an orientation to the nature of Black Studies emphasizing its relationships to world history, Europe, Asia, the Americas, slavery, Reconstruction, colonization, racism, and their politico-economic and cultural impact upon African descendants worldwide.

3 HR./WK.; 3 CR.

African Heritage and the Caribbean Experience
BLST 10200  Sec (L-LEC)  Code (22500)  Instructor: Thompson, M.
T, Th 9:30a.m.-10:45a.m.  RM: NAC 7/306

Analysis of historical conditions which shaped the lives of African peoples in the Caribbean and Brazil emphasizing cultural continuities, human organization and similarities in global Black experience among Africans on the continent and in the Western hemisphere, vis-à-vis European politico-economic control and cultural impact.

3HR./WK.; 3 CR.
**Fall 2017 Course Descriptions**

**African Heritage and the Caribbean Experience**  
**BLST 10200**  
Sec (F-LEC) Code (22501)  
Instructor: TBA  
M, W 3:30p.m.-4:45p.m.  
RM: NAC 5/124

Analysis of historical conditions which shaped the lives of African peoples in the Caribbean and Brazil emphasizing cultural continuities, human organization and similarities in global Black experience among Africans on the continent and in the Western hemisphere, vis-à-vis European politico-economic control and cultural impact.  

3HR./WK.; 3 CR.

**The Civil Rights Movement**  
**BLST 14700**  
Sec (R-LEC) Code (22502)  
Instructor: Hunter, T.  
T, TH 3:30p.m.-4:45p.m.  
RM: NAC 5/109

It is a historical examination of this legendary community via lecture, film and tours. The students tend to get much more enjoyment from the tours when the various locations are placed in a social, political and economic perspective. Invariably during the tours we encounter Harlemites who are willing to devote some time with the students and share their personal reflections. Students must submit weekly assignments based on the texts and a final research paper and oral presentation.  

3 HR./WK.; 3 CR.

**History of Hip Hop**  
**BLST 31128**  
Sec (S-LEC) Code (44997)  
Instructor: Wood, A.  
T, TH 5:00p.m.–6:15p.m.  
RM: 5/109

In the late 1970s and early 1980s, hip hop emerged from the streets of New York. Initially a party music, hip hop became the soundtrack to a street consciousness articulating socio-political and cultural changes in the late 20th century. This course traces the social and musical history of hip hop through analyses of videos, music, dance, and readings. We will focus on hip hop as a cultural force in American society balanced by lessons that introduce fundamental musical features such as basic freestyle, DJ, and cipher techniques.  

3 HR./WK.; 3 CR.
Religion and Survival
BLST 14900  Sec (E-LEC) Code (22503)  Instructor: Cassells, E.
M, W 2:00p.m.–3:15p.m.  RM: NAC 4/220C

This course will focus on the spiritual and religious beliefs of African descended peoples. We will explore the such movements like Rastafari coming out of Jamaica, Santería or Regla da Ocha coming from Cuban, Vodou coming from Haiti, and Candomblé from Brazil, with the idea of understanding their African roots and their basis of re-creation and survival across the Caribbean and the U.S.

3 HR./WK.; 3 CR.

African & African American Cinema: Parallel Movements
BLST 31162  Sec (C-LEC) Code (48043)  Instructor: Sawadogo, B.
M, W 11:00a.m.–12:15p.m.  RM:NAC 6/313

This course tracks parallel movements in the historical development of African and African American cinema from their origins to the present. These two cinematic traditions and practices share similarities in how the film medium was appropriated as an instrument not only to strike back at stereotypical representations of the black subject in colonial and Hollywood films, but also to present Afrocentric or ‘black’ storytelling and aesthetics—black cinema. As independent cinema, African and African American audiovisual productions have also adopted (dis)similar strategies in establishing connections to dominant cinema through their respective modes of production and distribution.

3 HR. /WK.; 3 CR.

The Harlem Community
BLST 13400  Sec (6XX-LEC) Code (45007)  Instructor: TBA
Sat 12:00p.m.–4:30p.m.  RM: NAC 6/115

The origins and ethnic development of the Harlem community; demographic trends, institutions, culture, resources, and the role of Harlem as a training ground for Black leadership. Field learning experiences include visits to historic sites and community and landmarks.

3 HR./WK.; 3 CR.
Fall 2017 Course Descriptions

**Struggle Music: Blackness, Politics and Contemporary Music**  
**BLST 38152**  
Sec (M-LEC) Code (45004)  
Instructor: Gillespie, M.  
T, Th 2:00p.m.-3:15p.m.  
RM: NAC 6/310

The class provides an introduction to the aesthetic and cultural history of blackness and the arts. By addressing blackness in political, cultural, and artistic terms, the class employs a range of critical perspectives and art (e.g. literature, contemporary art, cinema) to introduce students to the breadth and depth of black visual and expressive culture.  
3 HR./WK.; 3 CR

**Women in the African Diaspora**  
**BLST 33300**  
Sec (M-LEC) Code (22506)  
Instructor: Thompson, M.  
T, Th 11:00a.m.-12:15p.m.  
RM: NAC 4/108

This course will provide a historical background to the various contemporary situations and problems peculiar to women of the African diaspora. It will study marriage, family, religious practices, politics, business, and work.  
3 HR./WK.; 3 CR

**African-Latinos–History–Culture**  
**BLST: 31608**  
Instructor: TBA  
M, W 12:30pm-1:45pm  
RM: NAC 5/190

Afro Latinos are descendants of African ancestry (Diaspora) who share Latin-Romance Language, history and Culture (1500 to present) from the United States, Mexico, Central/South America (Columbia, Brazil, Venezuela, Honduras, Costa Rica, Panama) and Spanish/French Caribbean Islands (Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic, Cuba and Haiti), Discussions will refer to afro Latino culture, religion, socioeconomics, education and identity in world history.  
3 HR./WK.; 3 CR

**Blackness & the Arts**  
**BLST 31157**  
Sec (P-LEC) Code: 63399  
Instructor: Gillespie, M  
T, Th 2:00pm- 3:15pm.  
RM: NAC 6/310

This class provides an introduction to the aesthetic and cultural history of blackness and the arts. By addressing blackness in political, cultural, and artistic terms, the class employs a range of critical perspective and art (e.g. literature, music, contemporary art, cinema) to introduce students to the breadth and depth of black visual and expressive culture.  
3 HR./WK.; 3 CR
Courses from other departments that are accepted as Black Studies courses

Entrepreneurship: Women & Diversity  
BLST 31156  Sec (-LEC) Code (54537)  
Wed 5:00p.m-7:30p.m  
(Cross-listed with ECO 31108-Code 23116)  
Instructor: Wales, K.  
Shepard S-205

This course provides an overall historical context for women as entrepreneurs and recognizes ethnic, racial, religious and socio-economic diversity of women entrepreneurs. Our definition of who is an entrepreneur continues to change and what skills will be needed to make an impact. In the past entrepreneurs were seen as lone visionaries; today, teams, divisions and large enterprises are striving to be more entrepreneurial. Connecting theory with practice, we infuse entrepreneurship throughout this curricular while asking how gender difference impacts the experiences of women entrepreneurs versus their male counterparts. Women are starting businesses at a faster rate than the population at large and this course will explore an emergence of a whole new social and economic order, which can accurately be labeled a female economy—in every country and every arena—this is a significant upheaval. The data gathered is clear and startling. Women have tremendous spending and buying power worldwide—and it’s growing. Market estimates about women’s total purchasing prowess vary, ranging anywhere from $5 trillion to $15 trillion annually. Therefore, there is reason to believe, that more women will become entrepreneurs and investors in the years ahead. This course will explore how women are positioned to create more businesses, jobs and stimulate the economy. The course is to provide participants with the tools, strategies, and confidence needed in order to assess, determine feasibility of, and launch and grow new businesses or reinvigorate existing businesses. This is the place where education and imagination meet, spurring the creation of innovative companies. Discussions will include raising capital, developing a viable business model and product, strategies to grow a company, leadership skills, startup successes and failures will be studied to glean lessons learned and innovation.

3 HR./WK.; 3 CR.

Ethnic and Racial Politics  
BLST 31126  Sec (P-LEC) Code (22508)  
T, Th 2:00p.m.-3:15p.m.  
(Cross-listed with PSC 22600-Code 23093)  
Instructor: Forsythe, H.  
RM: NAC 5/110

An investigation of the political activities of various minority groups and the challenges of governing a plural society. The class also explores the immigrant experience as well as religious identities. Among the specific topics covered are ethno-racial political identities, political mobilization (i.e. social movements and interest groups), political attitudes, voting behavior, and public policies affecting minority groups

3HR./WK.; 3 CR
Women of Color and the Politics of Experience
BLST 31163  Sec (P-LEC) Code (46857)  (Cross-listed with WS 31114–Code 36026)
M, W 2:00p.m-3:15p.m.  Instructor: Angel-Ajani, A.
RM: NAC 5/109

This course explores the critical and artistic work of women of color about the complex politics of race, class, citizenship, gender, sexuality, and other categories of power in the lives of women of color in the U.S. and globally. The readings in this course will critically examine “experience” as an aspect in shaping theory, history, politics and culture. We will cover women of color feminist critiques of such issues as poverty and capitalism, nationalism as well as the politics of representation, location and coalition/community building.

3 HR./WK.; 3 CR.

Global Lockdown: Gender, Race and Politics
BLST 31164  Sec (M-LEC) Code (46879)  (Cross-listed with WS 31115–Code 36029)
M, W 2:00p.m-3:15p.m.  Instructor: Angel-Ajani, A.
RM: NAC 4/121B

This course explores the critical and artistic work of women of color about the complex politics of race, class, citizenship, gender, sexuality, and other categories of power in the lives of women of color in the U.S. and globally. The readings in this course will critically examine “experience” as an aspect in shaping theory, history, politics and culture. We will cover women of color feminist critiques of such issues as poverty and capitalism, nationalism as well as the politics of representation, location and coalition/community building.

3 HR./WK.; 3 CR.

The Diasporas of Brazil
BLST 31161  Section (G) Code (61325)  (Cross-listed with //Port 40100–Code 24050)
Instructor: Castro-McGowan, R.

Offers an overview of the development of Luso-Brazilian literature from its origins to contemporary times. Includes a study of the social, cultural, and political developments of Brazil and Portugal. The study of literature written in Portuguese acquaints students with the influential role played by Portugal during the Age of Discovery. It deepens the students’ appreciation and enjoyment of fine literature in Portuguese through reading selections by leading authors. Studies the contribution of Native, Iberian and African cultures, the development of the arts, the impact of revolutionary movements, and the place of minorities today.

3hr./wk.; 3 cr.
Africa Before 1500
BLST 31150    Sec (M-LEC) Code (22515)    Instructor: Seligman, A.
T, TH 11:00a.m-12:15p.m.   RM: NAC 5/148

This course uses an interdisciplinary approach to understanding contemporary social ills through the lens of Hip-Hop culture. Issues like race, class, gender, poverty and sexuality are common concerns in the wider social world, but Hip-Hop has provided unique articulations of and responses to these issues. Hip-Hop often “gives voice” to the voiceless, at the same time, Hip-Hop has been a site for inequality. We will explore the degree to which Hip-Hop is or can be a social change agent. This course will expose students to the field of Hip-Hop Studies, issues in urban America, and international perspectives on Hip-Hop culture.

3 HR./WK.; 3 CR.

African American Cultural and Political History: 1915-1945
(Cross-listed with HIST 31089-Code 24273)
BLST 31165    Sec (R-LEC) Code (46880)    Instructor: Woodard, L.
T, TH 3:30p.m-4:45p.m.   RM: NAC 5/148

Throughout the 20th century, African Americans have employed a variety of strategies toward the attainment of social, political, and economic equality. At different historical moments, specific agendas, tactics, and participants have come to forefront, yet the overall objectives remain the same. During the 1920s and 1930s, many African Americans put forth a fusion of cultural and political activism as the vanguard of the movement. We will explore the intersection between culture and politics during this period and examine its place within the larger struggle for equality. Using primary and secondary sources, this course will look beyond traditional literary models and present students with a deeper and more complete understanding of the complex and dynamic social, cultural, and political phenomenon known as the New Negro or Harlem Renaissance. The key themes the course will address are: Agency, Resistance, Self-determination, Citizenship, Political Activism, Gender, Sexuality, Color, Tactics, and Civil Rights. Students are required to complete weekly readings and audio, and visual assignments and to be prepared to discuss them in class. Students must also complete a final research project on a topic of their own choosing that culminates in a 15-page paper.

3 HR./WK.; 3 CR.
Fall 2017 Cross-listed courses

Psychology & The Black Experience
BLST 31127     Sec (L-LEC) Code (22510)  
T, TH 9:30AM-10:45AM.

This course examines the psychological aspects of historical and contemporary and experiences of people of African ancestry. The work of noted black psychologists in the United States and abroad is utilized to address issues of well-being and abnormality as they pertain to black people’s past and current realities. The topics will include cross-cultural perspectives in black psychology, the black family, ethnic identity, education and the black child, mental health concerns of black people, research issues and the black community.

Instructor: Heyward, D
RM: NAC 7/218
3 HR./WK.; 3 CR.

Psychology & The Black Experience
BLST 31127     Sec (M-LEC) Code (53954)  
T, TH 11:00AM–12:15PM

This course examines the psychological aspects of historical and contemporary and experiences of people of African ancestry. The work of noted black psychologists in the United States and abroad is utilized to address issues of well-being and abnormality as they pertain to black people’s past and current realities. The topics will include cross-cultural perspectives in black psychology, the black family, ethnic identity, education and the black child, mental health concerns of black people, research issues and the black community.

Instructor: Heyward, D
RM: NAC 7/218
3 HR./WK.; 3 CR.

Ethnic Minorities
BLST 31159     Sec (F-LEC) Code (22518)  
M, W 3:30pm - 4:45pm

This course will examine social psychological theories and empirical research on racism and prejudice. Various concepts related to racism and prejudice will also be explored, such as stereotypes, discrimination, and intergroup dynamics. The course will focus on how psychologists study these topics both historically and contemporarily.

Instructor: Lewis-McCoy, R.L.
RM: Shepard 17
3 HR./WK.; 3 CR.
Fall 2017 Cross-listed courses

Sociology of African Americans
BLST 31167 Sec (D-LEC) Code (47263)
M, W 12:30PM- 1:45PM

This course is designed to give the student a deeper understanding of the ways that African-American have been the subject of sociological study as well as the producers of sociological knowledge. Through an exploration of historical and contemporary phenomenon, students will develop a critical understanding of the social location of African-Americas in areas such as employment, residential location, education and others. Students will be able to understand different sociological perspectives and be able to apply these to the topics of the African-American experience. Students will be able to communicate effectively on these topics in both written and oral forms. Students will leave the course with a rich understanding of the ways in which the field of sociology can help explain the various experiences that created the current African-American condition.

3 HR./WK.; 3 CR.

Race, Class and Power
BLST 31155 Sec (J-LEC) Code (22516)
M, W 8:00p.m.-9:15p.m.

This course will provide students with the opportunity to examine and discuss issues of race, class and power. Specifically; what do we mean by the term ‘RACE’, how do social structures impact and reinforce race, class and gender inequality in the United States? Given the growing economic inequality, the assault on the idea of racial equality, the assault on women rights, this is a signal moment in American history to examine/discuss these issues. Who has power and how is it a manifested in a socially stratified society? While issues of race, class and power and gender inequality may be contentious, let us be vigorous in our opinions and respectful of those who we may disagree with.

3 HR./WK.; 3 CR.

Selected Topics: In African American Literature
BLST 31166 Sec (R-LEC) Code (47262)
T, TH 3:30p.m. -4:45p.m.

This series of courses provides students with the chance to study African-American literature in greater depth. Possible topics include: "Jazz Fiction;" "Detective Fiction;" and "20th century African Drama."

3 HR./WK.; 3 CR.
Courses in the Bulletin

Introductory Courses
10100: African Heritage and the Afro-American Experience
10200: African Heritage and the Caribbean-Brazilian Experience

Intermediate Courses
14900: Religion and Survival
15500: Black Studies and Black Psychology
17100: Roots: Seminar on the Black World Experience
17600: The Black Revolution
20000-20400: Practicum

Black World Development
12300: African Politics
12400: National Building and Development in Africa
12800: The United Nations and New Nation States
21000-21300: African World Area Studies
21000: African Area Studies
21100: Afro-American Studies
21200: Caribbean Studies
21300: Brazilian and Afro-Latin American Area Studies

Business, Science & Technology
13500: Economic Development of the Black Community

Cross-Listed Courses
Engl. 31143 Blues Detective Fiction
Engl. 31313 African-American Lit 1930-1960
Engl. 31891 Harlem Renaissance
Engl. 37005 African Literature
**Courses in the Bulletin**

**African American Society**

13200: The Afro-American Child in His Urban Setting

13400: The Harlem Community

14500: Capitalism and Colonialism in Contemporary America

14700: The Civil Rights Movement

15700: Racism and the American Legal System

18900: Sociopolitical Impact of Race and Racism

19000: Malcolm X: His Life, Leadership and Legacy

31111: Social Inequality: Hip Hop

31103: Race and Racism

31601: Black English

33000: Afro-American Heritage: 1619 to 1865

33100: Afro-American Heritage: 1865-Present

33125: Women of the African Diaspora

**Latin American and Caribbean Cultures**

16100: Caribbean and Brazilian Heritage

16300: Race and Politics in the Caribbean

16600: Caribbean Immigration

**Special Topics and Independent Studies**

30100-39400: Honors

31000: Independent Reading in Black Studies
# Black Studies Program (142 Major)

Graduation Check Sheet - Major

Student’s Name:_________________________ Student’s ID #________________

To major in Black Studies, students must complete two core/required courses for a total of 6 credits, listed in section A; and 24 credits of Black Studies electives, listed in section B. The student may substitute 3 credits in Asian or Puerto Rican Studies, section C with the written approval of the Director of Black Studies or an advisor.

## A. Required (6 Credits)

<table>
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<th>Course</th>
<th>#</th>
<th>Term Taken</th>
<th>Course</th>
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## B. Black Studies Electives (24 Credits)

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## C. Substitutions:

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Director’s Remarks: ____________________________________________ has completed the major requirements for Black Studies.

Director’s signature: ____________________________

Date: ________________
Black Studies Program (Minor)

Graduation Check Sheet- Minor

Students Name: __________________________ Students ID # ___________________

Required Courses (6 Credits)
Check off and fill in the Black Studies Course number:

______BLST 1010: African Heritage and the Afro-American Experience

______BLST 1020: African Heritage and the Caribbean-Brazilian Experience

REQUIRED CREDITS (18 credits)

Twelve (12) elective credits in additions to the required courses (above, 6 credits), make a TOTAL of 18 credits

All elective credits for the minor must be BLST courses (Unless a course is approved by the program director).

<table>
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<th>Number</th>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Semester/yr.</th>
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Director’s Remarks: ____________________________________________ has completed the minor requirements in Black Studies.

Director’s signature: ________________________________

Date: ___________________
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AFFILIATED PROGRAMS
Langston Hughes Festival

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