

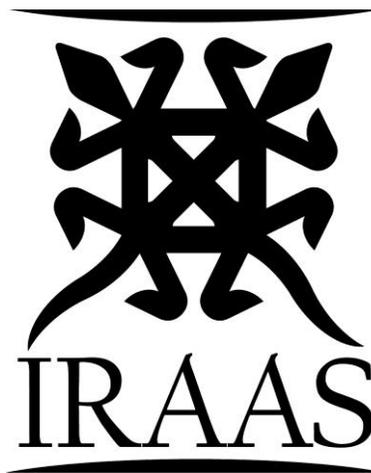


**THE GRADUATE SCHOOL FOR ARTS AND SCIENCES**

**INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH IN AFRICAN-AMERICAN STUDIES**

**MASTER OF ARTS IN AFRICAN-AMERICAN STUDIES  
GRADUATE PROGRAM HANDBOOK**

**ACADEMIC YEAR  
2015-2016**



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## ◆Information Beyond African American Studies

## OVERVIEW

African-American Studies entails a critical scholarly examination of the collective experiences of people of African descent in the Americas, the Caribbean and Africa. In the United States during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, black studies is embodied in the black intellectual tradition, the massive body of writings and interpretations of African Americans by and about themselves and their social, cultural, economic and political conditions. Through these centuries, the black intellectual tradition has evolved certain characteristics as a body of thought. It has been “descriptive”, attempting to present a thick description or richly detailed narrative of the substance and realities of black life; it has been “corrective”, seeking to overturn racist stereotypes and misinformation about the black experience; and it has been “prescriptive”, an attempt to link theoretical work with practical endeavors to transform reality in the interests of black people. Since the establishment of the first formal department in African-American Studies at San Francisco State University in the mid-1960s, hundreds of colleges and universities have initiated black studies programs. As of 2000, twenty-five research universities have M.A. degrees in African-American Studies, and five offer Ph.D. degrees in the field.

Columbia University is located near the cultural and political heart of black America, the community of Harlem. At the end of the nineteenth century, blacks living in densely populated urban neighborhoods such as San Juan Hill and the Tenderloin began to relocate to Harlem. Black ownership of residential housing was greatly accelerated with the establishment of the Afro-American Realty Company by Philip A. Payton, Jr. in 1904. By the First World War, tens of thousands of African Americans from the South had begun to arrive in the city, as Harlem quickly became known as the urban black Mecca. In the golden age of the twenties, Harlem became the center of black literary and cultural life, home to outstanding artists, poets and novelists. Harlem was a central site for the rise of black nationalism, first in the twenties with the popular emergence of Marcus Garvey and his Universal Negro Improvement Association, and a generation later with the charismatic leadership of Malcolm X. Harlem has continued to serve as the location for the development of a series of influential African-American political figures, including Congressman Adam Clayton Powell, Jr., Benjamin J. Davis, Jr., Percy Sutton, Congressman Charles Rangel, and David Dinkins, New York City’s first African-American mayor.

For over a century, Columbia University has played a central role in the scholarly interpretation of the black experience. Columbia anthropologist Franz Boas was largely responsible for establishing critical studies that drew distinctions between race and culture. In the 1920s, Boas, Carter G. Woodson, and Elsie Clews Parsons worked together to train students in African-American Studies. Together, they transformed the social sciences and humanities. Zora Neale Hurston, Melville Herskovits, and Otto Klineberg are perhaps the best-known participants of the program, but others like Eugene L. King were integral to the university community and the Harlem Renaissance. In the 1960s, influential black scholars, such as anthropologist Elliot Skinner and political scientist Charles V. Hamilton, came to Columbia and helped to train a new generation of scholars interested in Africa, the Caribbean and black America.

## OVERVIEW [cont-]

### **Envision, Engage, Transform...**

*“Envisioning the academy as a site of critical engagement for social transformation”*

IRAAS is an intellectual community that bridges scholarship, teaching, and public life. We envision the project of African American Studies as a multi-disciplinary enterprise. Our faculty employs an array of theoretical approaches and methodological strategies to examine historical and contemporary formations in black culture, politics, and society. The Institute has a rich tradition of scholarship which capitalizes upon our unique location in New York City, especially the dynamic community of Harlem. Currently, IRAAS engages in a broad program of research and teaching that attends to the diversity of black experiences in the global Diaspora.

IRAAS understands education to be a necessarily transformative endeavor. To this end, our mission is threefold:

- To prepare students to become critical thinkers and global citizens
- To facilitate and support innovative research (working groups, collaborative and individual projects, and faculty/student grants)
- To disseminate knowledge through academic and public forums including IRAAS “Conversations,” lectures roundtable discussions, conference, and new media platforms

The Institute for Research in African-American Studies at Columbia University (IRAAS) was established in July, 1993 by the late Professor Manning Marable with the unique mission of achieving academic excellence and social responsibility in Black Studies. The Institute is an academic resource center that has built a new intellectual tradition upon the rich legacy of Harlem’s history. Since its inception, the Institute has significantly expanded the array of contemporary scholarship and interpretations of the diasporic black experience. Through its events and special projects, the Institute has emerged as one of the nation’s premier intellectual centers of advanced scholarship devoted to the study of the Black experience.

## **IRAAS FACULTY**

### **Core Faculty**

**Steven Gregory**

Anthropology and African-American Studies

**Farah J. Griffin**

William B. Ransford Professor of English and Comparative Literature and African-American Studies

**Frank Guridy**

History and African-American Studies

**Kevin Fellezs**

Music and African-American Studies

**Robert Gooding-Williams**

Philosophy

**Samuel Roberts**

History and Socio-Medical Science

*Director of IRAAS*

**Carla Shedd**

Sociology and African-American Studies

**Josef Sorett**

Religion and African-American Studies

*Director of Undergraduate Studies*

**Sudhir Venkatesh**

William B. Ransford Professor of Sociology and African-American Studies

### **Research Fellows**

**Marcellus Blount**

English and Comparative Literature

*Director of Graduate Studies*

**Fredrick C. Harris**

Political Science

**Carl Hart**

Psychology

**Kellie E. Jones**

Art History and Archaeology

**Natasha Lightfoot**

History

**Mabel Wilson**

Architecture, Planning and Preservation

## Affiliated Faculty

**Christopher Brown**

History

**June Cross**

Journalism

**Mamdou Diouf**

Middle East and Asian Languages and Culture-  
Leitner Family Professor of African Studies

**Ann Douglas**

English and Comparative Literature

**Maguette Camara**

Dance and Physical Education-Barnard College

**Geraldine Downey**

Psychology

**Barbara Fields**

History

**Eric Foner**

History

**Saidiya Hartman**

English and Comparative Literature;

**Kimberly Johnson**

Political Science-Barnard College

**Ousmane Kane**

International and Public Affairs

**Rashid Khalidi**

History

**George E. Lewis**

Music

**Mahmood Mamdani**

Anthropology

**Gregory Mann**

History

**Monica Miller**

English-Barnard College

**Alondra Nelson**

Sociology and Women & Gender Studies

**Gary Okihiro**

International and Public Affairs

**Robert O'Meally**

Zora Neale Hurston Professor of English and  
Comparative Literature

**David Scott**

Anthropology

**Michelle Smith**

Political Science-Barnard College

**John Szwed**

Music

**Kendall Thomas**

Law

## IRAAS FACULTY BIOGRAPHIES

**MARCELLUS BLOUNT** *Director of Graduate Studies; Associate Professor of English and Comparative Literature; Ph.D., Yale (1987)* At Columbia since 1985, Prof. Blount teaches American and African American literary and cultural studies. He has been a Research Fellow at the Carter G. Woodson Institute at the University of Virginia, a Visiting Fellow at Wesleyan's Center for Afro-American Studies, a Rockefeller Fellow at the Center for the Study of Black Literature and Culture at the University of Pennsylvania, and a Visiting Fellow at the W.E.B. Du Bois Institute at Harvard University. He has published essays in PMLA, Callaloo, American Literary History, and Southern Review. He co-edited "*Representing Black Men*" with George Cunningham. His first study is entitled "In a Broken Tongue: Rediscovering African American Poetry." His current project is entitled "*Listening for My Name: African American Men and the Politics of Friendship*". He was the Sterling Brown '22 Visiting Professor of English at Williams College.

**Office: 606a Philosophy; Phone: Email: MB33@columbia.edu**

**KEVIN FELLEZS** – *Assistant Professor of Music and African American Studies. PhD, University of California- Santa Cruz.* His book titled *Birds of Fire: Jazz, Rock, Funk and the Creation of Fusion* (Duke University Press, 2011) is a study of fusion (jazz-rock-funk) music of the 1970s. He has published articles in Jazz Perspectives, Journal of Popular Music Studies, and the Institute for Studies in American Music Newsletter. He has also published essays in a number of edited anthologies including Alien Encounters: Asian Americans and Popular Culture (Duke University), One World Periphery Reads the Other: Knowing the "Oriental" in the Americas and the Iberian Peninsula (Cambridge Scholars), and Heavy Metal: Controversies and Countercultures (Equinox).

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**ROBERT GOODING-WILLIAMS** - *M. Moran Weston/Black Alumni Council Professor of African-American Studies, Professor of Philosophy; Ph.D., Yale University* Robert Gooding-Williams holds appointments in both the Philosophy Department and the Institute for Research in African American Studies (IRAAS), where he is a member of the Core Faculty and founding director of the Center for Race, Philosophy, and Social Justice. His areas of research and teaching interest include Social and Political Philosophy (esp. antiracist critical theory), the History of African-American Political Thought, 19th Century European Philosophy (esp. Nietzsche), Existentialism, and Aesthetics (including literature and philosophy, representations of race in film, and the literary theory and criticism of African-American literature). Gooding-Williams is the author of *Zarathustra's Dionysian Modernism* (Stanford, 2001); *Look, A Negro! Philosophical Essays on Race, Culture, and Politics* (Routledge, 2005); and *In The Shadow of Du Bois: Afro-Modern Political Thought in America* (Harvard, 2009). In 2010, *In the Shadow of Du Bois* received two book commendations: one, for the Best Book on Race, Ethnicity and Political Thought, awarded by the Race, Ethnicity, and Politics section of the APSA (American Political Science Association); and the second, an Honorable Mention citation in connection to the David Easton Award, awarded by the Foundations of Political Theory section of the APSA. Over the course of his career, Gooding-Williams has been awarded numerous fellowships, including an NEH Independent Scholars and College Teachers Fellowship, two Andrew Mellon Faculty Fellowships, and a Laurance A. Rockefeller Fellowship awarded by Princeton University's University Center for Human Values.

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IRAAS FACULTY BIOGRAPHIES cont.

**STEVEN GREGORY** – *Associate Professor of Anthropology and African-American Studies; PhD, New School for Social Research* Professor Gregory's research interests include race and gender studies, urban ethnography, political economy and globalization. His work has appeared in the American Ethnologist, Cultural Anthropology, Public Culture and Social Text. He is the author of Black Corona (1998), Santeria: A Study in Cultural Resistance (1999), Devil Behind the Mirror: Globalization & Politics in the Dominican Republic (2006) and the co-editor of Race (1994).

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**FARAH JASMINE GRIFFIN** -; *William B. Ransford Professor of English and Comparative Literature and African-American Studies; Ph.D., Yale University.* Professor Griffin's most recent books include: Beloved Sisters and Loving Friends: Letters from Rebecca Primus of Royal Oak, MD and Addie Brown of Hartford, CT. 1854-1868, edited volume (1999), Stranger in the Village: Two Centuries of African American Travel Writing, edited with Cheryl Fish (1998) and Who Set You Flowin'? (1995), Professor Griffin authored If You Can't Be Free Be A Mystery: In Search of Billie Holiday and Uptown Conversations: The New Jazz Studies with Brent Edwards

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**FREDRICK C. HARRIS** - *–Director, Center on African American Politics and Society; Professor of Political Science; IRAAS Research Fellow Ph.D., Northwestern University* Dr. Harris's publications include Something Within: Religion in African-American Political Activism (Oxford University Press, 1999), which was awarded the V.O. Key Award for the Best Book on Southern Politics by the Southern Political Science Association, the Distinguished Book Award by the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, and the Best Book Award by the National Conference of Black Political Scientists. He is also the author of Countervailing Forces in African-American Civic Activism, 1973-1994 with Valeria Sinclair-Chapman and Brian McKenzie (Cambridge University Press, 2006), which received the 2006 W.E.B. DuBois Book Award from the National Conference of Black Political Scientists and the 2007 Ralph Bunche Award for best book in ethnic and racial pluralism from the American Political Science Association. Professor Harris's current book project, The Price of the Ticket: Barack Obama and the Rise and Fall of Black Politics, explores the implications of the Obama candidacy for black politics and is forthcoming with Oxford University.

**Office: 732 International Affairs Bldg.; Phone: 212.854.6593; Email: fh2170@columbia.edu**

**CARL HART** Associate Professor Psychology; Ph.D., University of Wyoming  
Behavioral and neuropharmacological effects of psychoactive drugs in humans. We are interested in investigating the behavioral and neuropharmacological effects of psychoactive drugs in human research participants. A major focus of this laboratory-based research is to understand factors that mediate drug self-administration behavior and to develop effective treatments. Publications: Colfax G, Santos GM, Chu P, Vittinghoff E, Pluddemann A, Kumar S, Hart C (2010) Amphetamine-group substances and HIV. *The Lancet* 376, 458-74. Kirkpatrick MG, Gunderson EW, Johanson CE, Levin FR, Foltin RW, Hart CL (2012) Comparison of intranasal methamphetamine and d-amphetamine self-administration by humans. *Addiction* 107, 783-91. Hart CL, Marvin CB, Silver R, Smith EE (2012) Is cognitive functioning impaired in methamphetamine users? A critical review. *Neuropsychopharmacology* 37, 586-608. Hart CL, Ksir C (2013) *Drugs, Society, and Human Behavior*, 15th Edition. McGraw-Hill: New York (Textbook)

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IRAAS FACULTY BIOGRAPHIES cont

**KELLIE E. JONES** - *Associate Professor of African American, African Diaspora and Latin American Art; IRAAS Research Fellow; PhD Yale University.* Her research interests include African American and African Diaspora artists, Latino/a and Latin American Artists, and issues in contemporary art and museum theory. Her book *EyeMinded: Living and Writing Contemporary Art* (Duke University Press 2011) was named one of the top art books of 2011 by *Publishers Weekly*. Dr. Jones's writings have appeared in numerous exhibition catalogues and the journals *NKA*, *Artforum*, *Flash Art*, *Atlantica*, and *Third Text* among others. Her project *Taming the Freeway and Other Acts of Urban HIP-notism: African American Artists in Los Angeles in the 1960s and 1970s* is forthcoming from The MIT Press  
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**NATASHA J. LIGHTFOOT** – *Assistant Professor of History; IRAAS Research Fellow; PhD New York University* Natasha Lightfoot, assistant professor, specializes in slavery and emancipation studies, and black identities, politics, and cultures in the fields of Caribbean, Atlantic World, and African Diaspora History. Her forthcoming book focuses on black working class people's everyday forms of freedom in Antigua after emancipation. "Africa's Legacy on Antigua's Shores: The African Presence in Antiguan Cultural Identity," in *A Herança Africana no Brasil e no Caribe/The African Heritage in Brazil and the Caribbean*, eds. Carlos Henrique Cardim and Rubens Gama Dias Filho (Brasilia: Fundação Alexandre de Gusmão, 2011), 17-32. "Their Coats Were Tied Up Like Men': Women Rebels in Antigua's 1858 Uprising," *Slavery & Abolition*, 31: 4 (2010), 527-545. "A Transnational Sense of 'Home': Twentieth-Century West Indian Immigration and Institution Building in the Bronx," in *Afro-Americans in New York Life and History*, 33 (2009), 25-46. "If Not Now, When?: Lessons Learned from GSOC'S 2005-6 Strike," in *The University Against Itself: The NYU Strike and the Future of the Academic Workplace*, eds. Monika Krause, Mary Nolan, Michael Palm and Andrew Ross (Philadelphia: Temple University Press), 149-161. "The History of Mary Prince as a Historical Document of Slavery in Antigua and the British Empire," in *Antigua & Barbuda International Literary Festival Magazine*, no. 2, 28-32.  
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**SAMUEL K. ROBERTS** – *Director of IRAAS; Professor of History (Joint appointment with Socio-Medical Sciences; IRAAS Research Fellow; Ph.D., Princeton University.* Dr. Roberts specializes in the history of post-emancipation African-American social movements, class formations, and urban political economy. His book, titled *Infectious Fear: Politics and the Health Effects of Segregation in the Jim Crow Urban South* is an exploration of the political economy of health and tuberculosis control from the late nineteenth century and the mid-twentieth century. He is currently researching the development of late nineteenth- and twentieth- century patterns of labor and West Indian migration in the Republic of Panama.

**Office: 322 Fayerweather Hall; Phone: 212.854.667; Email: skr2001@columbia.edu**

**CARLA SHEDD** - *Assistant Professor of Sociology and African-American Studies. Ph.D., Northwestern University.* Her research and teaching interests focus on: crime and criminal justice; race and ethnicity; law and society; social inequality; and urban sociology. Dr. Shedd wants to use New York City as her urban laboratory, but is now focused on expanding her dissertation research into a larger multi-method project that places the micro-level interactions of youth with police, teachers, and their parents within the overarching structural context of racial, class, and gender dynamics in Chicago neighborhoods and schools.

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IRAAS FACULTY BIOGRAPHIES CONT.

**JOSEF SORRETT - Director of Undergraduate Studies** ; Director of the Center on African American Religion, Sexual Politics & Social Justice; *Assistant Professor of Religion and African-American Studies; Ph.D., Harvard University*; An interdisciplinary historian of religion in America, with a particular focus on black communities and cultures in the United States. His research and teaching interests include American religious history, African American religions, hip hop and popular culture, religion in/and the arts, and the role of religion in public life. Josef earned his Ph.D. in African American Studies from Harvard University, and he holds a B.S. from Oral Roberts University and an M.Div. from Boston University. In support of his research, Josef has received fellowships from the Louisville Institute for the Study of American Religion, The Fund for Theological Education, Harvard's Charles Warren Center for American History and Princeton University's Center for African American Studies. He has published essays and reviews in *Culture and Religion*, *Callaloo*, the *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, and *PNEUMA: Journal of the Society for Pentecostal Studies*. He is currently at work on a book project that explores the significance of religion and spirituality in debates regarding racial aesthetics.

**Office: Room 310- 80 Claremont Avenue; Phone 212.851.4141; js3119@columbia.edu**

**SUDHIR A. VENKATESH**; *William B. Ransford Professor of Sociology and African-American Studies and the Committee on Global Thought; Ph.D. University of Chicago*. Professor Venkatesh's research is rooted in ethnographic investigation of urban neighborhoods in the United States (New York, Chicago) and Paris, France. His book, *Off the Books: The Underground Economy of the Urban Poor* (Harvard University Press, 2006), an ethnographic study of illegal economies in Chicago, received the C. Wright Mills Award (2007) and a Best Book Award from Slate.com (2006). His first book, *American Project: The Rise and Fall of a Modern Ghetto* (2000), explored the social organization, moral universe, and history of a Chicago housing development, The Robert Taylor Homes. His most recent book, *Gang Leader for a Day*, is a reported memoir (Penguin Press, 2008). He is also the co-editor of *Youth, Globalization and the Law* (Stanford University Press 2006) and Director of the Youth and Globalization Collaborative Research Network at the Social Science Research Council. He is currently completing a long-term project on sex work in New York and Chicago with the economist Steven Levitt. Other ongoing research projects include a study of immigration and settlement in the suburbs of Paris, an in-depth study of re-entry among the formerly incarcerated in New York, and a ten-year documentation of transformation of public housing in Chicago. His documentary film "Dislocation," follows families as they relocate from condemned public housing developments. The documentary aired on PBS in 2005. For more information on the film and other activities and events: <http://www.sudhirvenkatesh.org/>. A frequent guest blogger on the New York Times' Freakonomics website, Venkatesh is also featured on Slate.com.

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**MABEL O. WILSON** - *Nancy and George E. Rupp Professor Architecture, Planning & Preservation; IRAAS Research Fellow, PhD. New York University*, Professor Wilson directs the program for Advanced Architectural Research, co directs the Global Africa Lab. She is an award winning designer and scholar. Her collaborative design practices (KW: a and Studio &) have worked on speculative and built projects. The (a)way station, in the collection of SFMoMA, received a design award from ID Magazine and has been exhibited widely. Her practice has been a competition finalist for several important cultural institutions including lower Manhattan's African Burial Ground Memorial (with Dean Wolfe Architects) and the Smithsonian's National Museum for African American History and Culture (with Diller Scofidio + Renfro.) The Wexner Center for the Arts, the Cooper Hewitt National Design Museum's Triennial, the Storefront for Art and Architecture, and SF Cameraworks have exhibited her installations.

She is currently compiling the rich photographic archive from her book *Negro Building* into an experimental exhibit and database as part of the *Becoming History* Project. Her research on African Cities and modern architecture appeared in the video and photography exhibition *listening there: Stories from Ghana*.

Her scholarly research investigates space and cultural memory in black America, race and visual culture, and new technologies and the social production of space. Her essays have appeared in numerous journals and books on critical geography, cultural memory, visual culture, and architecture. Her recent book *Negro Building – Black Americans and the World of Fairs and Museums* studies how the spaces of world's fairs, emancipation expositions, and grassroots public museums became sites to imagine Afro-modernity. Selected Publications: *Negro Building – Black Americans and the World of Fairs and Museums*, University of California Press, 2012. "The Opposite of Forgetting: Global Architects, Collective Memory and Cultural Exchange," essay in *Where are the Utopian Visionaries?*, edited by Hansy Better, New York Periscope Press, 2012; "

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**INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH IN AFRICAN-AMERICAN STUDIES  
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**2014-2015**

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## ACADEMIC CENTERS

The Institute directly contributed to the development of or is affiliated with some of Columbia's academic centers:

**The Center for Jazz Studies**, directed by John Szwed, regularly brings prominent performing artists and scholars of jazz to Columbia's campus. The mission of Columbia University's Center for Jazz Studies is to include jazz as a part of Columbia University's core curriculum for the twenty-first century. In keeping with the great mission of Columbia University as a whole, the Center for Jazz Studies is committed to offering students a "broad range of innovative multidisciplinary programs, and through the earnest exploration of difficult questions," to provide "students from the United States and around the world with the depth of understanding and intellectual flexibility they need to respond to the challenges in the years to come."\* Our mission, simply put, is to assert that to be an educated person in the new millennium means understanding jazz music as part of a complete arts and sciences curriculum, as indispensable equipment for living in our time

**The Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Race**, directed by Mae Ngai, The Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Race provides a venue for collaborative and comparative projects on the subjects of ethnicity and race. It reaches: (1) across disciplinary boundaries and promotes interdisciplinary research and teaching; (2) across social formations and works at the junctures and articulations of race, gender, sexuality, and class; and (3) across national borders and compares racial and social formations transnationally and globally. The Center refuses a singular focus on ethnicity or race, and sees racializations as simultaneous, complicitous, and sometimes contrary constructions of gender, sexuality, class, and nation. In truth, the Center's intellectual mission is to expose the fraudulent natures of the ideas and practices of race and to ascertain the articulations of race with gender, sexuality, class, and nation. Columbia's ethnic studies programs -- African-American, Asian American, and Latina/o studies -- constitute the Center and collaborate to sponsor jointly listed courses and sponsored activities.

**The Center on African American Politics and Society**, directed by Fredrick C. Harris, The Center on African American Politics and Society (CAAPS) provides an intellectual infrastructure for social science research on the political, social, and economic conditions affecting black communities. It aims to support theoretically sophisticated and policy-informed research among Columbia faculty, using a variety of methods and approaches that intersect various disciplines, including political science, psychology, sociology, law, economics and urban studies. The center strives to be a cutting-edge research unit that facilitates collaborative research within and across disciplines, conducts conferences and workshops, support graduate studies in the social sciences on the black experience, and through teaching and mentoring, encourage undergraduates to pursue graduate studies on topics that inform black communities. With its emphasis on policy-relevant research, the Center on African-American Politics and Society aims to bridge the center's research with the needs and concerns of policy and community-based actors who work within and in behalf of black communities.

## **THE MASTERS OF ARTS PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

Our Master of Arts Program is designed to provide students with a thorough grounding in the literature and research of African-American Studies, and enable them to produce critical analysis and research about the complex and historically specific experiences of Africans in the Americas. However, students will also be expected to demonstrate how those experiences have contributed to, and been shaped by, political, cultural and economic forces both nationally and globally.

For social service and health professionals who deliver services to African-American populations, the degree of Master of Arts in African-American Studies will enhance their understanding of the complex social, cultural and historical experiences of these communities, which will lead to more effective delivery of service.

For teachers or education administrators at the secondary or community college level, the degree of Master of Arts in African-American Studies will enhance their understanding of race relations between all actors in the school environment. It will also enable them to develop curricula and courses that address specific ethnic/racial groups who have been integral to the American experience and have contributed significantly to American culture.

For professionals engaged in producing cultural representations (encompassing everything from museum curators to advertising executives), the degree of Master of Arts in African-American Studies will enhance their understanding of the shared and unique social indices, historical experiences and the patterns and processes of culture of the people of African descent.

For students who plan to go on to complete a doctorate, the M.A. program can provide them with a solid foundation from which they can effectively pursue a Ph.D. program; and provide them with an area of expertise in African-American Studies that will serve as a basis for teaching and further research once they complete the doctorate.

Our graduate program builds on the unique synergy created between the Institute's programs and the Harlem community. The graduate students matriculating into the M.A. program are expected to participate in the ongoing lecture series and contribute to the proceedings of the conferences sponsored by the Institute. This promotes a critical exchange between our graduate students and our undergraduate majors, as well as the intellectuals, community leaders and social service providers who regularly attend the activities of the Institute. The faculty encourages and facilitates building relationships between our students and members of the Harlem community, so that students can develop community-based research projects.

## ADMISSIONS INFORMATION

The admission standards and selection procedures are identical to those followed by the Graduate School for all of its M.A. Programs (with the exception of the Liberal Studies Program). Applicants must provide a writing sample (a course paper, term paper, etc.), three (3) letters of recommendation from individuals familiar with their academic work and history and the General - Graduate Record Examination (GRE).

The deadline for the submission of completed applications for each fall semester's M.A. class is **February 1<sup>st</sup>**, although students with outstanding academic records may be considered and admitted after that date. The deadline for the submission of completed applications for each spring semester's M.A. class is **October 1<sup>st</sup>**, although students with outstanding academic records may be considered and admitted after that date.

Applications submissions are electronic and can be found at <http://gsas.columbia.edu/content/apply-gsas>

Most of our graduate students complete all of their requirements for the M.A. degree in African-American Studies in either three or four semesters (30 points and two full residence units). It is also possible to complete the M.A. degree in only two semesters, by taking 15 points each semester. Some students who are employed full-time or part-time may find it more convenient to take a reduced course load, gradually completing their requirements over a period of two to three years. Students carrying a reduced course load of three courses may pay only one half residence unit.

Tuition and cost of attendance can be found at <http://gsas.columbia.edu/content/cost-attendance> or can be sent to you by contacting one of the financial aid counselors mentioned below.

Like many Masters only degree programs at American universities, the M.A. in African-American Studies is self-funded by students who have been selected for admission into the program. They cover the costs of the tuition and related fees, usually through a combination of loans, work-study and personal savings. The Graduate School's financial aid counselors: **Ms. Shawn Ramirez**, 212-854-3808, [sr468@columbia.edu](mailto:sr468@columbia.edu) can assist you in educational financial planning.

For M.A. students interested in archival research, oral history, editing and digital knowledge technology, full-time employment as research assistants may be available during the summer months. For further information about summer research opportunities, please contact Assistant Director - Shawn Mendoza regarding position availabilities at 212-854-8789 or [sm322@columbia.edu](mailto:sm322@columbia.edu)

## **M.A. PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS**

The MA in African American Studies at Columbia is a 30 credit interdisciplinary program that will support your scholarly interests and research in the African-American experience and in the cultures and histories of the wider African Diaspora. Our program is organized to provide you with the opportunity and flexibility to design a program of study and a thesis project that addresses your intellectual interests and career ambitions.

The required capstone of your degree is your MA thesis. Your thesis topic will be developed in concert with a member of the IRAAS faculty; this faculty member will work closely with you during the course of your tenure at Columbia. Typically, the faculty member that you request to be your thesis advisor will be an instructor with whom you have taken a course and who shares an interest and expertise in your thesis topic.

In addition to completing your MA thesis there are four further requirements.

### **You must take four (4) required seminars: Total (12 points)**

- 1.) Interdisciplinary Approaches to African-American Studies: Pro-Seminar (4 points)
- 2.) Editorial & Writing Colloquium I (2 points)
- 3.) Editorial & Writing Colloquium II (2 points)
- 4.) At least one seminar selected from the following: (4 points)
  - a.) Critical Approaches to African American Studies
  - b.) Race and Articulation of Difference OR
  - c.) Racial Disparities: Causes & Consequences

### **A distribution requirement – 3 Courses:**

*These courses can be taken within IRAAS or outside of IRAAS.*

ONE (1) course in history;

ONE (1) course in the humanities (e.g., literature, theater or the visual arts);

ONE (1) course in the social sciences (e.g., political science, sociology or anthropology);

This will fulfill your distribution requirement.

3 courses @ 4 points = 12 points

**Total: 24 points**

AND

### **A concentration requirement – 2 Courses:**

In consultation with the Director of Graduate Studies and your MA thesis advisor, you will identify TWO (2) graduate courses that address your intellectual focus and your proposed thesis topic. This concentration or cluster of courses can reflect, for example, a topical focus (e.g., women novelist of the French Caribbean) or a disciplinary focus (e.g., 19th century African American historiography). In short, your concentration will be designed to express your specific intellectual interests.

**2 courses @ 3 points = 6 points**

**Total: 30 points to (fulfill GSAS Requirements)**

## **M.A. PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS (cont)**

### **An MA Thesis Presentation:**

After you have completed your MA thesis, and it has been approved by your thesis advisor, you will be invited to present a summary of your thesis at IRAAS's annual Graduate Student Conference. This oral presentation, supported by your MA thesis advisor, will occur in May approximately two weeks before graduation.

### **MA Student Advisors**

All graduate **students are advised directly by the Director of the Graduate Program. Before** the end of their first semester, they should select a second advisor, usually a member of the African-American Studies core, affiliate or adjunct faculty who serves as the primary sponsor of their M.A. thesis. Students should periodically consult with the Chair and their faculty sponsors throughout year. A grade for your thesis work must be submitted by your secondary advisor to the Graduate Director during the grading period for the semester you intend to graduate.

## **The Master Thesis Requirement in African American Studies**

The most extended piece of work M.A. students do is the M.A. thesis, which develops an extended argument over 25-30 pages in the form of a scholarly article. Often the M.A. thesis is expanded from a seminar paper.

The Editorial & Writing Colloquium instructor oversees the process of the thesis writing and its evaluation by thesis advisor, whom the student consults throughout the process. A second reader is involved only in reading the finished product. (A third reader is added if there is a substantial divergence between the grades given by the advisor and second reader.)

Full-time students write the thesis during the spring semester in Editorial & Writing Colloquium, with a course credit for doing so (even if the thesis is also being used as the research paper for a seminar).

Part-time students usually write the essay in their second year, often in the fall semester, so as to have it as a writing sample if they are then applying to Ph.D. programs.

MLA citation is preferred but other citation protocols are allowed (e.g., APA, Chicago). Whatever citation protocol you use, however, please use only a single protocol consistently and correctly throughout the paper.

**All thesis submissions are required to be printed hard copies, no electronic submissions.**

**\*\*\*THESIS IS DUE ON April 25, 2016\*\*\***

**IMPORTANT:** citations are in two (2) parts: in text and in Works Cited/Bibliography section

### **General Requirements**

- Type your paper on a computer and print it out on standard, white 8.5 x 11-inch paper.
- Double-space the text of your paper and use a legible font like Times New Roman or Courier.
- Minimum **10-point/maximum 12-point font size** is required for your paper.
- Leave only one space after periods or other punctuation marks. Do not “double space” between paragraphs.
- Required margins are 1 inch on all sides of your document.
- Indent the first line of a paragraph one half-inch (five spaces or press tab once) from the left margin.
- Create a header that numbers all pages consecutively in the upper right-hand corner, one-half inch from the top and flush with the right margin.
- Use italics throughout your essay for the titles of longer works (book titles, plays, recording titles - not chapters, articles or song titles, which use quotation marks).
- If you have any endnotes, include them on a separate page before your Works Cited page.

For more information, either purchase a copy of the MLA Style Manual or visit this website:  
<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/02/>

## COURSE REGISTRATION

### CLASSES IN COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY'S SCHOOL OF ARTS & SCIENCES

For information on how to register for class please visit The University Registrar webpage <http://registrar.columbia.edu/> or call 212-854-4400. The University Registrar webpage will connect you to all course & registration information including: the directory of classes, courses & grade information, student account status, academic calendars, school bulletins and departmental offerings. The Registrar's office is located at 205 Kent Hall. Their office hours are Monday-Friday; 9:00am-5:00pm

**COLUMBIA CONSORTIUM AGREEMENT (this arrangement does not apply to Masters of Arts Graduate students)** Columbia University has a consortium arrangement with New York University, the New School for Social Research, the City University of New York Graduate School and Fordham University. Under this arrangement, doctoral students can take courses at these institutions.

### Classes in Columbia University's other schools or affiliated institutions

#### JOURNALISM SCHOOL

GSAS students cannot take any Journalism course that is part of the core sequence. This includes, but may not be limited to any courses designated RWI or RWII, including Tools of the Modern Journalist, Critical Issues in Journalism, or any specialized Writing/Reporting Seminar under the J6010x listing. For electives in Journalism, students should begin with the Registration form available at/outside of Columbia's Registrar's Office. Fill out form with course list information. Take form to Journalism's Dean of Students in Journalism Hall Room 701B for signature approval. Take form to Columbia's Registrar's Office (Kent 205) for registration.

#### SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH, SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK & TEACHER'S COLLEGE

Students should pick-up Registration form at Columbia's Registrar's Office (Room 205 Kent Hall) or on-line at <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/registrar/docs/forms/add-drop.html> Fill out form and get instructor's signature. Return the form to the Registrar's Office and they will add the class.

#### LAW SCHOOL:

GSAS students may register for upper class courses and/or seminars at the Law School by filling out a cross-registration application form. Students may pick up the cross-registration forms starting *the last week of August* from the Law School Office of Registration Services in Room 500 Warren Hall (115<sup>th</sup> & Amsterdam Avenue). Underclass courses are closed to GSAS students. Students should take the form to the instructor of the class to get permission to register. Bring the form back to the Law School Registration Services Office for their approval. Then the form must be given to the GSAS Registrar's Office (Room 205 Kent Hall) for registration.

## **COURSE REGISTRATION (cont-)**

### **SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS (SIPA)**

There are three types of SIPA courses: *Limited Enrollment courses* (which are closed to GSAS students); *Instructor Permission courses*, and *Open Enrollment courses*.

SIPA will post a course registration list on its web-site several weeks before the start of the semester. Courses will be listed in one of the three classifications at [www.sipa.columbia.edu/registration](http://www.sipa.columbia.edu/registration)

For *Instructor Permission courses*, GSAS students must fill out the on-line application available on SIPA's registration web-site by the posted deadline. Or, they can pick-up a hard copy form from SIPA's Student Services office, International Affairs Building Room 408. For *Open Enrollment courses*, GSAS students can register via online or telephone. However, if a class is full SIPA students have priority & GSAS students will not be allowed to register.

### **JEWISH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY (JTS)**

Students would start with the Registration/Add-Drop form available at the Columbia Registrar's office or print the form from on-line at <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/registrar/html/add-drop.html>

Take form to JTS course instructor for his/her approval. Take form to the Institute for Research in African-American Studies for approval. Take form to Columbia's Registrar's Office (205 Kent Hall) for registration

### **UNION THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY (UTS)**

Columbia's Graduate School of Arts and Sciences has an agreement with Union Theological Seminary (UTS). This agreement will allow African American Studies students to take classes at UTS without paying extra tuition. Here is the sequence of steps for GSAS students who want to take classes at UTS:

Students would start with the Registration/Add-Drop form available at the Columbia Registrar's office or print the form from on-line **<http://registrar.columbia.edu/registrar-forms/adddrop>**

Students fill out the form with the relevant course information (i.e. the name of the course, points, course number as it appears in the UTS catalogue). To find UTS courses online go to **<http://www.utsnyc.edu/academics/registrar/course-information>**

Then they would get the required signature of the UTS course instructor and the required signature of the UTS Registrar. Students must see the UTS Registrar for the signature; they cannot simply drop off the form.

This is to guarantee that UTS has space in the class and will permit the student in. The student must then take the add/drop form back to the Columbia Registrar (205 Kent Hall), and someone in the registrar's office creates a course number, call number, and listing in our system and registers the student for the course & credit.

## IRAAS MA Thesis Travel and Research Award

The Institute provides Travel and Research Awards for African-American Studies M.A. students to attend academic conferences in & outside of New York City and to do field or archival research related to the MA thesis. All applications for funds are reviewed and approved by the M.A. Program Director, in consultation with other faculty members as is judged necessary.

The maximum amount of funds any individual student may apply for, for all purposes which include registration, travel, meals and hotel for participation in academic conferences, field and archival research, etc. during the fiscal year (July 1<sup>st</sup> – June 30<sup>th</sup>) is \$750. The amount awarded up to \$750 is at the department's discretion. The department reserves the right to fund all, partial or none of a Travel and Research Request.

M.A. students completing their requirements in May, may not apply for funding that commence after they have submitted their thesis or after the last day of classes in the month of which they will graduate whichever comes first. M.A. students completing their requirements during the summer session may not apply for funding that commence after they have submitted their thesis or after the last day of classes for the summer session whichever comes first. M.A. students completing their requirements in October or February may not apply for funding that commence after they have submitted their thesis.

To apply for funds the student must submit a letter of request containing details about their travel and research plans; the relevance of their request to their thesis and an expenses breakdown which includes the total amount requested not to exceed \$750. For conferences please include flyers, email notifications, etc. giving the conference details.

Applications for funds must be submitted **no later than four weeks** prior to the actual date of travel. All applications requests must be submitted **to the Director of Graduate Studies and the Assistant Director**. Immediately after being awarded, see the Assistant Director, Shawn Mendoza @ sm322@columbia.edu, to discuss fund proceeds, travel arrangements and other requirements regarding the awards process.

Awards are not guaranteed and must meet the requirements above.

## INFORMATION BEYOND AFRICAN-AMERICAN STUDIES

### **ID Cards**

You can pick up a student ID card from the ID office in 204 Kent Hall. Visit <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/id/> or contact [icard@columbia.edu](mailto:icard@columbia.edu) or 212-854-5883. Every semester, you'll need to go to this office to obtain a new validation sticker. It will also allow you to check out books at any of the University libraries and use the gym. It will also give you free admission to the Metropolitan Museum of Art, other NYC museums and other wonderful free events (they'll give you a brochure when you get your ID).

### **Communications**

All graduate students are responsible for providing their permanent and local mailing addresses, phone numbers, and email address to the Institute's administrative assistant, Ms. Sharon Harris 212-854-7080 or [sh2004@columbia.edu](mailto:sh2004@columbia.edu).

For students whose permanent address is not in the tri-state area (New York, New Jersey & Connecticut); they are advised to update their local mailing address & contact telephone numbers in their Student Services Online account once they have acquired local housing . This will eliminate important documents or letters the student may need urgently from not reaching them in a timely fashion during the semester.

Email accounts through Columbia Net will be set up at the beginning of the semester for all M.A. students by the Graduate School of Arts & Sciences. It is University policy to conduct all administrative email communication regarding University business through your Columbia email account. **Checking your university email account is a priority & necessity.** You may have your Columbia email forwarded to a personal email account for the ease of checking in one location. Please look on the Columbia computing pages for further information on this & other services. <http://cuit.columbia.edu/cuit/email-services>

### **Mail and Announcements**

M.A. students should regularly check their department mailboxes in room 755 Schermerhorn Extension for any correspondence, including announcements of Institute sponsored or affiliated events.

### **Study Space**

The graduate student space is Room 755 Schermerhorn Extension. There are computers, a printer and workspace for studying. If an MA student needs to hold a special meeting, the IRAAS seminar room may be available. This room is scheduled by the Institute's Administrative Assistant, Sharon Harris [sh2004@columbia.edu](mailto:sh2004@columbia.edu) or 212-854-7080. You must contact her directly.

### **International Students:**

The International Students and Scholars Office (ISSO) assists international students with their questions about admission and placement, immigration matters and social and cultural activities, adjustment to a new academic and cultural environment, personal and family services and needs. They offer orientation programs in late August and September, and present a full calendar of events during the year. Over the summer the ISSO will mail international students information, forms, and visas. If you have any questions, you can contact the office at 212-854-3587 or [isso@columbia.edu](mailto:isso@columbia.edu). Please refer to the ISSO web site is: <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/isso>.

## INFORMATION BEYOND AFRICAN-AMERICAN STUDIES (cont-)

### **Housing**

Graduate student housing is handled by the Office of Institutional Real Estate-University Apartment Housing (UAH). If you would like to be considered for University housing, you must apply on-line at <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/ire>. The user name & pass code are assigned to you at admission and should be contained in your letter of admission.

Your application must first be approved by GSAS before the housing office is permitted to offer you housing. All inquiries regarding the approval process only should be directed to Mr. J. Craig Knobles 212-854-2889 or [jck2@columbia.edu](mailto:jck2@columbia.edu)

All other inquiries regarding housing assignments, policies, and procedures should be addressed to UAH directly. To ascertain your application and assignment status, call the 24-hour automated system at 1-877-288-4196 (domestic) or 1-212-854-1616 (international).

The housing office is located at 400 W. 119th Street between Amsterdam Avenue & Morningside Drive, Office 212-854-9300. For additional information regarding housing options please contact Marge Jordan, Coordinator of UAH at 212-854-9313 or [MJ9@columbia.edu](mailto:MJ9@columbia.edu)

### **Libraries**

Students use their Columbia University ID's for access to the libraries.

For information on the libraries, locations and borrowing privileges please visit <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/>

### **Career Services**

Columbia University's **Center for Career Education** is available to all graduate students who need assistance with career development.

The mission of the Center for Career Education is to help students and alumni develop the key competencies necessary to make informed decisions and take the necessary steps to achieve their career goals. The Center establishes connections and facilitates interaction among undergraduate students, graduate students, alumni, employers, and organizations to generate opportunities that help students pursue their personal and professional objectives.

Please contact the Center for Career Education in East Campus for more information 212-854-5609 or check their website at <http://www.cce.columbia.edu/>