



NEW YORK CITY COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY
THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
300 JAY STREET, BROOKLYN, NY 11201-1909

**New York City College of Technology,
City University of New York**

&

**CUNY Baccalaureate For Unique and
Interdisciplinary Studies (CUNY BA)**

Memo of Understanding (MOU)
(Articulation Agreement Equivalent for Option/Academic Cluster
Programs)

A. SENDING AND LEARNING INSTITUTIONS:

Sending Institution: New York City College of Technology (NYCCT), City
University of New York

Discipline/Program: 12 Credit Option in African American Studies

Primary Department: African American Studies Department (AFR)

Receiving Institution: CUNY Baccalaureate for Unique and Interdisciplinary Studies
(CUNY BA)

Degree(s): Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science

Discipline: African American Studies (AFR)

B. CUNY BA OVERVIEW

CUNY Baccalaureate for Unique and Interdisciplinary Studies (CUNY BA) is a
CUNY-wide program offering Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science degrees.
Students working with faculty members develop an individualized course of study
typically interdisciplinary in content, with courses from various departments and
different CUNY colleges.

AREAS OF CONCENTRATION:

Courses designated as required for the individualized area concentration (the major)
are from senior colleges and, typically, from departments that offer a Bachelor's
degree in that field of study. If, however, unique courses are in departments not
offering a Bachelor's degree—and these are particularly pertinent to the student's
area of concentration—then such courses, if approved by the student's faculty
mentor and the CUNY BA academic director, may be used to partially fulfill the
requirement.

Enrolled CUNY BA students pursuing degrees in Legal Studies, Political Science,
History, Psychology, or other areas within the Social Sciences or Professional
Studies, are likely to find the course offerings within the African American Studies
Option at New York City College of Technology, CUNY appealing. As such, the
CUNY BA Program is opting to enter into a Memo of Understanding with the
Department of African American Studies (AFR) at NYCCT, CUNY.

CUNY BA students who opt to study in the above areas, and who find the AFR
Option of interest, will be required to complete all designated AFR Option courses
and will then complete the remaining coursework toward their degree at other CUNY
campuses.

C. DESCRIPTION—

Department of African American Studies (AFR) & Option in African American Studies:

The Department of African American Studies offers traditional and interdisciplinary academic courses in the Arts (music/dance/visual arts), Literature (African/African American/Afro-Caribbean), and the Social Sciences (Anthropology, Sociology, and Political Science). Beyond the traditional lecture-based classroom instruction, AFR courses also utilize the place-based learning module. As such, students attend field trips to New York City Museums, the United Nations, the African Burial Grounds, The National Black Theater, and New York City Hip Hop archives and landmarks. Interdisciplinary courses also expose students to guest lecturers, experts in the field, over the course of a given semester.

A School of Liberal Arts & Sciences program, the Department's primary goal is to bring into focus—through its intellectual, varied, and unique course offerings—the study of the peoples of the African Diaspora and their historical and cultural contributions from the antiquity to the present.

Beyond being interdisciplinary, several courses within the AFR Option are writing intensive (WI), and, in many cases, they are also reading intensive (RI). Students will often be asked to develop individual or group classroom presentations. They will be exposed to various forms of research methodology and will be expected to use their personal, cultural, and scholarly expertise to engage in creative and enthusiastic classroom discussions. The Option's desire is to create a community of thinkers who are able to fully articulate their understanding of Diasporic Studies, as it relates to the discipline of African American Studies, and go on to positively impact and contribute to the cultural communities they learn about.

An Option is an opportunity for a student to participate in focused or concentrated academic study within another discipline/department BEYOND the major. In short, it is the equivalent of a minor; this is an excellent opportunity for a student to gain exposure to another course of study.

The Option in African American Studies, a condensed representation of the AFR curriculum, is designed to provide students with a repertoire of knowledge about the global contributions of people of African descent. Among other types of knowledge, the AFR Option also includes a curriculum that allows for the theoretical analysis and study of Black Feminist Theories, Black cultural criticism, and African American Historiography.

The Option's desire is to create a community of thinkers who are able to fully articulate their understanding of Diasporic Studies, as it relates to the discipline of African American Studies.

Students MUST first take 9 credits from the following 27 credit offering:

**AFR 1301—Introduction to the Art of Africa
Pathways: Creative Expression**

3 Credits

A survey course designed as an introduction to the historical study of the plastic arts produced by the indigenous people of Africa.

AFR 1131—African American/Caribbean Music

Pathways: Creative Expression

3 Credits

A study of African American and Caribbean music, traced historically from their African origins.

AFR 1460—Early African History

Pathways: World Cultures and Global Issues

3 Credits

A study of Africa's history from antiquity to the period before the advent of colonialism. This course begins with a study of Africa as the cradle of humankind and continues through the emergence of small-scale societies and large state systems such as ancient Egypt, Nubia, the central African kingdoms and those of Southern Africa.

AFR 1462—Blacks In Science, Technology and Business

Pathways World Cultures and Global Issues

3 Credits

An examination of the contributions of Black people to the development of science, technology and business.

AFR 1465—Early African American History

Pathways: US Experience in Its Diversity

3 Credits

A factual, conceptual and chronological survey of the African-American peoples from their African origins to the end of the American Civil War in 1865. The central organizational theme is the three-and-one-half century-long struggle of African Americans to assert their human dignity, rights, potentials and contributions in the context of Euro-American social orders and processes.

AFR 1501—Seminar in Current Community Problems

Pathways: US Experience in Its Diversity

3 Credits

An examination of the sociological, political, psychological and economic challenges within the Black community.

AFR 2201—Early Black Writers in American Literature

Pathways: US Experience in Its Diversity

3 Credits

A study of the black writers and their texts from the 18th century to the Harlem Renaissance.

AFR 2222—Current Caribbean Literature

Pathways: World Cultures and Global Issues

3 Credits

A comparative study of the major Caribbean writers from the mid-twentieth century to the present.

AFR 2250—Black Women in Literature

Pathways: Individual and Society

3 Credits

A survey course to examine a wide array of themes covered by Black women writers. Students will address questions of race, gender, sexuality and class.

To complete the Option, students **MUST ALSO** enroll in the designated AFR Capstone course:

AFR 2612—African Philosophy and Religion
Pathways World Cultures & Global Issues

3 Credits

An examination of the interplay of philosophy and religion in the African world. The course also covers the cosmological, ontological and epistemological aspects of Africana Philosophy.

D. PROCEDURES FOR UPDATING, MODIFYING, or TERMINATING MOU:

Sending and Receiving institutions will meet at the close of every academic year to address program/curriculum changes as they relate to the continued success of the MOU.

E. EVALUATION PROCEDURES:

New York City College of Technology's African American Studies Department will record the number of in-house students registered for courses within the Option, students that transfer into BA programs in African American Studies, and, with the permission of the CUNY BA administrator, the number of CUNY BA students that register for courses within the Option. These numbers will only be used to assess the success of the program and to implement necessary changes to the curriculum.

F. PUBLICATION OF THE AGREEMENT:

New York City College of Technology will publicize the agreement on both the NYCCT college and the Department of African American Studies (AFR) websites.

CUNY BA will advertise the MOU agreement via their Google grant, the CUNY BA Website, City Tech Times (NYCCT's college paper), and distributable postcards.

- Estimated Effective Date: Fall 2017