

## THE 2015-16 COLLEGE THEME: **KNOWING BROOKLYN**

This year, we invite you to explore Brooklyn itself: how do you know Brooklyn? How do you see its history, present, and future? What impacts its citizens, how is it changing? Using your discipline, experience, and place in this place, take time to get to know Brooklyn more deeply than ever.

### AN OPEN INVITATION: PARTICIPATE IN THE THEME!

The Open Call for Participation is meant for all instructors, committees, clubs, students, staff members, and organizations to voluntarily take the theme as inspiration for one assignment, or event, or gathering. Any artifacts of student work will be gathered, documented, and displayed at key times so we can come together and truly connect over our shared interests and particular pools of knowledge.

CONTACT US AT [GENEDTHEME@CITYTECH.CUNY.EDU](mailto:GENEDTHEME@CITYTECH.CUNY.EDU)

### CONFIRMED PARTICIPANTS

#### COMMITTEES

The **Interdisciplinary Committee** works with faculty members throughout the college to develop Interdisciplinary courses and works to promote an interdisciplinary intellectual culture. The IDC will be exploring *How do we create, navigate, celebrate and disseminate interdisciplinary knowledge of Brooklyn?*

#### ORGANIZATIONS

The **Brooklyn Waterfront Research Center** will be engaging with the theme with the question: *What Has Happened to Brooklyn -- How, Why, and with What Consequences Does a Place Change?* Through the course of the academic year, the BWRC offers four Breakfast Talks, an Annual Conference, and two Scholar Presentations, all dealing with facets of their exploration.

#### STUDENT CLUBS

The **City Tech Printmaking Club** is working on hand-printed posters exploring participants' lives in Brooklyn. We strongly encourage all clubs of any type to develop projects as well.

## THE COLLEGE THEME: A HISTORY AND THE FUTURE

### *What Does Freedom Mean?*

During the 2014-2015 year, the African American Studies Department chose this question as its annual theme to encourage critical reflection about the 150th anniversary of the 13th Amendment. The department explored the theme through college events, library exhibits, and classroom activities.

In the fall of 2014, the General Education Committee was exploring the idea of developing an annual theme for the college, and, with the encouragement of the African American Studies Department, decided to use the theme as well. It became the foundation of a pilot project conducted by Gen Ed Committee members from multiple departments in all three colleges. The faculty members revised the question to conform to their specific disciplines, courses, and pedagogical goals. The students answered the question with insight, creativity, compassion and depth. **See that work here: [openlab.citytech.cuny.edu/gened/engaging-students](http://openlab.citytech.cuny.edu/gened/engaging-students).**

The success of the "*What Does Freedom Mean?*" theme inspired the Gen Ed committee to explore a new theme for the 2015-2016 school year. The purpose of theme projects is to engage diverse General Education principles, to inspire students to intellectually explore complex and compelling concepts in ways that enhance their educational experience, and to encourage all members of the City Tech community to bridge disciplinary boundaries as they connect through processes of asking and answering demanding and dynamic questions.

### THE CITY TECH GENEDGE

The **City Tech GenEdge** is the result of years of college-wide curriculum development and effort by the General Education Committee. We have taken the Gen Ed requirements, the students' needs, and the expectations of society to put together a meaningful approach to skills and attitudes we all can use. This is the added benefit of culture and community our students and graduates deserve as they enter the world as engaged citizens. This is the added boost our college provides to excel and the tools it gives to be productive throughout entire careers.

This is the **City Tech GenEdge**.

Introducing  
the 2015-2016  
Open Call for  
Participation in the  
**City Tech GenEdge**  
College Theme

KNOWING  
BROOKLYN

#### CONTACT THE GENEDGE COLLEGE THEME TEAM

Gen Ed Committee Website: [openlab.citytech.cuny.edu/gened](http://openlab.citytech.cuny.edu/gened)

Gen Ed Theme email: [GenEdTheme@citytech.cuny.edu](mailto:GenEdTheme@citytech.cuny.edu)



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TO YOU BY

CITY TECH  
GENEDGE

# KNOWING BROOKLYN

The **City Tech GenEdge College Theme** is a simple invitation: we offer an open-ended idea you can use to drive a single lesson in your class, a project in your club, or any number of pursuits you choose to execute. It is a voluntary effort that provides us all a chance to gather later to compare notes and celebrate the work of our students in response to the your framing of the theme. This year, we explore **KNOWING BROOKLYN**.

## HOW SOME PROFESSORS WILL IMPLEMENT THE THEME IN A CLASS THIS SEMESTER

### SCHOOL OF ARTS & SCIENCES

*Dr. Dionne Bennett, African American Studies*

**AFR 3000: Black New York**

**AFR 1503: Hip Hop Worldview**

Students will examine the “Knowing Brooklyn” Theme by beginning with the following general question: *How do we create and navigate new ways of knowing Brooklyn?*

Students will also examine related questions, including: *How do we investigate, represent, and preserve Brooklyn’s history in ways that recognize the contributions and concerns of people of African descent? What symbols or spaces in the borough of Brooklyn represent “Knowing Brooklyn?”*

Students may create their own questions related to their individual intellectual interests and to the course material as well.

### SCHOOL OF TECHNOLOGY & DESIGN

*Prof. John McCollough, Entertainment Technology*

**ENT1100: Introduction to Entertainment Technology**

Students in this class learn the vocabulary, production processes, and technical systems that make the modern entertainment industry possible. A big part of learning the business is becoming a more analytical audience member by seeing shows and reflecting on the design and technical elements that make it up.

To engage with the theme “Knowing Brooklyn”, each student will have to find and attend a live performance in Brooklyn, then write about their experiences and observations to share with the rest of the class. Previous discussion of the theme will guide the students in formulating criteria and discerning details.

### SCHOOL OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

*Dr. Gwen Cohen-Brown, Dental Hygiene*

**DEN 2311: Oral Pathology**

Students will learn about epidemiology and the changing clinical parameters of systemic and oral disease by studying the prevalence and significance of a specific disease process seen in the racially and ethnically diverse borough of Brooklyn. The rates of cancers, HIV / AIDS and systemic disease seen within patient population of the Dental Hygiene Clinic reflects the current state of health and disease in the borough of Brooklyn. This correlation between locality and expression of disease will be explored.

To engage with the theme “Knowing Brooklyn,” each student will have to identify a specific disease or lesion known to present in a statistically significant way in Brooklyn, then write about their knowledge to share with the rest of the class.

