

**New York City College of Technology  
Interdisciplinary Committee  
Existing Course Review Form**

**DATE:** November 25, 2013

**REVIEWER:** Gwen Cohen Brown DDS

**COURSE TITLE & NUMBER:** AFR 3000: Black New York

**CREDIT HOURS:** 3

**PREREQUISITES:** ENG 1101 and an AFR 1000 or 2000 level-course

**COURSE IS:** ☒ Existing ☐ New ☐ In development

**PROPOSED COURSE DESIGNATION:** ☒ College Option ☒ elective ☒ Capstone ☐ other:

**DEPARTMENT HOUSED IN:** African American Studies Department

**PROPOSED STRUCTURE (e.g., co-taught, guest lecture, LC, other):** lecture-discussion format, guest lecturers from within the CityTech community including professors from Hospitality, Library, Human Services and English in addition to faculty from the department of African American Studies.

**CREDIT DISTRIBUTION** (if co-taught): <insert>

**CATALOG DESCRIPTION:** Using history, literature, the arts, politics, and sociology, this interdisciplinary course seeks to trace the Africana presence in New York City from the 1600s to the present. This localized course will enable students to examine the varied ways in which people of African descent in the Diaspora have helped to shape the complex identity of New York City over time.

**STRENGTHS:** Students will be exposed to an amazing and diverse body of knowledge and asked to integrate and apply this knowledge to a specific cultural population through in class discussions, weekly journals, group exercises and 'low-stakes' in-class exercises. The potential bounty of material is incredible meaning that the lecture content does not need to remain static and that other fields including, law, health, entertainment technology could be included - or excluded – to serve the specific needs of the course as it grows over time.

**WEAKNESSES:** No apparent weaknesses

**DESCRIBE & EVALUATE HOW COURSE MEETS INTERDISCIPLINARY CRITERIA?**

This is truly an interdisciplinary course. Guest lecturers come from multiple disciplines and schools within City Tech in addition to lecture material provided by professors from the department of African Studies. Topics cross departmental lines as well as school lines so that participating guest lecturers come from the School of Professional Studies, the Library and the School of Arts and Sciences. Reviewing the weekly curriculum students are asked to examine the history of the Africana people in America over time and space (movement and migration) examining the voice of individuals and groups, collectives from multiple perspectives. Topics as diverse as art, literature, food, politics,

migration, health and law will be presented from multiple perspectives providing a unique home for the “voice” of Black New York. In addition the words and actions of others outside of the Africana community will be presented in current and historical terms and actions. Stress will be focused on those words and actions that currently and permanently affect and have affected the lives of the Africana people in New York for hundreds of years. Integration of the humanities and social sciences will allow students to draw from a massive amount of data which can be viewed, analyzed, reviewed and reevaluated crossing both disciplines and majors. Students will be encouraged to include their own stories as part of the Africana experience and to integrate their life stories into the experience of Black New York. Critical thinking skills, ethical social and professional behavior, and effective communication skills will be expected as will active class participation, weekly written journals and hands-on field research where students can clinically apply their didactic knowledge in their assessment of the world they live in.

### **DESCRIBE & EVALUATE THE INTERDISCIPLINARY STRUCTURE?**

Professor Effinger has invited select experts from with the City Tech community to present multiple facets of the Black New York Experience using numerous and varied frameworks including but limited to, group discussion, lecture, library literacy, media, and film as well as written works of current and historical writers of importance to the African American Community.