

BROOKLYN BRIDGES



THE COLLEGE THEME: A HISTORY AND THE FUTURE

What Does Freedom Mean?

During the 2014-2015 school 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 schools. 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: Knowing Brooklyn.

The purpose of the College Theme project is to create a shared intellectual experience. We want to inspire students and faculty to explore complex and compelling ideas in ways that enhance their educational experience, and to encourage all members of the City Tech community to bridge disciplinary boundaries as they ask and answer demanding and dynamic questions. Help us to grow the project by participating in your classes, your scholarly work, and your club activities.

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 graduates to be productive throughout entire careers.

This is the **City Tech GenEdge**.

Introducing
the 2017 Open Call
for Participation in the
City Tech GenEdge
College Theme

B
R
O
O
K
L
Y
N

B
R
I
D
G
E
S

THE 2016-2017 COLLEGE THEME: BROOKLYN BRIDGES

The two iconic bridges flanking our campus are symbols of connection, progress, achievement, and overcoming obstacles. Bridges can also be metaphorical – connections between places, ideas, viewpoint, cultures, or points in time. This year, we invite you to draw inspiration from these bridges and examine the many ways Brooklyn is connected to the rest of the world.

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, event, or gathering. Both student and faculty 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

B R O O K L Y N B R I D G E S

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. This shared intellectual experience lets students and faculty from all over the college ask and answer the important questions of our day.

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

■ *Least Amount of Time*

SCHOOL OF ARTS & SCIENCES

Prof. Laura Westengard, English

ENG 1101: Composition I

Observing and Describing: Brooklyn Bridge Park

In this single-class meeting activity, students literally study “Brooklyn Bridges” by observing and describing the Brooklyn and Manhattan bridges and their surroundings in Brooklyn Bridge Park. This activity is part of a unit in which students learn to perform field research in order to vividly describe and characterize a location as part of an assigned “Profile” essay. Students meet at Jane’s Carousel with a notebook and a pen. They are instructed to choose a specific and unique location in the park within a 5-minute walk from the carousel, spend 20 minutes observing the location with attention to all five senses, and take detailed observation notes, using a double-entry journal format. After the observations are complete, students return to meet the class at the Empire Fulton Ferry Lawn (right next to Jane’s Carousel) and spend the next 20 minutes turning their observation notes into a paragraph that vividly describes the location and provides a dominant impression. Finally, the students read their descriptive paragraphs aloud to their classmates and engage in a discussion.

■ ■ *Moderate Amount of Time*

SCHOOL OF TECHNOLOGY & DESIGN SCHOOL OF ARTS & SCIENCES

*Prof. Michael Duddy, Architectural Technology
Prof. Keith Muchowski, Ursula C. Schwerin Library*

ARCH/LIB 2205: Learning Places

Investigating Brooklyn’s Historical Past

This special topics course offers an interdisciplinary approach that begins by investigating the history and memory within the built environment of Brooklyn. Using Grand Army Plaza as a case study, students explore how monuments to Brooklyn’s historical past, commemorations of the American Civil War, and memorials to the Battle of Brooklyn help shape the cultural identity of Brooklyn. Students then research a significant memorial, historical building, or place of history in their own neighborhood to uncover how these places of memory shape their individual communities, many of which are in other boroughs or outside of New York City.

■ ■ ■ *Most Amount of Time*

SCHOOL OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

Prof. Anna Matthews, Dental Hygiene

DEN 1112: Oral Anatomy

Brooklyn Bridges Cultural Differences

Students in the Dental Hygiene clinical program study the anatomical structures of the head, neck and oral cavity. Perceptions of the importance of dental health vary among the different societies, and our diverse students bring the knowledge of the cultural beliefs and attitudes in their communities. In this term project assignment, students will explore the status of dental care in the U.S. and NYC, and compare it with the other countries. In small-group discussions, students will share their cultural beliefs and attitudes towards dental care and evaluate how their own attitudes and opinions were or were not different from those of their classmates. They then will reflect on what they learned from these interactions and connect the importance of dental health professionals’ awareness to the various patients’ cultural attitudes to dental care.

Our incredibly diverse and multicultural program brings together students, faculty, and patients from many parts of the world, and Brooklyn bridges the cultural differences by encouraging exploration and dialog.



<http://bit.ly/citytechL4>