

Pan African Studies (392)
Field Work in the African American Community
California State University, Northridge
Fall 2009

Professor: Karin L. Stanford (karinstanford@gmail.com)

Office: Santa Susanna/FOB Room 207 (818 677-2252)

Office Hours: Mon/Wed. 1:00-3:00 and by appointment

Course Description:

This course is designed to give students a working knowledge of the African American community. Students will learn from and share with community members and organizations effective strategies for utilizing its unique socio-cultural values and resources to meet contemporary challenges.

Academic Objectives:

- To facilitate exposure to the urban African American community.
- To promote community service and documentation as vital resources for community support.
- To learn from and share with the African American community effective strategies for utilizing its unique socio-cultural values and resources to meet contemporary challenges.

Class Format: The class is comprised of fieldwork and hands-on community service for a minimum of 50 hours during the semester. Students have the option of working with one of these centers/projects for the field research experience.

Option 1) Field Research for the Black Family Institute or African American Music Program. Students must report to Professor Deborah Broadous during the first week of school for further instruction. Dr. Broadous can be reached at the PAS Writing Lab, Sierra Hall 273, ext. 2084. ``

Option 2) Black Los Angeles Project. The purpose of this project is to document the history of African Americans in Los Angeles through photographs, writings, and commentaries.

Students who select this option must select from several worksites.

- a) Assignment is to archive photos that were donated by several African American photographers to CSUN's Photo journalism Department. The students will be trained to archive photos. After completing their archival assignment, students have the option to write about the archival experience (3-5 pgs.) or create a time-line of one decade of Black History in Los Angeles. (4 students)

- b) The assignment will be with an African American organization based in Los Angeles to learn its history, and to collect approximately 10-15 photos of its activities/leadership. A description of each photo must also be included. At the end of the assignment, students will write a 3-5 paper on their experience, which should include a discussion of the organization. The instructor will provide a guide for the paper. (4 students)
- c) The assignment will be to document contemporary Black Life in Los Angeles, by taking actual photos of significant places, individuals or events. Students should create a portfolio of at least 30 photos, with descriptions. After completing their photography assignment, students have the option to write about their experience (3-5 pgs.) as photographer in Los Angeles or create a time-line of the current decade. (2-3 students)
- d) The assignment is to follow up with students/others to collect 30 photos of black life in Los Angeles during the decade of the 1980's and 1990s. The photos must depict the lifestyle of black youth (families and friends) in Los Angeles. A description for each photo must be provided. After completing the assignment, students must write a timeline of the 1980's or 1990s of Black history in Los Angeles. (2 students)
- e) **Hip Hop Think Tank:** The Hip Hop Think Tank was founded to merge academia with Hip Hop. The current project is to edit the Hip Hop Think Tank Journal, which is due for publication in December 2009. If you have good writing skills, please volunteer for this assignment.

Student Evaluations:

Students are evaluated on the quality and completion of assignments. Grades for the course are also based on attendance and meeting deadlines. All assignments should be completed by May 8, 2009.