A partnership between the American Cultures Center and the Public Service Center, the American Cultures Engaged Scholarship program (ACES) began in January 2010 with a 5-year grant from the Haas Jr. Foundation. Situated in American Cultures (AC), the campus “diversity requirement” and the only graduation requirement that holds for all undergraduates regardless of major, ACES brings together the goals of the AC curriculum and the goals of community-based learning, supporting and deepening both. The initial charge was to create 30 new or revised AC courses with a community-engaged component, with a larger goal of shifting the values and culture around teaching and research on campus.

STRUCTURE

Program: The program runs over 12-15 months (depending on the semester in which the course is offered), and supports the development and implementation of community-engaged AC courses by providing funding and student fellows to faculty.

Funding: Funding is given out across three avenues:
- $3000 grant to the faculty member to use how they would like to support the development of the course
- $1500 to the student fellow to support the course
- $1500 during course implementation to support the community partnership (materials, honoraria, transportation, etc.)

Application and Selection: The program is open to faculty, both tenure-track and lecturers, from any department. Faculty are selected in cohorts by the ACES Faculty Advisory Board, and then matched with 1-3 student Fellows who join the cohort.

Support: Other key components include a 2-day intensive Summer Institute for all faculty and student fellows at the beginning of the program, 1-2 cohort meetings per semester, and ongoing individualized support from ACES staff (Victoria and Suzan).

Sustainability: One goal of the program is that the community-engaged courses continue to be offered, or that the partnerships continue through other courses or departments. After the initial ACES course is offered, faculty are eligible to apply for up to $3000 in “continuity grant” funding to sustain the course. Partnership continuity is also supported by the Public Service Center through connections to Center programs, networks, and resources.

Assessment: ACES does basic program evaluations with faculty and student fellows, and a rigorous pre/post assessment of all students enrolled in AC courses from which we are able to draw findings regarding the impact of ACES on student learning. We have done informal feedback with community partners, and started a formal interview process in January 2014 with all community partners.

CURRENT STATUS

As of December 2013, six semesters into course offerings, ACES has enrolled 4138 students in 28 courses with 26 faculty members and collaborated with over 40 community partners. These numbers include work with 20 different departments, and will continue to grow to 34 courses and 33 faculty in the next year.

CHALLENGES & QUESTIONS

- How can we institutionalize this work in departments and across campus, including stable funding and buy-in?
- How can we support faculty across the spectrum, despite the lack of resources given to lecturers?
- How do we keep this work grounded in racial and social justice?
- How can we sustain partnerships long-term?
- What structures in the university support or hinder the ability to do this work well?
- How do we provide better financial support for student fellows, particularly graduate students?
AMERICAN CULTURES ENGAGED SCHOLARSHIP COURSES

Anthropology
- Introduction to Archaeology - Anthropology 2AC, Jun Sunseri  Art Practice
- American Cybercultures - Art Practice 23AC, Greg Niemeyer  African-American Studies
- Conscious Application of Academic Principles in Black, Chicano, and Latino Communities - African American Studies,  Nzingha Dugas and Lupe Gallegos-Diaz
- Poetry for the People - African American Studies 156AC, Aya de Leon

Asian-American and Asian Diaspora Studies
- Islamophobia and Constructing Otherness - Asian American Studies 132AC, Hatem Bazian
- Asian American Women: Theory and Experience - Asian American and Asian Diaspora Studies 151AC, Young Shin
- Asian American Communities and Race Relations - Asian American and Asian Diaspora Studies 20AC, Harvey Dong

Business (Undergraduate Business program)
- Managing Diversity in the Workplace - Haas School of Business 156AC, Erika Walker

Chicano Studies
- Chicano Art: Politics, Methods, and Practice – Chicano Studies 180AC, Celia Rodriguez  College Writing
- Researching Water in the West - College Writing 50AC/150AC, Pat Steenland

Education
- American Sport, Culture, and Education – Education 75AC, Derek Van Rheenen
- Politics of Educational Inequality - Education 182AC, Lisa Garcia Bedolla
- Race, Identity, and Culture in Urban Schools - Education 133A/African American Studies 133A, Na’Irah Suad Nasir

Engineering
- Engineering, The Environment, and Society - Engineering 157AC/International and Area Studies 157AC, Khalid Kadir

Environmental Science, Policy, and Management
- Environmental Justice: Race, Class, Equity, and the Environment - Environmental Science, Policy, and Management 163AC /Sociology 137AC, Dara O’Rourke
- Introduction to Culture and Natural Resource Management - Environmental Science, Policy, and Management 50AC, Kurt Spreyer

Ethnic Studies
- A Survey of 1960’s Civil Rights Movements - Ethnic Studies 41AC, Carlos Munoz
- Ethnicity, Race & Cultural Identity in New American Film: Agents of Creative Change - Ethnic Studies 122AC, Osa Hidalgo de la Riva
- Interracial Justice at Law - Ethnic Studies 144AC/Legal Studies 144AC, Mark-Tizoc Gonzalez
- Race, Ethnicity, and the East Bay since 1965 - Ethnic Studies 190AC, Alex Saragossa
- Racism and U.S. Law - Ethnic Studies 144AC, Tom Fleming
- Towards an Abolition Pedagogy: A Comparative Study of Race and Ethnicity in the U.S. - Ethnic Studies 21AC, Victoria Robinson
- Racism and the U.S. Law: Historical Treatment of Peoples of Color - Ethnic Studies 147AC, Laura Perez

Gender and Women's Studies
- Queer Theory/Activist Practices - Gender and Women's Studies 116AC, Juanita Maria Rodriguez

International and Area Studies
- Global Poverty & Practice: Social Movements, Urban Histories, and the Politics of Memory - IAS 158AC /Peace and Conflict Studies 148AC (PACS), Sean Burns

Legal Studies
- Restorative Justice - Legal Studies 162AC, Mary Louise Frampton and Kathryn Abrams

Music
- Music in American Cultures - Music 26AC, Griff Rollefson  Peace and Conflict Studies
- Human Rights and American Cultures - Peace and Conflict Studies 128AC, Julie Shackford-Bradley
- Hip-Hop in Urban America - Music 74AC/139AC, Sara Lappas

Psychology
- Stigma and Prejudice - Psychology 167AC, Rodolfo Mendoza-Denton  Public Health
- Introduction to Community Health and Human Development - Public Health 150E, William Satariano

Public Policy
- Combining Research and Practice: Inequality, Imprisonment, and Higher Education in the Community, Public Policy 190, Amy Lerman (Spring 2016)

Religious Studies

Sociology
- Contemporary Immigration in Global Perspective - Sociology 146AC, Irene Bloemraad
- Immigration, Incorporation and Citizenship - Sociology 190AC, Irene Bloemraad
- Introduction to Sociology - Sociology 3AC, Brian Powers
- Principles of Sociology: American Cultures - Sociology 3AC, Brian Powers (Spring 2016)
- Sociology of Education - Sociology 113AC, Tiffany Page (Spring 2016)

Theater, Dance and Performance Studies (TDPS)
- Reflections of Gender, Culture, and Ethnicity in American Dance, TDPS 52AC, Krista Denio

Courses updated as of January 7, 2016