

The American Cultures Center

After more than twenty-five years, and the development of hundreds of courses, the American Cultures (AC) curriculum has become the signature undergraduate experience at UC Berkeley, fostering academic excellence and civic engagement of issues critical to America's dynamic ethnic, racial and socio-cultural landscape. Today, thanks to support from the Divisions of Undergraduate Education and Equity & Inclusion, and our partnership with the Public Service Center, the AC Center supports the offering of courses in more than **49** departments and programs and supports a multitude of opportunities for faculty teaching and student learning and research. Each year **one-third** of the undergraduate student body enrolls in the AC curriculum, approximately **13,000** students, in over **140** courses taught by **160 plus** faculty members. The dynamic content of the curriculum is a direct result of the curriculum development efforts of the AC Center.

Community Engagement



The American Cultures Engaged Scholarship (ACES) Program began as a partnership between the AC Center and the Public Service Center in January 2010. ACES courses provide opportunities for students to participate in collaborative projects with community partners, engage in experiential learning, create meaningful collaborative research environments with partners outside of the university, support reflective engagement on broad social issues and interests, and explore the possibilities and challenges of collaborative scholarship for both community partners and academic communities.

The Artist-in-Residence (AIR) is integral in the development of creating dialogues with campus partners, local artists, and community leaders.

Campus Engagement

The AC Spotlight Series provides opportunities for the campus community to critically engage in conversations regarding future AC curriculum development around key themes relevant to the AC requirement.

The Fall Program for Freshmen partners with the AC Center to develop courses to inform freshmen about policies and politics driving Bay Area displacement. Students helped build, stage and document a pre-election anti-displacement action with community organizations to educate students about the negative impacts of gentrification and eviction.

The Innovation in Teaching Award is presented to AC instructors for their use of pedagogical developments to enhance students' learning experience in the American Cultures classroom. It acknowledges a standard of excellence in scholarship that aligns with the core intention of the AC curriculum: to promote the understanding of race, ethnicity, and culture in a comparative and integrative fashion.

The Underrepresented Researchers of Color (UROC) Program supports undergraduate students of color - who are underrepresented at UC Berkeley - in their quest to engage in and excel in the research life of the university. The program emerged out of a collaboration with the Office of Undergraduate Research and Scholarships (OURS) and AC Center.

2017-18 Planning Initiatives

Data Justice: An Initiative of the American Culture Center and Data Science Planning Initiative

DATA SCIENCE PLANNING INITIATIVE + AMERICAN CULTURES = DATA JUSTICE

Data matters in securing justice and equity. Not only are our lives data points, but the collecting of 'big data' on everything from oxygen levels in the atmosphere to policing patterns, influences governance and decision-making at the individual, local and international scales. Our social, civic, political and environmental lives are then imbricated in the collection, processing, and sense-making of data. UC Berkeley is positioned to be unparalleled in forging data science research, learning and practice, at the nexus of social justice, change, and activism. Through several new initiatives and infrastructure, tackling society's most pressing challenges will be at the heart of concrete and measurable change through data science.

a) The creation of a new core AC course, entitled 'Data Justice/Data Philosophy' to run parallel to 'Data 8'. Although it may not now need stating that 'data is not neutral nor is it innocent,' it takes significant effort to 'design,' rather than 'squeeze' social-consciousness into the teaching and learning of data science. This new core course will be built to engage students in the question 'why social justice

in the context of data? Issues central to this course will include data ethics; the effects of data on communities; conceptualize visualizing information for advocacy; and consider the tools and platforms, historically and currently, that demonstrate data's role in social justice.

b) Linking Data and Action. 'Data Justice Modules' will be embedded in the AC requirement. Data analysis grounded in questions formed from community partner-faculty alliances within the award-winning 'ACES' program will support social-justice informed data design. Data Justice Modules give all students at UC Berkeley the opportunity to engage in workshop-style activities-centered project design with 'data justice' as a frame for both their research and action with community partners.



Media Resource Center/AC Clips Project

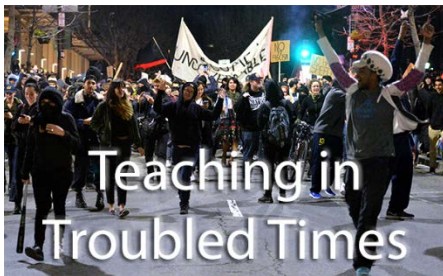
The MRC and The AC Center created the 'Multimedia Teaching and Learning' Initiative and its 'Fellows' program. The fellowship allows faculty and graduate students to enrich course instruction by working with media based resources from the MRC through creating annotated 'clips.'

The Rebel Archive

In a partnership project with the Ethnic Studies Library, a new archival-based assignment has been created to bring primary sources such as underground newspapers, songs, texts, and other forms of cultural memory-keeping into AC teaching and research. This 'rebel archive' which challenges mainstream knowledge, documents histories of resistance and provides new ways of seeing how political engagement creates new knowledge, new words, new ways of seeing. Built across two semesters, the 'Rebel Archive,' will now be made available to all AC courses with the aim that primary source archival materials will inform student information literacy and consumption.



Teaching in Troubled Times



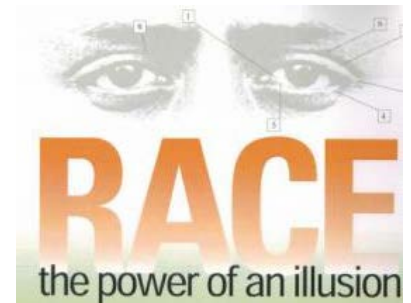
Co-hosted by the AC Center, the Center for Teaching and Learning and the Division for Equity and Inclusion, this dialogue series centers topics which inform how our classrooms and student experiences are influenced by factors exogenous to the classroom. The first spring 2018 workshop, 'The Economics of Showing Up' will center how issues such as food insecurity and student commuters, shape the dynamics of learning.

Wikipedia Classroom Assignments



The Wikipedia Foundation and the AC Center have partners for five years to support the development of Wikipedia articles as part of classroom assignments. This opportunity allows students to create collaborative work with a visible impact on a global audience. Whether adding sources to existing pages or creating new pages, students gain deeper insight into their course material and learn to critically evaluate the reliability of sources.

'Race: the Power of an Illusion' Educational Tools



This ground-breaking 2004 documentary by California Newsreel has been a staple of teaching and learning in the AC curriculum. As the California Newsreel team retire, they have given the film and education rights to the AC Center, HIFIS and the Media Resource Center (MRC). Now, this UC Berkeley collaboration is developing an online platform with educational tools to be used in future AC classrooms.