

# THE AMERICAN CULTURES CENTER



## Happy New Year from AC!

Welcome back to campus and to the Spring 2014 semester! As we look forward to the new year, we reflect on the historic events of yesterday and future directions.

On April 25th 1989, Berkeley Senate Division Regulation 300, the campus-wide Breadth Requirement for American Cultures, was passed with a Senate faculty vote of 227-194. It was a tremendous faculty turnout, and several hundred students attended the meeting in Zellerbach Auditorium which spilled over into Pauley Ballroom. One student, the late Emeka Ezera, a representative on the committee that authored the regulation, stated that he felt the requirement was built over years of consideration. Indeed, the establishment of the AC requirement has famously been called "a long march" (David Yamane).

This April, the AC Center will be hosting a series of exciting events honoring 25 years of the AC Requirement. Significant amongst these events are: **the April 24th 'Research Justice: A Symposium Exploring Community Engaged Scholarship'** (for details, see Upcoming Events and Announcements below); and the **April 25th** event with **Professor Pedro Noguera, 'Social Justice in Higher Education: Lessons from 1989'**. All events are open to the public and we hope you will join us.

Best wishes for a smooth beginning to the semester.

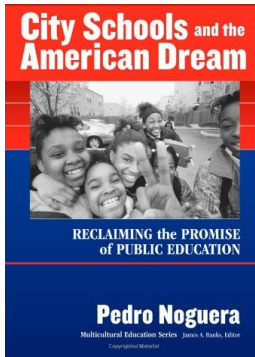
With warm regards,

Victoria Robinson  
Program Director

## Upcoming Events and Announcements

**Special Announcement: 25th Anniversary Keynote Speech,  
Professor Pedro Noguera, Peter L. Agnew Professor of  
Education, New York University**

**'Social Justice in Higher Education: Lessons from 1989'  
Friday, April 25, 11am-2pm, Anna Head Alumnae Hall**



More details to be announced in the February newsletter.

## **SAVE THE DATE: 25th Anniversary for The American Cultures Center** **April 21-25, 2014**

Please join us in celebrating the American Cultures Center as it turns 25! We will be hosting a week long celebration recognizing the past, present and future of the American Cultures Center. Please save the date on your calendars to attend this series of events, which will take place on the UC Berkeley campus from Monday, April 21st through Friday, the 25th. For more information,

please contact Doug Parada at [dparada@berkeley.edu](mailto:dparada@berkeley.edu).

## **AC Course Approval Subcommittee Meeting** **January 31, 2014**

The next Subcommittee meeting date for American Cultures (AC) course approvals is Friday, January 31st. In the event that a new instructor is assigned an AC course or a new AC course will be offered in your department, we encourage you to review the responsibilities of departments and of the Center itself in the administration of the AC Breadth Requirement. Submissions must be received by 4pm on the Monday before the meeting. The remaining subcommittee meeting dates for the 2013-2014 school are:

February 28  
March 14  
April 18

[Further course development information](#)

## **Research Justice: A Symposium Exploring Community Engaged Scholarship** **Proposals due February 14, 2014**

The UC Berkeley Public Service Center, The American Cultures Center and The Oakland DataCenter invite [proposals](#) for 'Research Justice' a symposium exploring community engaged scholarship which will take place on Thursday April 24, 2014 at the University of California, Berkeley. The Symposium will host critical conversations from submitted proposals which discuss how community engaged scholarship can re-shape the university, its' relationships to "the public" and contribute to shaping the relationship between the two in favor of movements, such as environmental justice, prison abolition, indigenous movements, the fight for K-12 education, and the arts in social justice. For more information, please visit [our website](#).

## **Innovation in Teaching Award and the American Cultures Student Prize** **Applications due April 11, 2014**

The **Innovation in Teaching Award** recognizes faculty who have created original, cutting-edge teaching plans that enhance both the goals of the American Cultures requirement and students' learning in the classroom. One award will be given in the amount of \$2,500.

[Download award announcement](#)

The **American Cultures Student Prize** provides students the opportunity to highlight work undertaken in an American Cultures course which promotes understanding of race, ethnicity, and culture. The prize also recognizes student's work as a standard of excellence in scholarship. Please encourage your students to apply. One lower-division and one upper-division will be selected and awarded \$1,000, and with permission, recipients will have their work published on the American Cultures web site.

[Download prize announcement](#)

The ceremony for both awards will be celebrated alongside the Charlene Conrad Liebau Library Prizes on May 8, 2014, 4-6pm in the Morrison Reading Room, Doe Library.

[Website announcement](#)

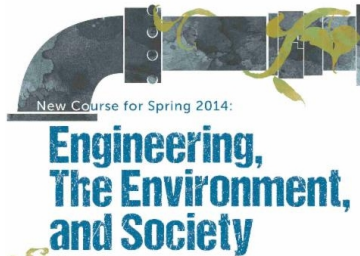
## In the News

### Associated Students of the University of California Senate Bill 25



Last Fall, the Associated Students of the University of California, Berkeley passed Senate Bill (SB) 25 in Support of Public Education and the ACES Program. SB 25 focuses on the value of undergraduate students learning both within the classroom and engagement with local and regional communities.

[Read the Bill](#)



## AC Faculty Spotlight

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

This Spring, Dr. Khalid Kadir (<http://blumcenter.berkeley.edu/kadir>) will be teaching a new cross-listed course, Engineering 157AC / International and Area Studies 157AC: **Engineering, The Environment, and Society** at UC Berkeley. The course will challenge students to look beyond the technical elements of their work and recognize the deeply social and political nature of engineering questions. As part of the new course, with help from Berkeley Ph.D. student and Chancellor's Public Fellow Lara Cushing, Dr. Kadir has established partnerships with local and regional African-American, Asian-American, and Latino community groups, through which students will have the opportunity to engage in multiple real-world projects affecting these diverse communities. Projects address a variety of environmental and social justice issues including contaminated drinking water, industrial pollution, and air pollution. Dr. Kadir is excited to bring to this course his technical knowledge and human rights interests as an environmental engineer on sunlight, waste water and pathogens in developing communities which were part of his research as a doctoral candidate in the College of Engineering at UC Berkeley.

[Watch an interview with Dr. Kadir](#)

Whilst both meeting the American Cultures requirement and as part of the ACES program, Engineering 175AC is set to become a signature course within the College of Engineering. As stated by Associate Dean for Equity and Inclusion, College of Engineering Oscar Dubon, "The College of Engineering is delighted to offer E157AC. With this course the College has taken an important step forward in affirming that social justice should play a central role in the preparation of our engineering students. The course also signals the College's commitment to engage a diverse engineering student body that produces technology leaders and innovators who will tackle challenges faced by all communities in our society. Dr. Kadir is an outstanding instructor, and we are very fortunate to have him on board."

This course is part of the American Cultures Engaged Scholarship (ACES) Program bringing the research interests of faculty and community partners together in the teaching of undergraduate courses. For further information and a listing of other ACES courses please [click here](#).

## AC Community Partner Spotlight

## ACES Community Partners

Building Blocks for Kids (BBK) Collaborative is expanding and is seeking a Director of Collaborative Services to help lead their team! This new position is a significant leadership position for an experienced leader in Collective Impact efforts and organizations. A member of the backbone staff, the Director of Collaborative Services (DCS) is the leader responsible for enhancing the internal organization and infrastructure necessary for BBK Collaborative's continued success and growth.

Building  
Blocks  
for Kids  
Richmond  
Collaborative

Interested candidates should read the full job description on the BBK Collaborative website and follow the application instructions located at the bottom of the page.

[Review the job description](#)

For more information about BBK Collaborative please go to [bbk-richmond.org](http://bbk-richmond.org).

[Watch BBK Partnership video](#)

## New! AC Big Ideas Course



**'Prison'**  
**Architecture 180AC/Ethnic Studies 185AC/  
Legal Studies 181AC**

Started just one year ago, the 'Big Ideas' initiative, <http://bigideascourses.berkeley.edu>, introduces a new exciting format to the UC Berkeley classroom in which faculty and students from different disciplinary viewpoints are brought together around a pivotal concept. This Spring, Patricia Hilden (Ethnic Studies) Jonathan Simon (Law) Jill Stoner (Architecture) and Victoria Robinson (Ethnic Studies), will teach the first AC Big Ideas course, 'Prison'. This course brings the subject of prisons, and the prison system to the fore of the undergraduate AC curriculum. As Professor Jill Stoner shared:

*"Prisons are mostly at the periphery of our intellectual landscape, just as they are now relegated to the hinterlands of our constructed landscape. I look forward to discovering the intersection of countless cultural and intellectual threads in the American cultural complex called 'Prison'."*

The new course, enrolling 300 students, is an innovative development in the AC curriculum and designed to allow for both enrolled students and the faculty teaching the course to learn more from one another. As stated by Professor Jonathan Simon:

*"The very endurance of the prison in our society testifies to the powerful anchors it has throughout our culture and yet the nature of professional scholarship narrows our understanding of the phenomenon even as we become more "expert." This chance to co-teach with three colleagues working from very different intellectual resources is a chance to understand the prison, long my subject, but once again."*

This is also the first 'Big Ideas' course to involve local Bay Area community organizations in the student learning activities as well as a host of artists and social media practitioners in the design of research based internships.

## ACES 2014 Spring Courses

We would like to congratulate all of the Chancellor's Public Scholars who will be teaching the following new ACES courses this Spring 2014:



### **Chicano Studies, 180AC: Chicana/o Art Politics, Methods and Practice**

*Celia Rodriguez*

This course will introduce students to specific Chicana/o & Latina/o, Native, Asian, and African American art history and cultural practices developed as an essential aesthetic of art made by Artists of Color in the Bay Area. Focus is placed on the ideas and methods for working in community that are still viable and integral to current art practice with a commitment to social justice. This course is intended for those who are interested in working in community in non-traditional and/or already established public and community spaces and programs.

### **Engineering, 105: Global Poverty & Practice/Engineering**

*Khalid Kadir*

The course will engage students at the intersection of environmental justice, social justice, and engineering. This course will specifically target engineering students and the goal is to help students look beyond the technical orientation of engineering approaches and learn to recognize the ways in which problems that may appear technical are at their roots deeply socially embedded.

### **Environmental Science, Policy Management/Sociology, 163AC/SOC 137AC: Environmental Justice: Race, Class, Equity, and the Environment**

*Dara O'Rourke*

This course engages environmental problems, community responses, and policy debates regarding environmental justice issues, preparing students to critically analyze environmental outcomes and processes. It involves a group service-learning project with local non-profit organizations, where teams of students work with local nonprofits to produce a research project that is both academically rigorous and meets real needs of the organizations.

### **International and Area Studies/Peace and Conflict Studies, 158AC/148AC: Global Poverty & Practice: Social Movements, Urban Histories, and the Politics of Memory**

*Sean Burns*

This course examines a number of national and transnational, progressive social movements which have had prominent and influential expression in the San Francisco Bay Area. Specifically, the course will examine: the disability rights and independent living movement; the efforts of Native-Americans to protect sacred sites, reclaim land, and build community health; and cross-racial coalition building in working-class communities of color to build movements around housing and workers' rights. This course will not only analyze what others have written and said of these movements, it will also organize collaborative, community-based documentation projects which seek to expand public understanding of these histories, their legacies, and the contemporary experience of these struggles.

### **Peace and Conflict Studies, 128AC: Human Rights and American Cultures**

*Julie Shackford-Bradley*

The course will focus on the history and current circumstances of Human Rights in the United States. The course is aligned with a growing interest across the country in utilizing human rights discourse and advocacy strategies in social justice efforts. Students will analyze issues through the human rights lens, and develop tools for utilizing international law in such a way as to require the US to live up to its obligations under both international and national legal systems.

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