

Urban Caribbean Diaspora

Mondays/Wednesdays 11:00 am-12:15pm; Location: TBD



WHAT IS THIS COURSE ABOUT?

What does it mean to create a new 'home away from home'? This course explores the context of Caribbean migration focusing on the complex history and lived experiences of immigrants from places like Trinidad and Tobago, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, and others who settle in urban areas in the United States and other national settings. Our exploration of the political, social, and economic issues that these immigrants encounter and their efforts to create a new home, will be enhanced by using problem-based and place-based approaches as well as qualitative and quantitative analyses. Towards that end, we will embark on an interdisciplinary adventure while discussing a myriad of key concepts such as assimilation, culture, identity, diaspora, 'crimmigration' and transnationalism.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

WHEN DOES THIS COURSE MEET? WHAT IS ITS FORMAT?

This course meets in person on Mondays and Wednesdays from 11:00am to 12:15pm. Please consult the course schedule for any predetermined dates where we will not meet in person.

IS THERE A TEXTBOOK?

There is no textbook for this course. All course readings, assignments, and materials will be provided to you through our Blackboard course site.

WHO IS THE INSTRUCTOR? HOW CAN I CONTACT THEM?

This course is taught by Dr. Donna-Lee Granville. You can call me Dr./Prof. Granville and use she/her pronouns. The best way to reach me is via email (dgranville@brooklyn.cuny.edu). I respond within 24hrs to emails sent during the week and within 48 hours to emails sent over the weekend. Find out more about me on page 5.

WHEN ARE OFFICE HOURS? Office hours are held in room 3614 in James Hall on Mondays and Wednesdays from 1-2pm. You can also set up an appointment for a virtual or in person meeting outside of those times.

WHAT ARE THE TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THIS COURSE? You will need reliable wifi and a laptop or tablet (preferably) to access our online platforms like Blackboard, the CUNY commons site, and Google Suite products. You will also need to be able to submit a screenshot, follow links, and download and upload documents.

HOW IS THIS COURSE ORGANIZED?

This course is organized as a collaborative effort between the instructor and students. The content is spread out over four units. Unit one helps establish some important foundations for understanding hip hop and sociology while Units two and three will dive into topics like inequality and representation. There is also one big change from a more traditional classroom. You will grade yourself. Yes, even your final grade will be determined by you.

HOW DO I PREPARE FOR EACH WEEK OF THE COURSE?

Each week you will be assigned a reading and a concept video or short assignment to prepare before our meetings on Mondays and Wednesdays. Be sure to read each weekly overview carefully in Blackboard so that you are adequately prepared.

NEED TECH HELP? NEED BLACKBOARD HELP?

Contact the Help Desk at 718.951.4357 or via email (helpdesk@brooklyn.cuny.edu). Visit the CUNY Blackboard page for afterhours contact info and troubleshooting.

(<https://www.cuny.edu/about/administration/offices/cis/core-functions/cuny-blackboard/helpsupport/>)

MORE FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

WHAT ARE THE LEARNING GOALS FOR THIS COURSE?

- **Identify** and intelligently **articulate** the social issues facing Caribbean immigrants in the United States and other national settings.
- **Express** critical ideas, themes, arguments, theories orally and in written form.
- **Apply** the sociological imagination to **understand** and **explain** the larger global context influencing urban issues.
- **Compare** and **contrast** the migration and settlement experiences of Latinx and African descended Caribbean immigrants.
- **Develop** and **improve** writing, reading, presenting, and critical thinking abilities.

HOW CAN I DO WELL IN THIS COURSE?

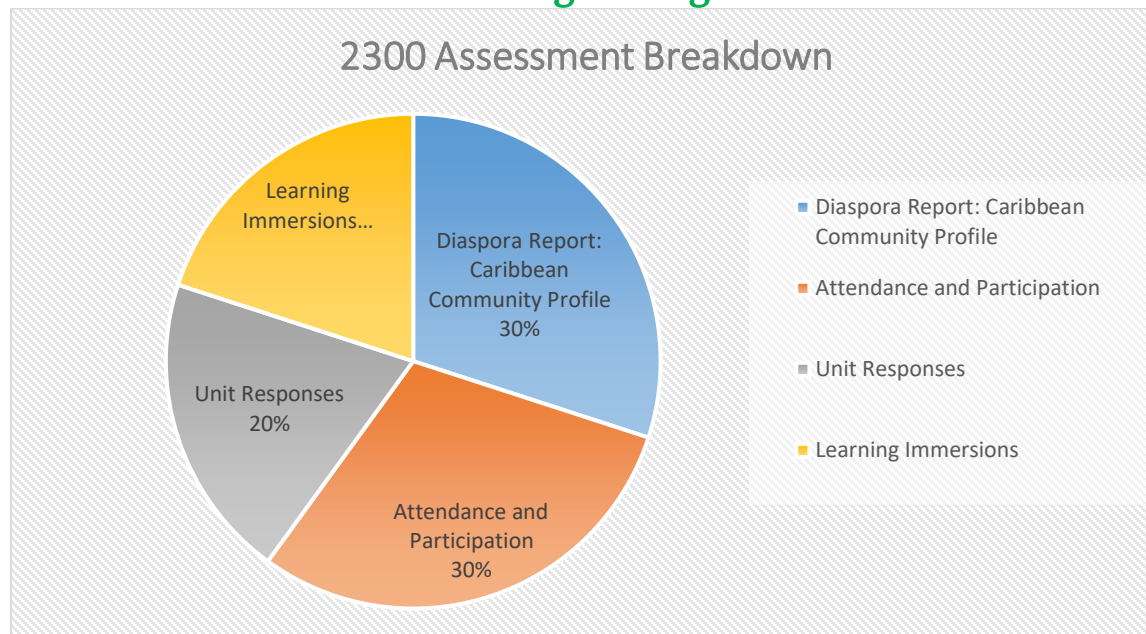
- **Attend** every class session. You can miss 3 class sessions without explanation. Any additional absences should be discussed beforehand with me since your attendance and participation is essential in this course.
- **Participate!** Complete your readings, add to our class notes, and carefully review any additional assigned content for before class viewing. Be prepared!
- **Complete** your assignments on time. Communicate with me and with your grading accountability partner(s) if any issues arise.
- **Manage** your time well. Schedule times to work on assignments or readings. Work backwards from deadlines and give yourself time to complete and review an assignment before submitting.
- **Visit** office hours often. Think of this time with me as your one-on-one time to get course info clarified, get advice for grad school, or help with a challenge, or even to share something related to the course that you came across outside of class.

HOW WILL I BE GRADED IN THIS COURSE?

- For each assignment there will be a rubric that explains the goals of the assignment and the different levels of evaluating your work.
- Using the rubric, you will assign yourself a grade and write a 1-page rationale to explain how you arrived at this grade. For your final grade, you will complete a rubric and submit a 1 page rational that responds to similar questions. Each student will meet individually with me to determine their final grade during our final exam period.

- This means you will be getting practice all semester in advocating for the grade you want and will earn through evaluating the quality of your own work.
- We'll finalize our grading strategy in class on 9/14 during Week three.

Grading & Assignments



Your final grade will be based on the following assignments:

- **ATTENDANCE/PARTICIPATION**-Attendance is about more than being physically present in the classroom—it is also about actively participating in class discussions. In this course your presence in the classroom and your participation in (1) class discussions, (2) on our class notes page (3) and by completing short in class exercises, all of which will make up your final grade. This portion of your grade is worth **300pts**.
- **UNIT RESPONSES**-This course is organized into three substantive Units that cover the bulk of what we will learn in the semester. You will submit three-unit responses (a 5-minute video, or a 3-page essay, or a concept map) that will discuss the major ideas. This portion of your grade is worth **300 pts**.
- **DIASPORA REPORT: CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY PROFILE**- To demonstrate your learning, you will bring together various forms of data to complete a report that focuses on one Caribbean community and highlights their integration experience into NYC. This

assignment in broken down into four smaller tasks that you will work on throughout the semester. This portion of your grade is worth **300pts**.

- **LEARNING IMMERSION EXPERIENCES**- Twice in this semester you will participate in a learning immersion experience; just a fancy way to refer to you taking part in activities that will broaden your horizons and enhance your time in college. This portion of your grade is worth **100pts**.

More details on each assessment category will be posted on Blackboard.

GRADING SCALE

900-1000	=A+, A, A-
800-899	= B+, B, B-
700-799	= C+, C, C-
600-699	= D+, D, D-
Below 600	= F

Note: As in all courses, an “A” represents outstanding/exceptional work; a “B” represents good to very good work; a “C” represents adequate work; a “D” represents a borderline effort, and an “F” represents a failing grade.

COURSE POLICIES

FACING CHALLENGES?-Sometimes in a semester, circumstances arise that may negatively impact your grade. If at any point you experience such a challenges or issue—don’t wait! Be proactive and make an appointment to see me as soon as possible.

OFFICE HOURS AND CONTACT INFORMATION-A successful student is one who is proactive about their education. If at any point you have questions or struggle with course concepts feel free to set up an appointment or stop by my open office hours. You may also reach me by email. I generally respond within 24-28 hrs to emails. When sending emails please use your last name and SOC 1201 in the subject heading (i.e. Granville-SOC 1201) and be sure to adhere to professional writing guidelines. While I am happy to answer questions, if they can be found be on the syllabus, I will simply respond ‘check your syllabus’.

EXCUSED ABSENCES- Excused absences include the following: college-sponsored activities (please notify me *at least 3 days* in advance), an unforeseen family emergency, and illness serious enough to seek the attention of a health-care professional. Whether or not your absence is excused, if you miss a class, it is your responsibility to ask another student in the class for notes and/or an explanation of what was covered that day.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY- The faculty and administration of Brooklyn College support an environment free from cheating and plagiarism. Each student is responsible for being aware of what constitutes cheating and plagiarism and for avoiding both. The complete text of the CUNY Academic Integrity Policy and the Brooklyn College procedure for implementing that policy can be found at this site: <http://www.brooklyn.cuny.edu/bc/policies>.

USE OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES- All cell phones should be turned off or placed on silent during class. Activities that may be distractions to the class such as cell phone usage, “tweeting/status updating,” eating large meals, and the like are prohibited during class time. Laptops may be used in class however, they must be used for class purposes such as taking notes, not checking your email or Facebook page.

DISABILITY SERVICES- To receive disability-related academic accommodations students must first be registered with the Center for Student Disability Services (CSDS). Students who have a documented disability or suspect they may have a disability are invited to set up an appointment with the Director of the Center for Student Disability Services, Ms. Valerie Stewart-Lovell at 718-951-5538.

SYLLABUS CHANGES- The syllabus is subject to change over the duration of this course; however, you will always be notified of changes via BB and class announcements. It is your responsibility to keep abreast of course changes and requirements.

POWERPOINT SLIDES- I will post PowerPoint slides for class lectures on Blackboard after class. Having these slides will hopefully help you to pay more attention in class. However, PowerPoint slides do not contain all the material you need to know. Additionally, not attending class but reviewing slides is a poor substitute for attending lecture. *If I find that there is consistently poor attendance for lectures, I will no longer provide PowerPoint slides after class.*

CLASS CANCELLATIONS- If class is canceled, you will be notified as early as possible via your Brooklyn College email account and Blackboard. You can also sign up for text alerts via BC Webcentral.

SOCY 2500 (Spring 2023-MW11)
M/W 11:00AM-12:15 PM

Instructor: Dr. Donna Granville
dgranville@brooklyn.cuny.edu

Office Hrs: M/W 1:30-2:30PM
Office: 3614 James Hall

Course Readings & Schedule

Unit	Week	Date	Topic	Readings	Assignment Due
	Wk. 1	1/25	Course Introduction	NO readings	
Unit 1. The Context of Caribbean Migration: <i>Key Terms and Theories</i>	Wk. 2	1/30	Thinking Sociologically/Practicing Sociology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Johnson-Introduction(Skim) SOCY 2102-Love Letter 	
		2/1	What is an Urban Caribbean diaspora?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pew Research Center-One in Five Black in the United States is Black Cottom (2017) Thick, "Black Is Over (Or, Special Black)" Film:Trini 2 Di Bone episode, Atlanta 	
	Wk. 3	2/6	Understanding Caribbean Migration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chaney-The Context of Caribbean Migration Owens (2014)-Caribbean Migration 	
		2/8	Caribbean NYC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sutton-The Caribbeanization of New York City The Urban Caribbean-Haiti, Jamaica, Dominican Republic Review Little Caribbean NYC Website 	
	Wk. 4	2/13	NO Class!! (Lincoln's Birthday)		
		2/15	The State of Black Immigrants I: Local and National Demographics	(BAJI)The State of Black Immigrants Report-Part I (skim) (MPI)Caribbean Immigration to the U.S. Report	Assignment # 1 due-2/15
	Wk. 5	2/20	NO Class!! (President's Day) <i>(At least 1 learning immersion completed)</i>		
		2/22	Defining Diaspora	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bonnett-The West Indian Diaspora to the USA The Barbados-South Carolina Connection The Caribbean Diaspora 	
	Wk. 6	2/27	Transnationalism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Glick-Shiller (2014)- Theorizing about and beyond Transnational Processes 	

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chamberlain (2014)-Identity & Kinship- Caribbean Transnational Narratives 	
		3/1	Assimilation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Duany-The Orlando Ricans Thornton-Feelings of Closeness 	Diaspora Project # 2 due-3/1
Unit 2. Leaving Home: <i>Legal Trends and Patterns</i>	Wk. 7	3/6	The Legal Context	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bashi-Globalized Anti-Blackness Greer-Hart Cellar Act (optional) 	
		3/8		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Giraud (2014)-Colonial Racism, Ethnicity & Citizenship 	
	Wk.8	3/13	Crimmigration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Armenta- Racializing Crimmigration State of Black Immigrants Report- Part II 	
		3/15	<i>Diaspora Project Work Day (At least 2 learning immersions completed)</i>		Unit 1 Response due-3/15
	Wk. 9	3/20	Gender & Migration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foner-Gender& Migration in Comparative Perspective Oso Casas (2014).-Dominican Women, Head of Households in Spain 	
		3/22		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mose-Raising Brooklyn, West Indians Raising New York Film: Life and Debt film 	
Unit 3. Home Away From Home: <i>Identity & Belonging</i>	Wk.10	3/27	Race, Ethnicity and Belonging: Politics of Identity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pierre-Black Immigrants and Cultural Narratives of Ethnicity Garcia-Pena-Being Black in Italy <i>Film: Mangrove (2020)</i> 	
		3/29		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bedelia-West Indian youth and the creation of ethnic boundaries in high school Logan & Zhang (2014)- Cuban and Dominicans: Is there a Latino experience in the United States 	

	Wk.11	4/3	Race, Ethnicity, and Belonging: Place and Space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clerge-The New Noir, Blood Pudding: Forbidden Neighbors on Jim Crow Long Island 	
		4/5		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clerge-The New Noir, Callaloo: Cultural Economies of our Backyards 	Diaspora Project # 3 due-4/5
SPRING BREAK! (No Class 4/10 and 4/12) <i>(At least 3 learning immersions completed)</i>					
	Wk.13	4/17	<i>Diaspora Project Work Day</i>		
		4/19	Race, Culture, and Belonging: Celebrations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kasinitiz & Freidenberg-Herbstein-West Indian Day Carnival and Puerto Rican Day Parade • Review The Carnival Documentation Project 	Unit 2 Response due-4/19
	Wk.14	4/24	Race, Culture, and Belonging: Food	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Houston-Food Culture of the Caribbean • Plaza-Roti & Doubles as Comfort Foods 	
		4/26	<i>Diaspora Project Work Day</i>		
	Wk.15	5/1	<i>Diaspora Project Work Week</i>		Unit 3 Response due-5/3
		5/3			
	Wk.16	5/8	<i>Shottas: Film & Discussion</i>		
		5/10	<i>(All 4 learning immersions completed)</i>		

Completed Diaspora Report-Community Profile (Due date 5/10)

Final Grade Self-Assessment TBD