



SUMMER 2025

PROVIDENCE COLLEGE

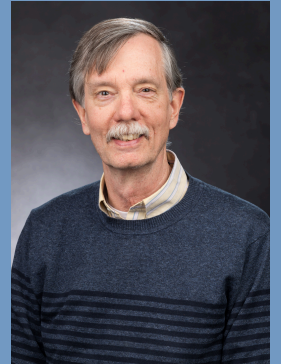
Department of Black Studies

NEWSLETTER

Message from the Interim Chair

Hi all, and happy summer break! As we jump into August, Black Studies is preparing for the new academic year and the continuing celebration of 30 years of Black Studies at PC. This September we are welcoming new faculty to the department, and welcoming back faculty who were on sabbatical, all of us ready to support our students and excited to see what this fall brings. Thank you to our students, faculty, and staff for their hard work and dedication to Black Studies and our community.

— **Dr. Eric Hirsch,**
Interim Chair



“ You have to act as if it were possible to radically transform the world. And you have to do it all the time. ” - Angela Davis

INSIDE:

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◆ Meet the Department

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◆ Major/ Minor Information

◆ Fall 2025 Courses

FACULTY NEWS

Sabbatical Adventures in Lisbon, Portugal

Dr. Wheeler travelled to Lisbon to conduct fieldwork for her research on Black identities and experiences in Portugal. As a sociocultural linguist, she was interested in exploring the role that language plays in the construction and expression of diverse Black diasporic identities. During her time in Lisbon, Dr. Wheeler collected survey and interview data, connected with community organizations, attended events related to Blackness and the African diaspora, and supported local Black-owned businesses. She even took an intensive Portuguese course! Participants in her study were incredibly generous with their time and perspective, and she is eager to continue working with the data. Dr. Wheeler has presented preliminary results from the study at two international conferences and will be presenting at a third conference in the fall.



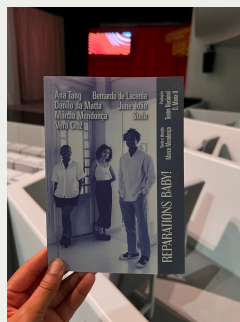
Wall art at a museum



Event for the International Day of the Afro-Latina and Caribbean Woman at Casa do Brasil



Archaeological talk on the earliest and largest burial pit of enslaved Africans in Europe, located in southern Portugal



A play called "Reparations Baby" about Portugal's reckoning (or failure to reckon) with its racial past and present.



Dr. Cato Accepted into Lacordaire Faculty Fellows Program



Dr. Cato was accepted into the '25-'26 PC Lacordaire Faculty Fellows Program. Named after the Dominican, Henri-Maire Lacordaire, O.P., the program brings together an intentional, interdisciplinary, and collaborative community of faculty to explore questions pertaining to the human person and to inspire mission integration in teaching and pedagogy. In doing so, it provides mutual support for intellectual, spiritual, and pedagogical development. Congratulations Dr. Cato!

Welcome to our "New" Faculty!



This fall semester, we are officially welcoming Dr. Alioune Fall to the Black Studies Department! Dr. Fall, now jointly appointed with Black Studies and World Languages and Cultures, has been assisting Black Studies for some time and we are excited about the courses and expertise he brings to the department. Dr. Alannah Caisey is also joining us this fall - be sure to say hello if you see her around campus!



MEET THE DEPARTMENT



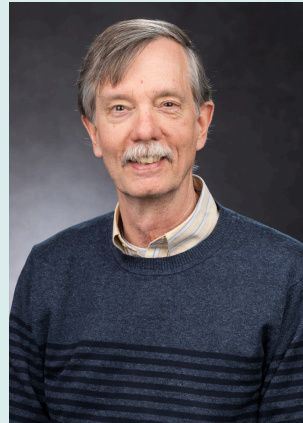
Dr. Eva Michelle Wheeler

BLACK STUDIES,
WORLD LANGUAGES
AND CULTURES



Dr. Aishah Scott

BLACK STUDIES,
HEALTH STUDIES



Dr. Eric Hirsch

INTERIM CHAIR OF
BLACK STUDIES,
SOCIOLOGY &
ANTHROPOLOGY



Dr. Alannah Caisey

BLACK STUDIES



Dr. Alioune Fall

BLACK STUDIES,
WORLD LANGUAGES
AND CULTURES



Dr. Paul Cato

BLACK STUDIES,
POST-DOC TEACHING
FELLOW



Dr. Danny Kyei-Poakwa

BLACK STUDIES,
ADJUNCT PROFESSOR

Department of Black Studies

Katherine Lynch

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M-F, 8:30-4:30pm

Community Room

Howley Hall 314
M-F, 8:30-4:30 (Outside
hours available upon
request)

DEPARTMENT NEWS

Department Begins a Year of Celebration

This spring '25 semester marked 30 years of Black Studies at Providence College, and kicked off our 30th Anniversary celebrations. On May 1st, the Department of Black Studies held the 30th Anniversary Black Studies Senior Celebration and Banquet. The well-attended dinner celebrated the 4 graduating senior Black Studies minors – Kelvin Afranie, Yaw Asante, Suniya Crawley, and Joshua Rykiel- and the first graduating senior Black Studies major- Elizabeth Hien.



Class of 2025 Black Studies graduates with Susan Pires, '97



Fr. Sicard, Fr. Batts, and Dean Watkins

Departmental awards were also presented at the celebration. Yaw Asante received the Mary McLeod Bethune Award, both Suniya Crawley and Kelvin Afranie received the Amílcar Cabral Freedom Award, and Elizabeth Hien received the Outstanding Academic Achievement Award.



Dr. Daniel Banini, Yaw Asante, and Dr. Comfort Ateh.



Dr. Daniel Banini, Kelvin Afranie, and Dr. Comfort Ateh.



Dr. Daniel Banini, Suniya Crawley, and Dr. Comfort Ateh.



Dr. Tony Affigne, Elizabeth Hien, and Dr. Eva Wheeler

Several BLS alumni also submitted photos from their time at Providence College in the Black Studies Program. As we move forward during this year of celebration, we are excited to honor and recognize the students and faculty that made Black Studies at Providence College possible today!



Class of 2005



Class of 2011



Naomi Brown-Jones and Angela Evans-Ortiz, Class of 2011



Class of 2018



Class of 2019

CURRICULUM INFORMATION

BLS Major

30 credits (10 courses)

- BLS 101: Intro to Black Studies
- BLS 480: Seminar in Black Studies
- 8 additional courses from the three thematic areas

BLS Minor

18 credits (6 courses)

- BLS 101: Intro to Black Studies
- 5 additional courses from the three thematic areas

Thematic Areas:

Culture, Language, Literature & the Arts

- BLS 122: Black Cinema
- BLS 225: The African World View
- BLS 227: History of Jazz
- BLS 314: Black Feminisms
- BLS 376: Toni Morrison

Social & Structural Analysis

- BLS 211: Urban Education
- BLS 303: Urban Politics in the United States
- BLS 327: Race, Class, and Gender: Intersections and Inequalities

Historical Inquiry

- BLS 225: The African World View
- BLS 304: Social Movements
- BLS 344: Colonialism and Nationalism in Modern Africa
- BLS 347: The Civil Rights Movement in the US: 1955-75

For more Thematic Area courses, visit the Curriculum page at black-studies.providence.edu

ARE YOU A BLACK STUDIES ALUMNI?

We'd love to hear how you're doing!

Send us an update at
black.studies@providence.edu

Want to update your contact info or be added to our mailing list?

Send us your name and email!

FALL 2025 COURSES

BLS 101: Introduction to Black Studies

Fulfills:

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT
DIVERSITY
SOCIAL SCIENCE

Section 001 Dr. Scott | M/R, 10-11:15am

Section 002 Dr. Scott | T/R, 1-2:15pm

Section 003 Dr. Caisey | T/R, 11:30am-12:45pm

Section 004 Dr. Caisey | T/R, 4-5:15pm

Section 005 Dr. Cato | T/W/F, 10:30-11:20am ***SEATS OPEN***

Section 006 Dr. Wheeler | M/R, 8:30-9:45am ***SEATS OPEN***

BLS 205: Race and Racism

| Dr. Gebremariam, Sociology & Anthropology

BLS 220_001/002: Diversity/ Culture in Social Work Practice

| Dr. Hagar, Social Work

BLS 311: Equity Issues in Education

| Dr. Rolon, Secondary Education

BLS 321: AIDS, Race & Gender in the Black Community

| Dr. Scott

BLS 344: Colonialism & Nationalism in Modern Africa

| Dr. Colpa, History & Classics

BLS 211_002: Urban Education

| Dr. Ateh, Secondary Education

BLS 307_001/002: Urban Sociology

| Dr. Hirsch, Sociology & Anthropology

BLS 314: Black Feminisms

| Dr. Caisey

BLS 334: African Politics

| Dr. Banini, Political Science

BLS 371: Global and Postcolonial Literature

| Dr. Valkeakari, English

Contact Us:

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Providence College
Department
of Black Studies

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