

The Department of
Black & Puerto Rican Studies
Renamed
Africana & Puerto Rican/Latino Studies
1970 - 1999
Finding Aid

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GENERAL INFORMATION

Accession Number: 97-02

Size: 4.0706 cu. ft.

Provenance: Department of Black & Puerto Rican Studies
(renamed Africana & Puerto Rican/Latino Studies)

Restrictions: None.

Location: Range 5 Section 5 Shelves 29 - 30

Archivist: Prof. Julio L. Hernandez-Delgado

Assistants: Mr. Manuel Rimarachin
Mr. Curvin Sawyer
Ms. Dane Guerrero

Date: August 2002

Revised: October 2013

HISTORICAL NOTE

The Department of Black and Puerto Rican Studies of Hunter College has its roots in the turbulent decade of the 1960's. During this period the United States was in the midst of the Vietnam War, the Civil Rights Movement, inner city unrest, demands for minority and women's rights, and the unprecedented demands of African-Americans, Asian-Americans, and Latino college students for a more inclusive curriculum.

Hunter College was not immune from the politically charged atmosphere of the 1960's. The pressure to get Hunter College (and CUNY) to comply with its historic mission of providing higher education to the sons and daughters of New York's working class was spearheaded by disadvantaged students from the African-American and Puerto Rican/Latino communities.

The Toussaint L'Ouverture Society and La Sociedad Eugenio Maria de Hostos in 1969 denounced Hunter College's curriculum for not including and reflecting the needs of African-American and Puerto Rican/Latino students. On February 17, 1969, the Toussaint L'Ouverture Society issued a list of non-negotiable demands to the administration. The students requested the establishment of a "Black directed Black Studies Department open to all students." They also insisted that the department should have their own counselors, library, and that the existing fieldwork courses (offered by the Sociology Department) be absorbed by the new department. (See *Hunter Envoy* of February 17, 1969, for a list of the demands).

On February 21, 1969, the *Hunter Envoy* reported that La Sociedad de Eugenio Maria de Hostos demanded the establishment of a Puerto Rican Studies Department, open to all students, by Fall 1969. The Toussaint L'Ouverture Society supported Hostos' demands in light of the fact that they too insisted on the creation of a separate Black Studies Department.

Reaction to the requests made by the Toussaint L'Ouverture Society and La Sociedad Eugenio Maria de Hostos was mixed. Some administrators and faculty rejected the demands outright, while others genuinely supported the students. It should be noted that the student demands were not unique to Hunter College. Students at City College and Brooklyn College were also requesting the creation of Black and Puerto Rican Studies programs. Nationally, the demands for Black Studies programs led to disorders at San Francisco State, Brandeis, and Wisconsin University.

In February 1969, Hunter College faculty voted to establish a Department of Black and Puerto Rican Studies, and a student-faculty committee drew up preliminary curriculum and recommended appointments. The Faculty Council of Hunter College approved the curriculum of the department on June 18, 1969, and a week later, the Faculty Personnel and Budget Committee approved the appointment of Keith Baird, Miguel Barcelo, John Henrik Clarke, and Eduardo Seda-Bonilla. The Department of Black and Puerto Rican Studies was scheduled to commence operation in September of 1969.

Arguments for and against the implementation of Black and Puerto Rican studies programs throughout CUNY ebbed back and forth. Finally, on July 9, 1969, the Board of Higher Education held a special meeting and adopted a Statement of Policy by the Board of Higher Education in which it “encouraged the development of programs of Black and Puerto Rican studies within the University, and to give the funding of these programs special priority.”

The creation of the Department of Black and Puerto Rican Studies at Hunter College fostered the revision of Hunter’s curriculum in the Humanities and Social Sciences and indirectly spearheaded the creation of Asian, Jewish, and Women’s Studies Programs.

Julio L. Hernandez-Delgado

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The records of the Department of Black & Puerto Rican Studies were donated to Archives & Special Collections by the former Chair Dr. Jose Manuel Santiago Torres. The records were originally housed in a file cabinet from whence they were removed and subsequently placed in archival boxes. The archivist imposed order on the records with the exception of the personnel files which were maintained in their original filing order.

The impact that the Department of Black & Puerto Rican Studies had on Hunter College's curriculum was significant because in subsequent years undergraduate students were required to take specific courses in BLPR to fulfill some of their distribution requirements. The initial courses offered on African history and culture, African-American Studies and Puerto Rican Studies enriched the College's curriculum and provided for a better understanding of both minority groups.

SERIES DESCRIPTION

Series I – Administration

Series I consists of by-laws, correspondence, minutes, course offerings, memoranda, materials on the Black and Puerto Rican sequences, and a brochure on the 30th anniversary of the Department of Black & Puerto Rican Studies which was celebrated in 1999.

Series II – Personnel Files

Series II consists of select personnel records of administrators and faculty in the Department of Black & Puerto Rican Studies. The personnel files are closed to researchers, but they may be examined with the permission by the Archivist.

CONTAINER LIST

SERIES I - ADMINISTRATION

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>
1	1	Admission, 1978 - 1979
	2	Affirmative Action Information, 1978 - 1979
	3	Agenda of Departmental Meetings, 1974 - 1977, 1980
	4	<i>An African Pilgrimage Nigeria Senegal</i> , Hunter College Department of Black and Puerto Rican Studies, n.d.
	5	Annual Evaluation Schedule, 1978
	6	Black Sequence of the Department of Black and Puerto Rican Studies 1975 - 1980
	7	Memoranda, 1979, 1980
	8	Budget 1977 - 1978
2	1	1979 - 1981
	2	Business Office 1978 - 1979
	3	By-Laws, March, 1972
	4	<i>Commemorative Journal</i> , 1999 Committee on Black & Puerto Rican Studies, Minutes, 1969
		Correspondence
		Beryl L. Bailey, Chair
	5	Incoming, November 1969 - December 1970
	6	Outgoing, September 1970 - December 1970
	7	Memoranda, July - October 1970
	8	Miscellaneous Materials
		Tilden J. LeMelle, Chair
	9	Incoming, July 1972 - December 1978
	10	Outgoing, April 1972 - December 1978
	11	Memoranda, September 1972 - February 1979

SERIES I - ADMINISTRATION

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>
		Correspondence
2	12	Mildred Fierce, Acting Chair Outgoing, January 1979 - May 1979
	13	Memoranda, February - May 1979
	14	John Henri Clarke, Acting Chair/Chair Incoming, March 1979 - July 1981
3	1	Outgoing, June 1970 - January 1981
		Memoranda
	2	May 1978 - December 1979
	3	January - December 1980
	4	January - July 1981
		David J. Hodges, Acting Chair
	5	Incoming, September 1981 - January 1983
	6	Outgoing, September - December 1981
	7	Memoranda, July 1981 - January 1982
	8	The Department of Black & Puerto Rican Studies Course Offerings Fall 1980, Spring 1981, Fall 1981
	9	Grade Appeals, 1978 - 1979
	10	Grants - Mellon, N.E.H., 1978 - 1979
4	1	History of the Department of Black & Puerto Rican Studies, n.d.
	2	Hunter College Study Abroad Program, 1982
	3	Inauguration of Donna E. Shalala, October 8, 1980
	4	Independent Study Student - Faculty Contract, 1979/1980
	5	Letters of Recommendation, 1980 - 1981 *
	6	Minutes of the Executive Committee, April 23, 1975
	7	Minutes of the Minority Group Caucus of Hunter College, 1974 - 1977
	8	Miscellaneous Materials
	9	<i>Open Line</i> , December 1978 - October 1979

*(The files marked with an asterisk are closed but may be examined with permission by the Archivist)

SERIES I - ADMINISTRATION

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>
4	10	Proposal For Restructuring CUNY to Meet a Financial Crisis, October 8, 1985
	11	Provost, Office of 1978 - 1979
	12	Puerto Rican Sequence, 1977 - 1982
		Puerto Rican Studies Resumes *
	13	July 1982 - March 1983
5	1	November 1982 - March 1983
	2	Report of the Special Committee of Hunter College College Faculty Personnel & Budget Committee on Charges Against Puerto Rican Studies Staff, 1972
		Resumes and Curriculum Vitae *
	3	1977 - 1980
	4	1982
	5	1983
	6	Thirtieth Anniversary Celebration, 1999

SERIES II – PERSONNEL FILES *

5	7	Abrous, Abdennour
	8	Abubakar, Rashida
	9	Barrett, Betty
	10	Benitez, Jorge
6	1	Biascochea, Carmen
	2	ben-Jochannan, Yosef Alfredo Antonio
	3	Bou Guettaia, Leila
	4	Burgos, Eda
	5	Campos, Ricardo
	6	Cantor, Susan
	7	Chin, Rockwell
	8	Cintron-Gonzalez, Isabel
	9	Clarke, John H.
	10	Colberg, Jorge H.

*(The files marked with an asterisk are closed but may be examined with permission by the Archivist)

SERIES II – PERSONNEL FILES *

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>
6	11	Cruz, Jorge Luis
	12	Cruz, Maria
7	1	Fagbemide, Samson O.
	2	Falcon, Angelo
	3	Fierce, Mildred
	4	Gana, Aaron T.
	5	Gay, Marlene
	6	Hune, Shirley
	7	Isaac, Ephraim
	8	Jeanpierre, Wendell H.
	9	Kamara, Michael
	10	Kerina, Jane
	11-12	Lopez-Ferrer, Egardo
8	1	McNeil, Genna Rae
	2	Magoma, Mukhtar
	3	Mendez, Felix
	4	Montalvo del Valle, Julio
	5	Motley, John
	6	Nanji, Adbul
	7	Nazarro, Isaberl
	8	Nieves Falcon, Luis
	9-10	Patterson, Lindsay
	11	Pratts-Rivera, Edgardo
9	1	Rios, Nelida
	2-3	Sanchez, José Luis
	4	Sancho, Robert M.
	5	Simmons, George
	6	Tam, Thomas
	7	Tchen, John Kuo-Wei
	8	Toney, Joyce
	9	Urdang, Stephanie
	10	Valle, Carmen
	11	Velazquez, Nydia M.
	12	Woo, Ginlin
	13	Zungu, Y

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