

Black Deaf Studies Matter Black/Africana Studies Matter

Center for Black Deaf Studies
Symposium

March 28-31, 2023 Dr. Sandra Jowers-Barber

Black/Africana Studies Black Deaf Studies Defining Moments

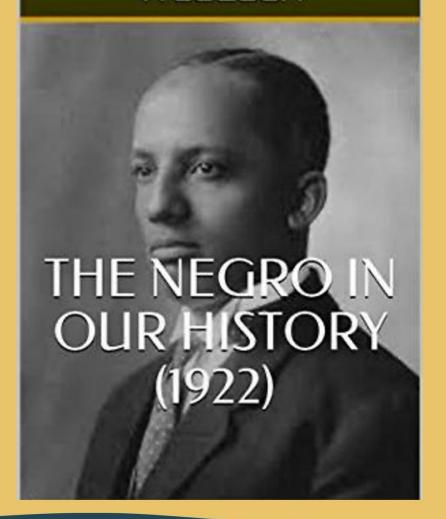
- September 9,1915, Dr. Carter G. Woodson, co-founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, Inc., now known as the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, Inc. (ASALH).
- In 1968 at San Francisco State College the first Black Studies Department was founded.
- In 2020 the first Black Deaf Studies Center was founded.



Dr. Carter G. Woodson

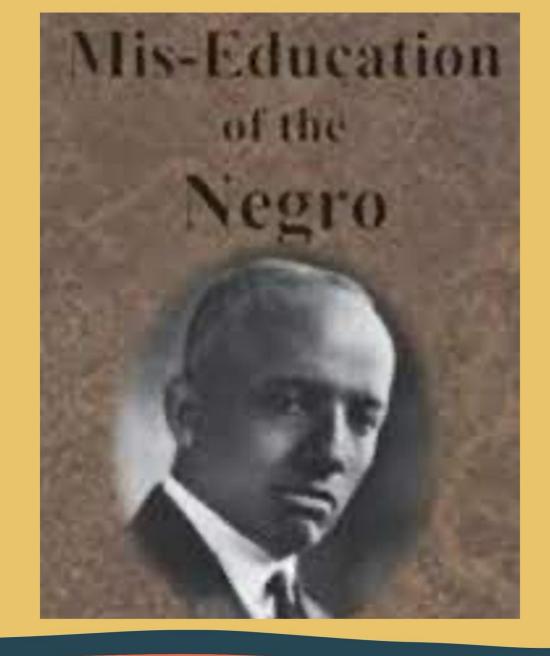
This is one of the early publications documenting contributions of Black people.

Carter Godwin Woodson



Dr. Carter G. Woodson

Published in 1933 it provides Woodson's view of the intentionally false information given to students about the history of Black people.



FIRST BLACK STUDIES DEPARTMENTS

San Francisco State College - 1968

- Students complaints focused on the Vietnam War, the ROTC's presence on campus, and the college's practice of providing students' academic standing to the Selective Service.
- There were few Black faculty.
- It was difficult for marginalized students of color to get into the college.
- The courses were not relevant to students.



Some members of the 1968 Black Students Union (BSU) at San Francisco State

- They founded the 1968 the BSU that launched the strike that created Black Studies at San Francisco State. That ultimately led to the creation of the College of Ethnic Studies. It became Black Studies and now it is Africana Studies.
- Africana Studies acknowledges the global impact and influence of the African diaspora.
- The members from left to right are: Mark Allan Davis, Sharon Jones, Abul Petri, Benny Stewart, Danny Glover, Bernard Stringer, Dorothy Tsuruta, and Arnold Townsend.



Mark Allan Davis Sharon Jones Abul Petri Benny Stewart Danny Glover Bernard Stringer Dorothy Tsuruta Arnold Townsend

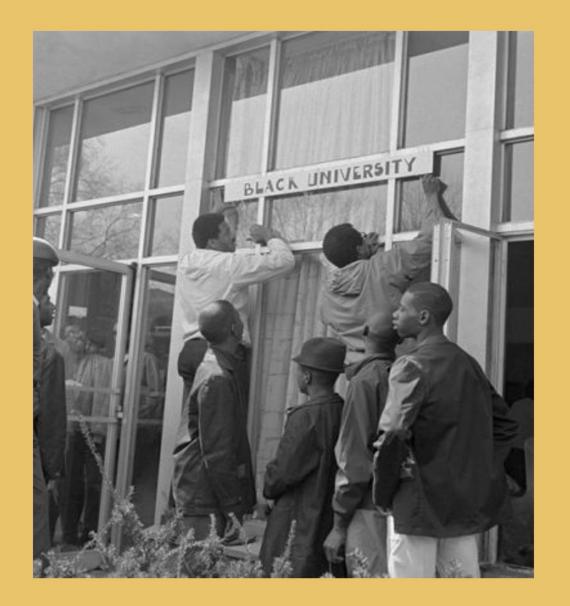
1968-2021: OUR FOUNDERS THE 1968 BSU STRIKERS, IN CONVERSATION

WITH AFRICANA STUDIES FACULTY TODAY

While in town from various locations to attend the October homegoing of fellow founder, Jerry Vernardo, members of the 1968 BSU who launched the strike that created Black Studies here at San Francisco State, which ultimately led to the creation of the College of Ethnic Studies, joined in conversation with Africana Studies faculty in a wonderfully engaging and sharing of aspirations then and now. The meeting was held in San Francisco at the Pentecostal Temple C.O.G.I.C, founded by the father of striker Benny Stewart, and where he and striker Sharon Jones –now an Africana Studies professor—grew up attending.

Howard University1968 Demand for A Black University

- In 1968, when Howard University students called for a Black university, they demanded a "university oriented to the reality" of the Black experience.
- The birth of the Department of Afro-American Studies is one of many creations tied to this demand. For nearly fifty years, following its birth and first courses, the Department has sat at the center of the "Mecca of Black Education" as a site of memory and contestation, intellectual work and community-building.
- A space where African ideas provide the foundation for the human understanding of reality.



Center For Black Deaf Studies

- The Center for Black Deaf Studies (CBDS) was established in 2020.
- The Center will operate as an outreach center for teaching and learning about the Black Deaf experience and provide easy access to a range of useful content resources.
- The BASL Project is supported by the Center.







Why a Center for Black Deaf Studies

- It is critical that Black deaf people identify, study research and document their history.
- Black/Africana departments need the research on Black Deaf historical actors, economic, social, economic and political and health issues that are unique to the Black Deaf community.
- The signed oral histories of Black Deaf social change agents and those who went to deaf schools will be housed at the Center.
- Ongoing research on Black ASL will be conducted and results available for research at the Center for Black Deaf Studies.

Black ASL Project

- The Center for Black Deaf Studies seeks to collect the signed oral histories of Black deaf attendees of early segregated Southern schools.
- It will preserve the history of the origins of Black ASL.
- The data collected will be available for research and ongoing publications.



Minor In Black Deaf Studies

- Supported by the Center for Black Deaf Studies, courses in the minor are:
- Black ASL
- Black Deaf People Studies
- Black Deaf History: 1818 1890
- Black Deaf Seminar
- Orature & Literature in the Black Deaf Community





Resources

- www.Gallaudet.edu
- https://www.history.com/news/san-francisco-state-studentstrike-black-studiesSource #3
- https://www.kqed.org/news/11830384/how-the-longeststudent-strike-in-u-s-history-created-ethnic-studies
- https://magazine.sfsu.edu/archive/archive/fall_08/strike.ht ml