

The blackgirlPOD Spring 2022 Virtual Academy Overview

- The spring course is offered weekly from the last week of **April until the first week of June**. Weekly sessions will run for 1 hour and will include a variation of interactive read aloud, direct instruction, small group discussion and cooperative group activities.
- Participants will gain access to a **digital community and weekly digital workbooks**. Digital community connects caregivers and girls worldwide and provides space for coordinated communication throughout the semesters. The Digital workbooks will serve as integrated reading curriculum designed to nurture academic vocabulary, knowledge of Black history, and strategies in self-reflection, close reading, research, and/or narrative, expository and persuasive writing, and presentation.
- We will have **1 picture book** to serve as our anchor text for each term. You may borrow this book from the library, utilize the recorded read aloud resources, or purchase the text through an online source. It will serve as a conduit for learning across the disciplines, and throughout our weekly sessions.
- The term will conclude with an **end-of-term symposium and marketplace** where participants will present what they've learned to a public audience of their peers and caregivers, and engage in a fundraising opportunity to support our partner schools and organizations, in Africa.
- All new students and their families are encouraged to attend **The blackgirlPOD Virtual Academy Orientation and Mixer** as entry into the term activities, and welcome into The blackgirlPOD community.

The blackgirlPOD Standards-Driven Curriculum and Instruction

The blackgirlPOD Online Academy's Curriculum and instruction are aligned to provide students with opportunities to nurture proficiency in Common Core Standards: Reading Informational Texts, Reading Literature, Speaking and Listening, and Writing (See below). Through an integrated reading curriculum, content and discussion are multidisciplinary and multimodal (including the arts, technology, and interactive performance). In other words, we seek to nurture students' academic potential, while also building community, cultivating social skills, and having fun.

Reading Informational Texts and Literature

- With prompting and support, ask and answer questions about key details in a text.
- Describe the connections between two individuals, events, ideas, or pieces of information in a text.
- Use the illustrations and details in a text to describe its key ideas.
- Ask and answer such questions as who, what, where, when, why, and how to demonstrate understanding of key details in a text.
- Describe how characters in a story respond to major events and challenges.
- Use information gained from illustrations and the words in a print or digital text to demonstrate understanding of its characters, setting, or plot.

Speaking and Listening

- Participate in collaborative conversations with diverse partners about topics and texts with peers and adults in small and larger groups.
 - o Follow agreed upon rules for discussion (e.g. gaining the floor in respectful ways, listening to others with care, speaking one at a time about the topics and texts under discussion).
 - o Build on others' talk in conversations by linking their comments to the remarks of others.
- Recount or describe key ideas or details from a text read aloud or information presented orally or through other media.
- Ask and answer questions about what a speaker says to clarify comprehension, gather additional information, or deepen understanding of a topic or issue
- Create audio recordings of stories or poems; add drawings or other visual displays to stories or recounts of experiences when appropriate to clarify ideas, thoughts, and feelings.

Writing

- Recall information from experiences or gather information from provided sources to answer a question.
- Express ideas, thoughts, feelings, or experiences through free writing (including poetry, short story, speeches, etc.), and/or picture stories

The blackgirlPOD Spring 2022 Course Offering

BGP 301	Upcycling Plastic for Environmental Change				
<p>This course provides students with an opportunity to explore the lives and legacies of Isatou Ceesay and the Recycling Women of the Gambia. The overall goal of this semester is to promote knowledge of plastic waste management and its influence of global warming, and design process for upcycling items to address issues problems for environmental change. The book selected will encourage skills in expository and persuasive writing, and nurture pride in being a part of a Diasporic community of other Black women and girls using innovation and social entrepreneurship as a vehicle for change.</p>					
<p>Books selected:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>One Plastic Bag: Isatou Ceesay and the Recycling Women of the Gambia</i> <p>Books are not required for purchase. Rental from the local library or viewing videorecorded read-alouds are options for engaging the course content.</p>					
					
<p>Digital workbooks will be provided in the course community of The blackgirlPOD website and also through the associated Google Classroom.</p>					
Course, Section	Students	Course Instructor	Meeting Dates	Time	Meeting Format
BGP 301 Section 1	K – 1 st graders	Dr. Heather Hill	Wednesday	5– 5:30pm	Online
BGP 301 Section 2	2 nd – 3 rd graders	Dr. Heather Hill	Wednesday	6 – 7pm	Online