The aim of the Griot Institute for Africana Studies spring 2015 series is to extend the conversation and narrative about the myriad significances, meanings, and cultural transformations available to America now that it has elected its first African American President. Particularly, we are interested in deliberating the symbolic, ideological, iconographic impacts on Americans’ conceptions of themselves as a people. For instance, in what ways has the United States been changed as a result of electing Obama: in terms of race relations, political progress, a newly emboldened conservatism, and other aspects of life in America in the twenty-first century?

Ta-Nehisi Coates
“Barack Obama, Ferguson, and Evidence of Things Unsaid”
Wednesday, Feb. 11, 7 p.m., Trout Auditorium
Ta-Nehisi Coates is one of the most original and perceptive voices in America — and one of our best writers. An Atlantic National Correspondent, Ta-Nehisi Coates has penned many influential articles. In 2012, he was awarded the Hillman Prize for Opinion and Analysis Journalism. In Fall 2014, Coates began a new position teaching at the School of Journalism at CUNY.

Charles Blow
“The Obamas, Race and Slights”
Wednesday, Feb. 25, 7 p.m., Trout Auditorium
Co-sponsored with Multicultural Student Services and the Department of Economics
Charles M. Blow is The New York Times’s visual Op-Ed columnist. His column appears in The Times on Saturday. Mr. Blow joined The New York Times in 1994 as a graphics editor and quickly became the paper’s graphics director, a position he held for nine years. His column is considered one of the most influential in the country.

Lisa Thompson
“Performances of Cultural Trauma: Black Theatre in the (Post-) Obama Era”
Wednesday, March 4, 7 p.m., Gallery Theatre
Lisa B. Thompson is a playwright and Associate Professor of African and African Diaspora Studies at the University of Texas at Austin. She is currently the Associate Director of the John L. Warfield Center for African and African American Studies. Thompson is the author of Beyond The Black Lady: Sexuality And The New African American Middle Class, and the play Single Black Female, a nominee for the 2004 LA Weekly Theatre Award for best comedy.

Percival Everett
Fiction Reading
Tuesday, March 17, 7 p.m., Bucknell Hall
A Conversation with Percival Everett
Wednesday, March 18, 7 p.m., Gallery Theatre
Both events co-sponsored with the Stadler Center for Poetry, Multicultural Student Services and the Department of English
Percival Everett is an American writer and Distinguished Professor of English at the University of Southern California. In 22 years, he has written 19 books, including a farcical Western, a savage satire of the publishing industry, a children’s story spoofing counting books, retellings of the Greek myths of Medea and Dionysus, and a philosophical tract narrated by a four year old.

Travis L. Gosa
Wednesday, March 25, 7 p.m., Gallery Theatre
Travis L. Gosa is Assistant Professor of Social Science at Cornell University. Since 2008, he has served on the advisory board of Cornell’s Kugelberg Hip Hop Collection, the largest archive on early hip hop culture in the United States. He teaches courses on hip hop culture, educational inequality, and African American families. Dr. Gosa received his Ph.D. in Sociology from The Johns Hopkins University in 2008.

Paloma McGregor
ENGLISH 290 Post-Obama Paradigms Digital Narrative Student Presentations
Wednesday, April 22, 7 p.m., Gallery Theatre
Paloma McGregor is a choreographer, writer and organizer living in Harlem. McGregor will be working with the Bucknell course associated with the series and taught by Prof. Anthony Stewart, with the assistance of Prof. Bob Gainer to help students produce digital stories in response to course content and lecture material.

www.bucknell.edu/Griot-Spring2015