

**EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY**  
**AFRI 1000 INTRODUCTION TO AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES**  
**Fall 2009**

**All Sections Meet: Monday, Wednesday and Friday**  
☐ # 002 BLAIR HALL ROOM 1103, 9:00-9:50AM  
☐# 003: BLAR HALL ROOM 2165, 12:00-12:50PM  
☐# 005: BLAR HALL ROOM 1103, 1:00-1:50PM

**INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Rosemary Onyango**  
**OFFICE: BLAIR HALL Room 3165**  
**Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 10:00-11:45AM;**  
**Other times by Appointment**  
**PHONE: 581-7114**  
**E-mail: raonyango@eiu.edu**

**Required Readings:**

Maulana Karenga. *Introduction to Black Studies*. Los Angeles, CA: University of Sankore Press, 2002.

Harriet Jacobs. *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl* Written by Herself. Townsend Press, 2004.

John Ernest. (ed.), *Running a Thousand Miles for Freedom: Or the Escape of William and Ellen Craft from Slavery*, 2000.

**Additional Readings:** Handouts provided by the instructor.

**Some Useful Websites:**

American Life Histories, <http://www.rs6.loc.gov/wpaintro/wpahome.html>

American Slave Narratives, <http://xroads.vriginia.edu>

The HistoryMakers: <http://www.thehistorymakers.com/>

**Recommended Readings**

Joe William Trotter, Jr., *The African-American Experience*. Boston; Houghton-Mifflin Co., 2001.

Manning Marable & Leith Mullings eds., *Let Nobody Turn Us A round: Voices of Resistance Reform, and Renewal: An African American Anthology*. Rowman & Littlefield, 2000. **Available at Booth Library.**

Mario Azevedo (ed.). *African Studies: A Survey of Africa and the African Diaspora*. Academic Press: Durham, NC. 1993.

**Course Description:** This course provides an introductory overview of African and African-American Studies as a vast area of intellectual inquiry. Weekly lectures and discussions will examine interdisciplinary scholarship concentrating on significant experiences of persons of African descent from multiple perspectives such as history, religion, politics, philosophy, psychology, economics, cultural and social institutions and creative production including literature and music. Emphasis will be placed on the connections of persons of African descent around the world, focusing on the experience of populations within Africa, the African Diaspora, and within the African-American community.

**Course Objectives:**

1. To introduce students to the interdisciplinary nature of African and African American Studies.
2. To enable students to develop a working knowledge of the key social, political, economic, and cultural developments that have given rise to the field of African and African American Studies.
3. To increase students' awareness and understanding of the experiences, contributions, and perspectives of persons of African descent across class, gender, nationality, religion, dimensions of age and ideological lines.
4. To aid in developing critical vocabulary for analyzing, researching and interpreting key historical and contemporary experiences of African Americans and people of African descent in shaping national, local and international developments across time.

**Course Requirements:** Class attendance and active classroom participation are essential. There will be attendance sign-in sheets for every class session. Excessive absences will lower your grades and jeopardize your overall performance. Please inform me if you need to be excused from class. Everyone is expected to complete assigned readings on time, and participate in giving presentations and discussions. Most importantly, we are expected create a courteous and intellectually stimulating learning environment in which we show respect for and appreciation of the rigors of academic culture.

**EXAMS AND SCORES:** All written assignments, critical response papers, a midterm, class presentation, research paper and regular attendance will be taken into account for the final grade. Written assignments and Critical response papers will be turned in on specified dates. A research paper will be due Dec. 4th. Midterm and Final Exams are from materials previously covered. The Final Exam will be cover be based on all material covered during the semester. You are expected to sit for each exam on the day and time it is offered. In case of an avoidable emergency, you must show documented proof of that emergency in order to be considered for a make-up exam. No make-up exams will be administered without documentation.

**WRITTEN ASSINMENTS AND EXAMS:**

You will two quizzes, which will be averaged in with critical response papers, Mid-term, research paper, attendance and participation. Quizzes will almost always be given within the first five minutes of class and completed within the next fifteen minutes.

**CRITICAL RESPONSE PAPERS:**

Each student is required to write two critique/critical response papers (1-3 pages) expressing the student's reaction to and analysis of the central ideas of specified readings.

**PRESENTATION OF READINGS:**

Each student is expected to sign up for readings and give a brief presentation of the main points of the assigned chapter and suggest relevant questions that can generate whole class discussion.

**RESEARCH PAPER:**

You will have an opportunity to choose a topic relevant from a given list, conduct research and write a final paper (7-10 pages). Your paper must be typed, well organized with all the requirements of an academic research paper (i.e. references, endnotes or footnotes, bibliography, and e.t.c).

**ACADEMIC HONESTY:**

Cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, and sharing work on assignments that is intended for individual completion is not allowed. Students found cheating on any portion/exam of this course will receive a zero grade for that portion/exam in addition to any disciplinary action that may be taken by the university. Please refer to Eastern Illinois University Academic Regulations at: [http://catalog.eiu.edu/content.php?catoid=16&navoid=372#acad\\_inte](http://catalog.eiu.edu/content.php?catoid=16&navoid=372#acad_inte)

**DISABILITIES STATEMENT**

Students with documented disabilities are encouraged to contact the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) if they wish to discuss any necessary academic accommodations.

**GRADING:**

Written Assignments (three)	100%
Critical Response Papers (two)	100%
Midterm Exam	100%
Class Participation (includes presentation and attendance)	100%
Research Paper	100%
Final Exam	100%

A final percentage will be determined as follows:

90%-100%	A
80%-89%	B
70%-79%	C
60%-69%	D
0%-59%	F

**TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE AND READINGS**

**NOTE: Reasonable changes may be made to this schedule as the semester proceeds.**

**PART I INTELLECTUAL FOUNDATIONS OF THE BLACK EXPERIENCE**

**WEEK 1: Introductions:**

**Aug. 24.** Who are we?

Course Overview

Overview: African Americans in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

Course Expectations

**Aug. 26.** Why African American Studies?

Discussion: Historical and contemporary issues that have shaped perceptions of African Americans

- Aug. 28.** Read Handout: James B. Stewart, “The Legacy of W.E.B. Dubois for Contemporary Black Studies,” from *Journal of Negro Education*, vol. 53, no. 3 (1984).
- WEEK 2:** **Aug. 31, Sept. 2 & 4 A Historical Account of Black Studies: Evolution and Intellectual Perspectives**
- Aug. 31.** Read: Karenga Chapter 1 Introduction, Meaning and Origins of the Discipline (p. 1-15).
- Sept. 2.** Read: Karenga Chapter 1 Relevance and Scope of the Discipline (p. 16-32).
- Sept. 4.** Read: Karenga Chapter 2 Development of the Discipline (p. 39-67)
- WEEK 3** **African Background to Black History**
- Sept. 7.** **Labor Day Observance/No Classes**
- Sept. 9.** Read: Karenga Chapter 3 Africa and the Origins of Humanity (p. 77-85)
- Sept. 11** Read: Karenga Chapter 3 African Civilizations Before European Slavery and Colonialism (p. 87-115).  
Discussion: What is Africa to you? Was Africa the birthplace of humanity? Is Africa central to the identity and outlook of Blacks in Western society? Why does Africa feature significantly in Black Studies?  
**Written Assignment 1 (Due Sept. 11)**

## **PART II THE MAKING OF THE BLACK DIASPORA: SLAVERY AND RACIAL OPPRESSION**

- WEEK 4** **Decline of African Societies**
- Sept. 14.** Read: Karenga Chapter 3 (p. 115-121)  
Discussion:
- Sept. 16.** Read. Karenga Chapter 4 Africans in America (p. 134-141)
- Sept. 18.** **Handout:** Azevedo Chapter 4-Legitimate Trade, Diplomacy and Slave Trade  
Video (Clips): AMISTAD  
Discussion: How did racial slavery impact the African continent and the socio-economic development of the West?
- WEEK 5** **Slavery and Slave Narratives**
- Sept. 21.** Jacobs: *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*
- Sept. 23.** Jacobs: *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl* Continue
- Sept. 25.** Handout “Slaves are Prohibited to Read and Write,” from Manning Marable & Leith Mullings eds., *Let Nobody Turn Us Around: Voices of Resistance, Reform, and Renewal*. Rowman & Littlefield, 2000.  
**CRITICAL RESPONSE PAPER 1: DUE (Sept. 25)**
- WEEK 6** **Slavery and Slave Narratives, Continue**
- Sept. 28.** Ernest, John. (ed.), *Running a Thousand Miles for Freedom: Or the Escape of William and Ellen Craft from Slavery*.
- Sept. 30.** *Running a Thousand Miles for Freedom*
- Oct. 2.** *Running a Thousand Miles for Freedom*

## **PART III BLACK VISIONS: RESISTANCE TO SLAVERY AND OPPRESSION**

### **WEEK 7      Slavery and Resistance**

**Sept. 28.**      Read: Karenga Chapter 4 on Various Kinds of Resistance (p. 145-158)

**Sept. 30.**      Read: Karenga Chapter 4 on Civil War, Reconstruction, the  
Great Migrations and role of Organizations (p.160-169).

**Oct.2.**      Read Handout: Takaki, Ronald. "To the Promised Land: Blacks in the Urban  
North from A different Mirror: A history of Multicultural America (p. 340-355).  
New York: Little Brown and Company, 1993.

**Written Assignment 2 Due (Oct. 2).**

### **WEEK 8      Black Nationalism**

**Oct. 5.**      Read: Karenga Chapter 4 (p. 169-182)

**Oct. 7.**      Read Karenga Chapter 4 Civil Rights & Citizenship (p. 183-201)

Video (Clips): Ida B. Wells: A Passion for Justice/All Power to the People

**Oct. 9.**      **Fall Break/No Classes**

### **WEEK 9      Global Black Power and its Role in Black Survival**

**Oct. 12.**      Video Clip: Black Power

Handout: Walter Rodney, "Black Power-Its Relevance To The West Indies, from  
Walter Rodney, *Groundings With My Brothers*. Bogle-L'Ouverture Publications,  
1969.

Discussion: What was the significance of Black Power to the black people outside  
the United States? In what ways have Africans and people of African descent  
viewed themselves as part of a larger world?

**MIDTERM EXAM REVIEW**

**Oct. 14.**      **MIDTERM EXAM**

**Oct. 16.**      Read: Karenga Chapter 4 (p.202-217) on Post-Sixties Through the Nineties.  
**Discussion and Guidelines for Research Paper**

### **WEEK 10      Black Religion and Spiritual Renewal**

**Oct. 19.**      Read: Karenga Chapter 5 (p. 233-261) African Religious Beliefs and Practices

**Oct. 21.**      Read: Karenga Chapter 5 (p. 262-274) on Christian Traditions

**Oct. 23.**      Read Karenga Chapter 5 (p. 276-285) on The Islamic Tradition

Video Clips: Say Amen Somebody/OR Sit Down and Listen

Discussion: How did black religious expression help to sustain hope and  
community? Asses the historical and contemporary role of African American  
religious Institutions

## **PART IV OTHER DIMENSIONS OF BLACK STUDIES**

### **WEEK 11      Black Sociology: Race Class, Political Economy**

**Oct. 28.**      Read: Karenga Chapter 6 (p.306-322)

**Oct. 30.**      Read: Karenga Chapter 6 (p. 323-340) on Relations

Handout: Dorothy Roberts: Dorothy Roberts, "Reproduction in Bondage," from  
Dorothy Roberts, *Killing The Black Body*. Vintage Books, 1997

Discussion: How Was the Fight to Preserve Family an Act of Resistance?  
**CRITICAL RESPONSE PAPER 2: DUE (Oct. 30).**

**WEEK 12 African American Politics**

- Nov. 2.** Read: Karenga Chapter 7 (p. 355-363)  
**Nov. 4.** Read: Karenga Chapter 7 (p. 364-385) on political process  
**Nov. 6.** Read: Karenga Chapter 7 (p. 386-405) on political alliances  
Discussion: New Visions in Black Politics

**WEEK 13 Black Economics**

- Nov. 9.** Read: Karenga Chapter 8 (p. 419-429)  
**Nov. 11.** Read: Karenga Chapter 8 (p. 432-452)  
**Nov. 13.** Read Handout: Azevedo Chapter 19 Contributions in Science, Film, and Sports (p. 351-368)  
**Written Assignment 3 Due (Nov. 13)**

**WEEK 14 NOV. 23-27: THANKSGIVING BREAK/NO CLASSES**

**WEEK 15 Black Creative Productions**

- Nov. 30.** Read: Karenga Chapter 9 (p. 463-472) on Black Art and Aesthetics  
**Dec. 2.** Read: Karenga Chapter 9 (p. 473-480) on Black Music  
**Dec. 4.** Read: Karenga Chapter 9 (p. 484-496) on Black Literature  
Video Clip: On Black Writers  
Discussion: What role has creative production played in the past and contemporary times?  
**RESEARCH PAPERS DUE Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>.**

**WEEK 16 Black Psychology and Gender Matters**

- Dec. 7.** Read: Karenga Chapter 10 (p. 505-523)  
**Dec. 9.** Read: Karenga Chapter 10 (p. 523-533)  
**Dec. 11.** Read Handout Azevedo Chapter 25-Lifting As We Rise: Black Women in America  
Discussion on the future of African American Studies  
**Dec. 11: Final Exam Review (LAST DAY OF CLASSES)**

**WEEK 17 Dec. 14 – 18: FINAL WRITTEN EXAMS WEEK**

- Section # 002: Tuesday, Dec. 15, 8:00-10:00AM**  
**Section #003: Wednesday, Dec. 16, 12:30-2:30PM**  
**Section #005: Tuesday, Dec. 16, 12:30-2:00PM**

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