

EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
African American Studies Program

Syllabus for
AFR1000G.001CRN# 92801 Introduction to African American Studies,
Fall 2009

Instructor: Klevor Abo, Ph. D.
Office: 1125 McAfee
Tel: (217) 581.5719
Email: kabo@eiu.edu

Class times: MWF 8:00-8:50AM
Classroom: 3103 Blair Hall
Office hours: MWF: 9:00-11:30AM
and by appointment

Course description

This introductory writing-intensive course seeks to examine the study of aspects of the historical, religious, political, socio-economic and psychological experiences of continental and diasporan Africans. While concentrating on the African American dimensions of the Black experience, the course will also explore the scientific, cultural, artistic and humanistic contributions of the Global African world.

The Global African world comprises the diasporas of the Middle Passage (i. e. descendants of enslaved Africans captured and sold to the Americas and beyond during the Arab and Atlantic slave trades) and the diasporas of colonialism (i. e. Black refugees and immigrants from Africa and the Caribbean as well as from other parts of the so-called Third World and elsewhere) settling in North America and Europe. The scientific, cultural and humanistic contributions of world significance by these Black communities will also be explored.

The inclusion, in a course on African American Studies, of material on the experiences of Black folk around the world derives its rationale from a recognition of the dialectical relationship between the experiences of people of African descent in the United States and their genetic and cultural “cousins” around the world. What happens to Black folk in the United States affects the destinies of Black population groups elsewhere and vice versa.

The course has been designed to meet Eastern Illinois University’s requirements for “responsible global citizenship through mindful scholarship,” the institution’s cardinal principle of General Education as laid out in its *Undergraduate Catalog*. Such education prepares its recipients for the world of work, for their political socio-cultural engagement with burning moral issues of today’s world as well as for their personal edification.

As a writing-intensive course, AFR1000G calls for the completion of writing assignments totaling a minimum of twenty thousand (20,000) words. Consequently most class work and assignments will be in form of different types of writing. The course also calls for an understanding and promotion of the values of cultural diversity and is intended to promote the development of students’ written and oral communication skills through the application of the protocols of critical and reflexive thinking. Class tests, a midterm examination, writing assignments, group and individual oral presentations will be designed to test students’ aptitude for “responsible global citizenship” and “mindful scholarship.”

Student learning objectives

It is expected that at the end of the course, students will be able to

- have a broad understanding of the challenges of studying the experiences of Black folk in the United States and beyond and their contributions to world civilization.
- establish connections between the life experiences of Africans and peoples of African descent and interactions with other ethnic groups.

These learning objectives will be tested through writing assignments as well as through group and individual oral/multi-media presentations. Guidelines for these assignments and presentations will be issued separately.

Students are **REQUIRED** to attend classes regularly and be adequately prepared to engage in class activities. This means that students should come to class having done assigned readings in order to participate in class discussions.

These learning objectives have been designed to prepare students desirous of pursuing the EIU Major/Minor in African American Studies. Upon graduation, EIU African American Studies Majors/Minors will be expected to develop

- critical thinking about, and intellectual appreciation of, Black life in the United States, the African continent and elsewhere in the African diaspora
- a clear understanding of the historical factors that have led to the emergence, growth and maturation of the field of African American Studies in the United States academy
- a awareness of the political, social and cultural contributions of Africans and people of African descent in the service of humanity
- proficiency in clear and critical written and oral communication about the field of Africana Studies

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.

Required Textbooks

Azevedo, Mario (Editor). *Africana Studies: a survey of Africa and the African Diaspora*. Durham, NC: Carolina Academic Press, 2005.

Ernest, John (Editor). *Running a Thousand Miles for Freedom, Or, the Escape of William and Ellen Craft from Slavery*. Acton, MA: Copley Publishing Group, 2000.

Jacobs, Harriet. *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl, written by herself*. New York, Oxford University Press, [1800] 1988

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

Evaluation of student learning

Grades will be assigned on the basis of points earned from the following.

First Exam	10%
Midterm examination	10%
Writing Assignments	30%
Attendance/class participation	20%
Final project	20%
Final Exam	<u>10%</u>
TOTAL	<u>100%</u>

Final grades will be calculated as follows:

A=90-100%; B=80-89; C=70=79%; D=60-69; F=59% and below.

Tentative Class Schedule

Liabile to Change

August 24: Introduction to Class. Video, *The Psychological Residuals of Slavery*
26: Video, *Africans in America: a terrible transformation*
28: Group Class Discussion/Activity (GCD/A) based on the week's study materials.

Week 2

August 31: Reading assignment due (RAD): Karenga, *Introduction to Black Studies*, v- 36
Sept. 2: Group class discussion (GCD): Karenga, v-36
4: GCD/A based on the week's readings

Week 3

September 7: RAD: Karenga, 39-73
9: GCD: ditto
11: GCD/A based on the week's readings

Week 4

September 14: RAD: Karenga, 77-126
16: GCD: ditto; Revision for First Exam
18: First Exam

Week 5

September 21: RAD: Karenga, 129-178
23: GCD: ditto
25: GCD/A based on the week's study materials.

Week 6

September 28: RAD: Karenga, 178-218
30: GCD ditto
October 2: GCD/A based on the week's study materials

Week 7

October 5: RAD: Karenga, 233-285
7: GCD ditto
9: GCD/A based on the week's study materials

Week 8

October 12: RAD: Karenga, 299-340
14: Revision for Mid-term exams
16: **Mid-term Exams**

Week 9

October 19: Karenga, 355-406
21: GCD ditto
23: GCD/A based on the week's study materials

Week 10

October 26: Karenga, 419-452
28: GCD ditto
30: GCD/A based on the week's study materials

Week 11

November 2: Karenga, 463-495
4: GCD ditto
6: GCD/A based on the week's study materials

Week 12

November 9: Karenga, 505-533
11: GCD ditto
13: GCD/A based on the week's study materials

Week 13

November 16: Karenga, 539-562
18: GCD ditto
20: GCD/A based on the week's study materials

Final project proposals due

Week 14

November 23-27 THANKSGIVING BREAK

Week 15

November 30: Final Project discussions
December 2: ditto
4: ditto

Week 16

December 7: Final Projects due. Oral presentations of Final Projects
9: ditto
11: Revision for Final Exams

FINAL EXAMINATIONS: THURSDAY DECEMBER 17TH, 8:00-10:00AM