

# African American Studies

Eastern Illinois University  
3165 Blair Hall

## AFR 2000.001– African American Experience

Meeting Times TR 8:00 am–9:15 am Blair Hall Rm 1103

Fall Semester 2009

**Instructor:** Sumalayo L. Jackson, MS

**Office:** 1411 Buzzard Hall

**Email:** sljackson@eiu.edu

**Office Hours:** T – 7:00-8:00 + 9:30-11:30

R - 9:30-11:30 Buzzard Hall 1411

Please call prior to visit

Other times prior arrangements w/instructor

**Phone:** 581-8519

### REQUIRED TEXTS:

- Akbar, Na'im. 1996. Breaking the Chains of Psychological Slavery. Tallahassee, FL: Mind Productions and Associates, Inc.
- Berry, Mary Frances and John W. Blassingame. 1982. Long Memory: The Black Experience in America. New York, NY: Oxford University Press.
- West, Cornell. 2001 Race Matters. New York, NY: Random House Inc, Vintage Books

### SCOPE AND OBJECTIVES:

**African American Experience** is an examination of black (African) thought, ideology and culture, as well as more analytical assessment of the institutional aspects of African-American life. In essence, this course studies the culture of people of African ancestry that reflects the totality of their way of life. **African American Experience** has evolved into something distinct, perhaps even something unique, despite the fact that there are significant individual differences between blacks and much overlap in the "life styles of both blacks and whites in this country." **African American Experience** proposes to examine the impact that European enslavement and racism have had on two fundamental components of black culture: The Black Family and Black Psychology, define as the psychological consequences of being of African ancestry in America.

### 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.

### COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

The course requires student participation. It is mandatory that **all** students attend class each scheduled instruction period. Students are expected to read all class material and to come to class prepared to discuss their reading with the professor and fellow students. Whenever possible, selected videos accompany the lectures.

Grades for this course will be based primarily on four performance categories:

### 1. Exam Scores

Two examinations: The Mid-term and the Final will constitute 100 points each, totaling 200 points of your final grade. Exams are non-commutative in the sense that each exam will focus primarily on the material learned since the previous exam. However, because research builds on previous knowledge, you should expect that each quiz, exam, and assignment will require your use of concepts learned in the earlier part of the course. All students are expected to sit for the exam at the day and time it is offered. Please do not assume that make-up exams exist. In the event of a bona fide emergency, a student may show proof of that emergency in order to be considered for a make-up exam.

### 2. Quizzes

You will have an undisclosed number of quizzes averaged, and used as points towards your final grade. There are no make-up quizzes. Quizzes will almost always be given within the first five minutes of class, and they will be completed ten or fewer minutes after they are given. You should therefore plan to arrive in class on time.

### 3. Research Paper and Oral Presentation

You will have the opportunity to choose a topic to research and write your final paper on. Your classroom presentation (3 minutes-beginning the week of **November 17, 2009**) should be informative, and should represent the oral component of your final research paper, a type-written, well organized, academic research paper (7-10 pages), with references, endnotes, footnotes, bibliography, ect. Papers are due on the date designated on the bottom of class schedule. Late papers are simply unacceptable, and will lower your grade. **Your research paper should have your complete name, class section number, day and time.**

### 4. Class Participation/Class Projects

You are expected to attend on a regular basis. Class participation is fundamental to integrated learning.

**Final evaluations are based on total points from the following performance categories:**

#### **GRADING POLICY**

Group Presentations/Projects/Assignments 5-25pts  
Mid-term Exam 50-100pts  
Final Exam 50-100pts  
Quizzes 10-20pts  
Final Paper 90pts  
Oral Presentation 10pts

#### **(EXAMPLE:) GRADING SCALE**

Grades are tabulated based on your percentage of the total possible points

90%	440-500	A
80%	380-439	B
70%	320-349	C
60%	260-319	D
BELOW	(60%) 260	F

#### **Expectations:**

1. Regular attendance and active classroom participation are essential.

2. Preparation of reading and writing assignments should be completed on time in order to fully participate in classroom discussions. Electronically submitted papers are unacceptable. It is your obligation to submit a hard copy of each written assignment.
3. Writing of all exams, the oral presentation, and final paper must be completed on time. All exams will include the information from assigned readings and video tapes, lectures, and assigned reading materials. No make-up exams allowed without prior notification of and approval by instructor, due only to emergency situations that are fully documented by the student.

## COURSE SCHEDULE AND READINGS

### WEEK 1

**Aug 25, 27**

First Day of Classes. Introduction to the course. Origins of discipline and description of course.

### WEEK 2

**Sep 1, 3**

Berry/Blassingame, Long Memory - Chap 1, pp. 3-20

Berry/Blassingame, Long Memory – Chapter 1, pp. 20

Berry/Blassingame, Long Memory \_ Chapter 2, pp. 33-69-32

### WEEK 3

**Sep 8, 10**

Akbar, Psychological Legacy of Slavery, pp.1-15

Akbar, Psychological Legacy of Slavery, pp.15-25

Akbar, Liberation from Mental Slavery, pp. 27-36

Akbar, Liberation from Mental Slavery, pp. 37-47

### WEEK 4

**Sep 15, 17**

Institution of Liberation and Mental Slavery (**Black Fraternities and Sororities**)

Historical significance/purpose – Present state and Future presence

Berry/Blassingame, Long Memory – Chapter 3, pp. 70-113

### WEEK 5

**Sep 22, 24**

Berry/Blassingame, Long Memory – Chapter 4, pp. 114-141

West, Race Matters

### WEEK 6

**Sep 29, Oct 1**

Berry/Blassingame, Long Memory – Chapter 5, pp. 142-194

### WEEK 7

**Oct**

**6, 8**

**Midterm Exam/Select Research Topics**

### WEEK 8

**Oct 13, 15**

Berry/Blassingame, Long Memory – Chapter 6, pp. 195-226

Berry/Blassingame, Long Memory – Chapter 7, pp. 227-260

### WEEK 9

**Oct 20, 22**

Berry/Blassingame, Long Memory- Chapter 8, pp. 261-294

### WEEK 10

**Oct 27, 29**

Berry/Blassingame, Long Memory – Chapter 9, pp. 295-341

**WEEK 11**

**Nov 3, 5**

Berry Blasingame, Long Memory- Chapter 10, pp. 342-387

**WEEK 12**

**Nov 10, 12**

Berry/Blasingame, Long Memory-Chapter 11, pp. 388- 423

**WEEK 13**

**Nov 17, 19**

Oral Presentations

**WEEK 14**

**Nov 24, 26**

Thanksgiving Break

**WEEK 15**

**Dec 1, 3**

Cornell West Reader (TBA)

Group Assignments

Research Papers due Dec 3, by 3:00 pm

Late papers count against your total evaluation (- 10pt)

**Papers submitted past Dec 3rd deadline will not be accepted  
without prior arrangements with instructor**

**WEEK 16**

**Dec 8, 10**

**Group Creative Presentations on African American Past, Present and Future**

*Family and Church, Sex and Racism, BGLO's, Chains of Psychological Slavery, Education,  
Blacks and Criminal Justice*

**Week 17**

**Dec 14**

Monday Final Exam 8-10 am

**Have a Wonderful Christmas and Happy New Year!!**