

African American Studies

Eastern Illinois University
3165 Blair Hall

AFR 2000.002– African American Experience

Meeting Times TH 3:30–4:45 Blair Hall Rm 1103
Spring Semester 2008

Instructor: Sumalayo L. Jackson, MS

Office: 3165 Blair Hall

Office Hours: MWF- 10-11:45 Blair Hall 3165

Phone: 581-5719

TH-9-10:45/ 1:30- 3:30 Buzzard Hall 1411

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 and African American Cultural Traditions 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 and African American culture, commonly referred to as "black lifestyle," 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 and African American Cultural Traditions propose 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.

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 (5-7 minutes-beginning the week of **April 15**) 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 last day of classes. Late papers are simply unacceptable, and will lower your grade.

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	Attendance and Class Participation
	Group Presentations
	Mid-term Exam
	Final Exam
	Quizzes
	Final Paper
	Oral Presentation

(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

Jan 8, 10

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

WEEK 2

Jan 15, 17

Berry/Blassingame, Long Memory – Chapter 1, pp. 3-32

WEEK 3

Jan 24, 26

Berry/Blassingame, Long Memory – Chapter 2, pp. 33-69

WEEK 4

Jan 29, 31

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

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

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

WEEK 5

Feb 5, 7

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

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

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

WEEK 6

Feb 12, 14

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

Akbar, Racial Religious Imagery and Psychological Confusion, pp. 49-56

WEEK 7

Feb 19, 21

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

Akbar, Racial Religious Imagery and Psychological Confusion, pp. 57-68

WEEK 8

Feb 26, 28

REVIEW AND MID-TERM EXAM

WEEK 9

Mar 4, 6

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

WEEK 10

Have a Happy and Safe Spring Break

WEEK 11

Mar 18, 20

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

WEEK 12

Mar 25, 27

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

WEEK 13

April 1, 3

Berry/Blassingame, Long Memory – Chapter 10, pp. 342-387

Cornell West Reading

WEEK 14

April 8, 10

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

Cornell West Reading

WEEK 15

April 15, 17

Cornell West Reading

Oral Presentations

WEEK 16

April 22, 24

Final Exam Review

Complete Presentations

FINAL EXAM

AFR 2000.002 – Thursday, May 1, 2008 - 12:30 pm – 2:30 pm

HAVE A WONDERFUL BREAK!!