

## **REVISED Course Syllabus**

**AFS 440-001**

### ***Senior Seminar in Africana Studies***

3 Credits

Fall, 2007 – 101 Winston Hall

Class Times = ARRANGED

**Prerequisite:** AFS 342 – *Introduction to the African Diaspora*

Instructor: Craig C. Brookins, Ph.D.

Office: 101A Winston Hall

Office Hours: M/W 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

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**Restrictions:** This course is restricted to **Africana Studies Majors**

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### **Course Description:**

This is the capstone course required for Africana Studies Majors. This course provides students with an in depth examination of key issues within Africana Studies. The content will build on many of the topics addressed in earlier Africana Studies courses and will include key problems and issues for the African continent as well as those that scholars have found of most interest for African America and in other parts of the world. The exploration of these topics will be conducted using interdisciplinary approaches that require students to understand and synthesize discipline-based information and produce a major written research project that critically analyzes a topic of their choice and attempts to go beyond simplistic or polemic discourses.

### **Basic Objectives**

- **Reading**
- **Writing**
- **Critiquing**
- **Expressing**
- **Teaching**

### **Student Learning Outcomes**

By the end of this course students will be able to:

- Identify the key topics, both historical and contemporary, that are relevant to the experiences of people in Africa and the African Diaspora.
- Explain how scholars and researchers use various disciplinary and interdisciplinary approaches to examine these key topics.
- Engage in scholarly discourse with peers and the instructor on literature and student generated topics.
- Critically evaluate popular and scholarly literature on the experiences of African people throughout the globe.
- Apply interdisciplinary methods to produce a major group presentation for an AFS course.

## Required Readings

- Bobo, J., Hudley, k C. and Michel, C. (2004). The Black Studies Reader. New York: Routledge. (ISBN: 0-415-94554-2) (\$30.00)
- Most recent issue of the Journal of Black Studies. ([www.lib.ncsu.edu](http://www.lib.ncsu.edu))
- Popular Web Sites (students will provide a weekly critique)
  - <http://Blackvoices.aol.com> (formerly Africana.com)
  - <http://blacknewsjunkie.com>
  - [www.get-black.com](http://www.get-black.com)
  - [www.afroroots.com](http://www.afroroots.com)
  - <http://www.thebwp.com/>
  - <http://blackamericaweb.com/>
  - <http://allafrica.com>

## Course Requirements:

1. All written assignments should be submitted on WebCT Vista (<http://vista.ncsu.edu>)
2. Student should **COME PREPARED TO EVERY CLASS** having read assigned readings and ready to discuss.
3. Provide an online weekly critique of black oriented websites using course materials and discussions. (*Use DISCUSSION section of WebCT Vista*)
4. Provide in-class presentation of class readings that include the following:
  - A summary and discussion of the KEY points in each chapter
  - A statement of why this topic is important to Africana Studies
  - An identification of at least ONE (1) external supplemental source (non-internet) that supplements the topics and readings
  - A critique of the readings from your own perspective and knowledge of Africana Studies or what Africana Studies should be.
  - At least 3 questions to propose to the class for discussion.
5. Provide a written critique of the latest issue of the Journal of Black Studies. (*See ASSIGNMENT section of WebCT Vista*)
6. Prepare a group presentation for an AFS class for the end of the semester.

## Grading

<i>Points</i>	<i>Assignment</i>
<b>16</b>	Class Attendance & Participation
<b>18</b>	Online weekly critique of black oriented websites
<b>24</b>	In-Class Chapter Presentations
<b>15</b>	Journal of Black Studies Critique
<b>15</b>	ASALH or Other External Event Participation and Write-Up
<b>30</b>	AFS Class Presentation
<b>117</b>	<b>Total Points</b>

As per University policy, +/- grades will be given for this course according to the criteria provided below. In general, however, the scale will be as follows:

<b>% of Points</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>% of Points</b>	<b>Grade</b>
100 - 96%	A+	79 - 76%	C+
95 - 92%	A	75 - 72%	C
91 - 90%	A-	71 - 70%	C-
89 - 86%	B+	69 - 66%	D+
85 - 82%	B	65 - 62%	D
81 - 80%	B-	61 - 60%	D-

### Course Policies

**Attendance:** Africana Studies values student attendance in courses and expects attendance in all courses from the very first day of class. One point is given for class attendance each week and an additional point is provided for student engagement and participation in the class. You will be allowed two unexcused absences without penalty. Students will lose both attendance and participation points for *all subsequent unexcused absences*. This policy is enforced even for students who register in the course late. If you miss the first or second day of a course, these absences will count in your overall total of absences.

**The only exceptions** to this policy will be for excused absences as defined by university regulations. Per university regulations excused absences include sanctioned anticipated Page 9 situations and documented emergency situations. Anticipated situations (participating in an official university function, court attendance, religious observances, or military duty) **must be submitted in writing at the beginning of the semester or within one week of the anticipated absence**. Emergency absences (student illness, injury or death of immediate family member) must also be documented by Parents and Family Services (5-2441). It is your responsibility to obtain the appropriate documentation for your professor on excused absences. If you have further questions on university regulations, consult the following web page:

[http://www.ncsu.edu/provost/academic\\_policies/attend/reg.htm](http://www.ncsu.edu/provost/academic_policies/attend/reg.htm).

**Academic Integrity:** Strict standards of academic honesty will be enforced according to the University policy on academic integrity. I expect that student's signature on any test or assignment means that you have neither given nor received unauthorized aid. Consult the following website for further details:

<http://www.fis.ncsu.edu/ncsulegal/41.03-codeof.htm>

**ADA Statement:** Reasonable accommodations will be made for students with verifiable disabilities. In order to take advantage of available accommodations, students must register with Disability Services for Students at 1900 Student Health Center, Campus Box 7509, 515-7653. For more information, see [http://www.ncsu.edu/provost/offices/affirm\\_action/dss/](http://www.ncsu.edu/provost/offices/affirm_action/dss/)  
For the policy, see:

[Http://www.ncsu.edu/policies/academic\\_affairs/courses\\_undergrad/REG02.20.1.php](http://www.ncsu.edu/policies/academic_affairs/courses_undergrad/REG02.20.1.php)

**Africana Studies Equity Statement:** All persons, regardless of age, race, religion, gender, physical disability or sexual orientation shall have equal opportunity without harassment in Africana Studies courses and programs. Any harassment should be reported immediately to either the classroom instructor or the program director.

### Schedule

<u>Week</u>	<u>In-Class Times</u>	<u>Assignments Due</u>	<u>Major Readings</u>
1	<b>Waived</b>		
2 August 30 <sup>th</sup>	<b>X</b>		
3 September 3 <sup>rd</sup>		Online Site Critique	
4 September 13 <sup>th</sup>	<b>X</b> <b>3:15 – 5:00 pm</b>	Online Site Critique	Bobo et. al.: Section A & B
5 September 17 <sup>th</sup>		Online Site Critique	
6 September 27 <sup>th</sup>	<b>X</b> <b>3:15 – 5:00 pm</b>	Online Site Critique	Bobo et. al.: Section C & D
7 October 1 <sup>st</sup>		Online Site Critique	
8 October 8 <sup>th</sup>	<i>(Fall Break)</i>	Online Site Critique	
9 October 18 <sup>th</sup>	<b>X</b> <b>3:15 – 5:00 pm</b>	<i>Presentation Outline</i>	Bobo et. al.: Section E & F
10 October 22 <sup>nd</sup>		Online Site Critique	
11 November 1 <sup>st</sup>	<b>X</b> <b>3:15 – 5:00 pm</b>	Online Site Critique	Bobo et. al.: Section G & H
12 November 15 <sup>th</sup>		Online Site Critique	
13 November 12 <sup>th</sup>	<b>X</b> <b>3:15 – 5:00 pm</b>	<i>Presentation Ready!</i>	
14 November 19 <sup>th</sup>			
15 November 26 <sup>th</sup>	<i>(Thanksgiving Break)</i>		
December 3 <sup>rd</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup>	<b>AFS Presentation</b>		