

**The Ohio State University**  
**Colleges of the Arts and Sciences Course Change Request**

African American and African Studies

Academic Unit

African American and African Studies

691 ~~291~~

Book 3 Listing (e.g., Portuguese)

Course Number

Summer Autumn  Winter Spring Year 2005

Proposed effective date, choose one quarter and put an "X" after it; and fill in the year. See the OAA curriculum manual for deadlines.

**A. Course Offerings Bulletin Information.** Follow instructions in the OAA curriculum manual. Before you fill out the "Present Course" information, be sure to check the latest edition of the *Course Offerings Bulletin* and subsequent Circulating Forms. You may find that the changes you need have already been made or that additional changes are needed. If the course offered is less than quarter or term, please also complete the Flexibly Scheduled/OffCampus/Workshop Request form.

**COMPLETE ALL ITEMS THIS COLUMN**

**Present Course**

1. Book 3 Listing: AfAm&Ast
2. Number: 691
3. Full Title: Black American Family
4. 18-Char. Transcript Title:
5. Level and Credit Hours UG 05
6. Description: History of the Black American Family; origins, myths, and realities  
(25 words or less)
7. Qtrs. Offered :
8. Distribution of Contact Time: 2 cl. 5 hr.  
(e.g., 3 cl, 1 3-hr lab)
9. Prerequisite(s): AAAS 101 or Permission of instructor
10. Exclusion:  
(Not open to...)
11. Repeatable to a maximum of ~~2~~ credits.
12. Off-Campus Field Experience: None
13. Cross-listed with: None
14. Is this a GEC course? ~~YES~~ NO
15. Grade option (circle): Ltr  S/U P  
If P graded, what is the last course in the series?
16. Is an honors version of this course available? NO
17. Other general course information:

**COMPLETE ONLY THOSE ITEMS THAT CHANGE**  
**Changes Requested**

- 1.
2. 291
3. The Black Family
- 4.
5. U 05
6. Study of culturally and structurally diverse forms of Black family life through historical times and geographic space
- 7.
- 8.
9. None
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.

**B. General Information**

**RECEIVED**

~~DEC~~ DEC 04 2004  
*Jan*  
**ASC CURRICULUM**

1. Do you want the prerequisites enforced electronically (see the OAA manual for what can be enforced)?  
NO

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2. Does this course currently satisfy any GEC requirement, if so indicate which category?  
YES

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3. What other units require this course? Have these changes been discussed with those units?  
NONE

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4. Have these changes been discussed with academic units that might have a jurisdictional interest in the subject matter? Attach relevant letters.  
NO

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5. Is the request contingent upon other requests, if so, list the requests?  
NO

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6. Purpose of the proposed change. (If the proposed change affects the content of the course, attach a revised syllabus and course objectives.)  
Proposed changes will: 1) make course only for undergraduate students and 2) broaden scope to cover Africa and the Black Diaspora.

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7. Describe any changes in library, equipment or other teaching aids needed as a result of the proposed change.  
None

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8. If the proposed change involves budgetary adjustments, describe the method of funding:  
None

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**Approval Process** The signatures or actions on the lines in ALL CAPS (e.g. ACADEMIC UNIT) are required.

<i>Paulette Pierce</i>	Paulette Pierce	1/6/05
1. Academic Unit Undergraduate Studies Committee Chair	Printed Name	Date

<i>Kenneth W. Goings</i>	Kenneth W. Goings	1/6/05
2. Academic Unit Graduate Studies Committee Chair	Printed Name	Date
<i>Kenneth W. Goings</i>	Kenneth W. Goings	1/6/05
3. ACADEMIC UNIT CHAIR/DIRECTOR	Printed Name	Date

4. AFTER THE ACADEMIC UNIT CHAIR/DIRECTOR SIGNS THE REQUEST, FORWARD IT TO THE COLLEGES OF THE ARTS AND SCIENCES CURRICULUM OFFICE, 161 DENNEY HALL, 164 WEST 17TH AVENUE. THE ASC CURRICULUM OFFICE WILL FORWARD THE REQUEST TO THE APPROPRIATE COLLEGE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE.

<i>Steven Fink</i>	STEVEN FINK	2-3-05
5. COLLEGE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE	Printed Name	Date

6. ARTS AND SCIENCES EXECUTIVE DEAN	Printed Name	Date
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7. Graduate School (if appropriate)	Printed Name	Date
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8. University Honors Center (if appropriate)	Printed Name	Date
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9. Office of International Affairs (study tours only)	Printed Name	Date
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10. ACADEMIC AFFAIRS	Printed Name	Date
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## AFRICAN AMERICAN AND AFRICAN STUDIES 291

### THE BLACK FAMILY

#### Course Description

This course offers an introduction to the Black family in the United States, Africa and the European Diaspora. Black families are remarkably diverse--notwithstanding the monolithic image of *the female-headed/matriarchal Black family*. This course will examine the structural and cultural differences characteristic of the Black family and explore how these variations are related to geographic location and socio-historical context. Utilizing sociological analysis, ethnography, autobiography and fiction, the course seeks to introduce students to alternative scholarly and creative approaches available to understand the complex and challenging realities of the Black family. We begin our study in U.S. with the transformation of family life among enslaved Africans and extend up to the present growth of middle class Black families along side the dissolution of inner city families. Then we turn our focus to the Black family as it struggles to adapt to conditions in postcolonial Africa and the rigors of immigrant life in Europe and America today.

#### Learning Objectives

- To introduce students to the academic study of Black family life
- To acquaint students with the structural and cultural diversity of the Black family in the U.S., Africa and Black Diaspora dependent upon time and place
- To help students better understand the powerful links between private/family life and public life—structural forces beyond individual control
- To analyze the possibilities and problems of using fiction and/or autobiography to generalize about groups of people or institutions

#### Required Text

Donna L. Franklin, Ensuring Inequality: The Structural Transformation of the African American Family, Oxford University Press, 1997

Beverly Daniel Tatum, Assimilation Blues: Black Families in a White Community, 2000

Asha Bandele, The Prisoner's Wife: A Memoir, Washington Square Press, 1999

Berida Ndamambuki & Claire Robertson, We Only Come Here to Struggle: Stories From Berida's Life, Indiana University Press, 2000

Buchi Emecheta, Second Class Citizen, 1975

## Course Requirements

-Attendance is mandatory. Students are allowed two unexcused absences but will lose 2 percentage points off their course grade from any additional unexcused absences.

-Midterm and Final Essay Examination (30 percent each)

-Family Project/Research Paper (30 percent)

-Class Presentation of Family Project (10 percent)

Students will have a chance to creatively apply the ideas covered in the course in a 5 to 6 page typed essay. In this paper students can decide to use a) their own family history, b) interview members from another family willing to share detail information or c) narratives of family life drawn from biography or fiction to analyze one of the following topics:

- 1) How did migration change the family's structure (size, roles, power relations, residential patterns, etc.) and cultural patterns and identity?
- 2) To what degree does class (access to economic resources) determine the structure and content of Black family life?
- 3) What role(s) do women play in the family? How and to what extent do women exercise power within the family?

## University Policies

### Academic Misconduct

It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct.

The terms "academic misconduct" includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 33356-487). For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct ([http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/info\\_for\\_students/csc.asp](http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/info_for_students/csc.asp)).

### Disability Services

Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office of Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated, and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. The Office of Disability Services is located in 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue; telephone 292-3307, TDD 292-0901; <http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/>.

*is illustrated by, but not limited to*

## Course Schedule

- Week I** Forging an African American Family in the Crucible of Slavery  
Franklin, Introduction and chapter 1
- Week II** To Begin Again—The Black Family in Freedom  
Franklin, chapters 2 & 3
- Week III** Northern Migration—Black Families in Industrial America  
Franklin, chapters 4 & 5
- Week IV** Black Bourgeois Blues  
Tatum, chapters 1, 2, 5 & 6
- Week V** Inner City/Prison Blues  
Bandebe, entire book
- Week VI** **MIDTERM**  
African Patriarchy: Submission *and* Resistance  
Ndambuki & Robertson, pp. xi-55
- Week VII** Urbanization and the African Family  
Ndambuki & Robertson, pp. 56-116
- Week VIII** There're Ain't No Black in the Union Jack  
Emecheta, chapters 1-7
- Week IX** An African Woman Re-imagines the Family  
Emecheta, chapters 8 - 13
- Week X** Class Presentations. **PAPERS DUE**
- Week XI** **FINAL**