



Department of African American
and African Studies

486 University Hall
230 North Oval Mall
Columbus, OH 43210-1319

Phone 614-292-3700
Fax 614-292-2293
www.aaas.ohio-state.edu

December 27, 2004

Dear Curricula Committee:

Last year, AAAS began the process of eliminating 600-level courses in order to resolve the persistent heuristic difficulties that arise from mixing our undergraduate and graduate students together in one course. Faculty members complained that the often large differences in background knowledge, academic skills and expectations between the students create almost insoluble problems: The painful choice was either to “dumb down” the course and do a disservice to graduate students or teach at the graduate level and thereby alienate the undergraduates. Therefore, for courses such as AAAS 690 and 691 which appeal to both, the faculty voted to create undergraduate and graduate versions.

Attached you will find requests to reduce the numbers and change the titles AAAS 690 and 691. New syllabi for the proposed undergraduate versions of these courses describe level appropriate goals and requirements and a broader scope including Africa and the Black Diaspora as well as the U.S. This last change is in response to the rapid emergence of a neo-African Diaspora in the U.S. in recent years i.e., the Somalian community in Columbus. Through such curricula changes and recent hires, our department intends to position itself with top programs across the country, i.e., UC Berkeley, that are the leaders in this new “hot” subfield devoted to global transformations of the Black Diaspora and its relationship to established Black communities. The Graduate Committee will prepare the graduate-level 690 and 691 courses which will include appropriate theoretical and research components.

Finally, in discussions with Dean Adelson last year, he advised us that we were the only department in the College of Humanities with a 100-level introductory. He suggested we change this in order 1) to be aligned with the general COH model/practice and, 2) to make it possible for our undergraduates to count the course towards the required hours for majors and minors. The faculty strongly approved this recommendation and instructed the Undergraduate Committee to submit the necessary paperwork to change AAAS 101 to a 200-level—keeping the current title, Introduction to African American and African Studies.

Please contact me if you desire additional information and/or explanation regarding the above requests.

Sincerely,

Paulette Pierce

Chair, Undergraduate Studies



Department of African-American
and African Studies

486 University Hall
230 North Oval Mall
Columbus, OH 43210-1319
Phone 614-292-3700
FAX 614-292-2293

October 15, 2003.

The Curriculum Committee
Colleges of Arts and Science
The Ohio State University
CAMPUS

Dear Colleagues,

RE: CURRICULUM REVIEW

During the academic year 2002-2003, the Department of African American and African Studies undertook a major revision of its graduate studies curriculum. Now in its final stages and scheduled to begin implementation in the academic year 2004-2005, the initiative was in response to an External Review Report on the Department as a whole and to some of the recommendations of The Ohio State University's *Graduate Quality of University Experience (G-QUE) Report* of 2001. One of the principles guiding the exercise has been how best to make use of our faculty resources to best prepare our students to enter into their chosen careers with up-to-date and cutting edge knowledge, and to provide them with a more coordinated interdisciplinary experience.

The key elements of the new curriculum include the following:

1. An expanded and strengthened academic core with five required courses:
2. Creation of a new concentration on "Comparative Diaspora Studies"
3. As a result of 1 and 2, creation of several new courses
4. Revision of existing courses, including upgrading some and downgrading others.

Submitted herewith are several requests for new courses and course changes for your approval. We will be making more of similar requests in the days to come. We request your indulgence, patience and support in this process to ensure that our revised curriculum will be ready for implementation by the projected time, beginning in the Autumn Quarter of 2004.

Yours sincerely,

Alamin Mazrui
Chair, Graduate Studies Committee.

To: pierce.1@osu.edu, goings.14@osu.edu, fyle.1@osu.edu
Subject: Recent AAAS curricular changes
Cc: fink.5@osu.edu, lowry.40@osu.edu, adelson.3@osu.edu, Debbie Hanlin
<hanlin.3@osu.edu>

Dr. Pierce, Dr. Goings, Dr. Fyle:

I am writing to inform you of the current action the Humanities Curriculum Committee has taken on your recent curricular submissions. That information is listed below. In addition, we recently received a course change form for African-American and African Studies 630 (changing to 730 and becoming a graduate course).

Due to these recent changes, Associate Executive Dean Ed Adelson has asked me to inform you that these courses and any other changes that we receive will not be approved by Arts and Sciences until a full proposal and remaining course changes and new courses that are part of the overhaul of the curriculum have been received. It has come to our attention that the Office of Academic Affairs will not process a substantial number of course requests without a fully articulated proposal to modify the curriculum.

You may feel free to modify the courses below to meet the request of the Humanities Curriculum Committee. The committee has approved most of these courses contingent on a few items. Once the modifications have been made, the ASC Curriculum Office will hold these requests on behalf of Arts and Sciences until the proposal to modify the curriculum is received. At that time, the proposal will be vetted by the Humanities Curriculum Committee.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Best,
Jennifer

African-American and African Studies 691, course change request
Change to number, title, level, prerequisites, and description

Approved, contingent on adding date and time of the final exam, inserting instructor contact information, separating the course requirements (clarifying the midterm and final exam), and cleaning up the grammatical issues

African-American and African Studies 690, course change request
Change to number, title, level, prerequisites, and description

Approved, contingent on including instructor contact information on the syllabus

African-American and African Studies 101, course change request
Change to number and description

Approved

African-American and African Studies 705.03, new course request
Graduate Seminar in West African Society and Culture
African-American and African Studies 705.04, new course request