

## Term Information

Effective Term Spring 2019

## General Information

Course Bulletin Listing/Subject Area African American & African Std  
Fiscal Unit/Academic Org African-Amer & African Studies - D0502  
College/Academic Group Arts and Sciences  
Level/Career Undergraduate  
Course Number/Catalog 4610  
Course Title African Americans and the Law  
Transcript Abbreviation Af Ams and the Law  
Course Description This is an interdisciplinary course that puts major legal cases affecting African Americans into conversation with their historical underpinnings, as well as the social contexts and how those contexts manifest in African American cultural productions. A central goal of the course is to interrogate the idea of a "colorblind" justice system.  
Semester Credit Hours/Units Fixed: 3

## Offering Information

Length Of Course 14 Week, 12 Week, 8 Week, 7 Week, 6 Week, 4 Week  
Flexibly Scheduled Course Sometimes  
Does any section of this course have a distance education component? No  
Grading Basis Letter Grade  
Repeatable No  
Course Components Lecture  
Grade Roster Component Lecture  
Credit Available by Exam No  
Admission Condition Course No  
Off Campus Never  
Campus of Offering Columbus, Mansfield, Newark

## Prerequisites and Exclusions

Prerequisites/Corequisites  
Exclusions  
Electronically Enforced No

## Cross-Listings

Cross-Listings

## Subject/CIP Code

Subject/CIP Code 05.0201  
Subsidy Level Baccalaureate Course  
Intended Rank Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior

## Requirement/Elective Designation

The course is an elective (for this or other units) or is a service course for other units

## Course Details

### Course goals or learning objectives/outcomes

- To consider the centrality of African American citizenship to the US legal system
- To think about why so many of the “landmark” legal cases deal with racial discrimination and inequalities, yet this nation touts a colorblind justice system
- To analyze legal cases in their historical, political, and social context
- To consider the contemporary social, political, and cultural legacies of landmark civil rights case law
- To hone critical reading skills
- To develop rhetorical writing skills and gain exposure to various types of writing

### Content Topic List

- consider the ways in which the law influences or dictates African American social experiences and cultural productions
- consider how African Americans’ social experiences and political agency, in various forms, influences the legal system

### Sought Concurrence

Yes

## Attachments

- AAAS\_4610\_AfricanAmericansAndTheLaw.pdf: Syllabus  
*(Syllabus. Owner: Skinner,Ryan Thomas)*
- 4610\_Concurrence\_PoliticalScience.pdf: Political Science  
*(Concurrence. Owner: Skinner,Ryan Thomas)*
- 4610\_Concurrence\_History.pdf: History  
*(Concurrence. Owner: Skinner,Ryan Thomas)*
- 4610\_Concurrence\_Sociology.pdf: Sociology  
*(Concurrence. Owner: Skinner,Ryan Thomas)*

## Comments

## Workflow Information

Status	User(s)	Date/Time	Step
Submitted	Skinner,Ryan Thomas	05/17/2018 08:21 PM	Submitted for Approval
Approved	Skinner,Ryan Thomas	05/17/2018 08:21 PM	Unit Approval
Approved	Heysel,Garett Robert	05/19/2018 05:46 AM	College Approval
Pending Approval	Nolen,Dawn Vankeerbergen,Bernadette Chantal Oldroyd,Shelby Quinn Hanlin,Deborah Kay Jenkins,Mary Ellen Bigler	05/19/2018 05:46 AM	ASCCAO Approval

**The Ohio State University**  
**Department of African American & African Studies**

**AFAMAST 4610: African Americans and the Law**

Class Meeting Days:

Instructor:

Office Location:

Email:

Office Hours:

**Course Description**

This is an interdisciplinary course that puts major legal cases affecting African Americans into conversation with their historical underpinnings, as well as the social contexts and how those contexts manifest in African American cultural productions. A central goal of the course is to interrogate the idea of a “colorblind” justice system. The classroom lectures, discussions, and assignments will call upon students to consider the ways in which the law influences or dictates African American social experiences and cultural productions and, conversely, we will also consider how African Americans’ social experiences and political agency, in various forms, influences the legal system.

**Course Objectives**

- To consider the centrality of African American citizenship to the US legal system.
- To think about why so many of the “landmark” legal cases deal with racial discrimination and inequalities, yet this nation touts a colorblind justice system.
- To analyze legal cases in their historical, political, and social context.
- To consider the contemporary social, political, and cultural legacies of landmark civil rights case law.
- To hone critical reading skills.
- To develop rhetorical writing skills and gain exposure to various types of writing.

**Required Texts**

Ralph Banks, *Is Marriage for White People?*

Tanisha Ford, *Liberated Threads: Black Women, Style, and the Global Politics of Soul*  
David Roediger, *How Race Survived US History: From Settlement and Slavery to the Obama Phenomenon*

Rhonda Y. Williams, *The Politics of Public Housing: Black Women's Struggles Against Urban Inequality*

All other reading and viewing material will be available electronically, either on Carmen (supplemental reading) or the Digital Media Services website for streaming (viewing) or on the internet (case law and legislation).

### **Assignments**

- 15% Participation
- 20% Paper 1: Legal Case Analysis
- 25% Paper 2: Contextual Paper
- 25% Paper 3: Contemporary Issue Paper
- 15% Multimedia Presentation

**\*Books are available at the OSU Student Book Exchange at 1806 N. High St.**

*Participation:* Regular and robust participation is expected. Regular attendance is required. Absences, other than documented excused absences (bereavement, hospitalization, contagious illness, or severe injuries) will adversely affect your final grade for the course.

The course assignments are designed to allow you to work across disciplines and produce written and creative work that is situated in law, history, social and cultural analysis, and the digital arts.

*Legal Case Analysis:* This short paper (2-3 pages) is formulaic and should address the following:

- Facts of the case (identify the case name and the parties, summarize what happened factually and procedurally, as well as the judgment)
- Identify the issue(s)
- The Holding (judgment)
- The rationale for how the rule of law was applied
- Dissent (only if it is noteworthy)

*Contextual Paper:* This paper requires you to select a legal case studied in class and to provide historical, political, and social context for understanding the exigence for the case, as well as the implications of the holding. You will use scholarly and reference sources to complete this assignment. (6-8 pages)

*Contemporary Issues Paper:* This is an analytical paper that explores the ways in which a historical case studied in class has contemporary social and political relevance. Paper topics must be approved by the instructor. (4-6 pages)

*Multimedia Presentation:* This assignment requires creativity and imagination. You will select a specific legal case and develop a digital time capsule that begins with the case (and any relevant history, issues, etc. pre-dating the case) and charts the various ways in which the aftermath of the case has influenced history, culture, politics, and the social lives of African Americans and the nation at large. There is generous creative license with these projects, but students must submit an outline of the proposed design and attend a conference with the instructor prior to beginning the project.

\*Papers should adhere to the following format: one-inch margins, Chicago style for citations, title, no white space other than margins, and NO cover pages.

### **OSU Standard Grade Scheme**

93 - 100 (A)

90 - 92.9 (A-)

87 - 89.9 (B+)

83 - 86.9 (B)

80 - 82.9 (B-)

77 - 79.9 (C+)

73 - 76.9 (C)

70 - 72.9 (C-)

67 - 69.9 (D+)

60 - 66.9 (D)

Below 60 (E)

## **Disability Services**

**The University strives to make all learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience academic barriers based on your disability (including mental health, chronic or temporary medical conditions), please let me know immediately so that we can privately discuss options. To establish reasonable accommodations, I may request that you register with Student Life Disability Services. After registration, make arrangements with me as soon as possible to discuss your accommodations so that they may be implemented in a timely fashion. SLDS contact information: [slds@osu.edu](mailto:slds@osu.edu); 614-292-3307; [slds.osu.edu](http://slds.osu.edu); 098 Baker Hall, 113 W. 12th Avenue.**

### **Policy on 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 term “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 3335-5-487). For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct <http://studentlife.osu.edu/csc/>.

### **University Statement on Mental Health**

As a student you may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to learning, such as strained relationships, increased anxiety, alcohol/drug problems, feeling down, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. These mental health concerns or stressful events may lead to diminished academic performance or reduce a student’s ability to participate in daily activities. The Ohio State University offers services to assist you with addressing these and other concerns you may be experiencing. If you or someone you know are suffering from any of the aforementioned conditions, you can learn more about the broad range of confidential mental health services available on campus via the Office of Student Life’s Counseling and Consultation Service (CCS) by visiting [ccs.osu.edu](http://ccs.osu.edu) or calling 614--292--5766. CCS is located on the 4th Floor of the Younkin Success Center and 10th Floor of Lincoln Tower. You can reach an on call counselor when CCS is closed at 614--292--5766 and 24 hour emergency help is also available

through the 24/7 National Suicide Prevention Hotline at 1--800--273-TALK or at [suicidepreventionlifeline.org](http://suicidepreventionlifeline.org).

## SCHEDULE

### Week One

Introduction: What is “colorblind justice?”

In-class writing assignment

### Week Two

Roediger, Chapter 1

*Somerset v. Stuart*

[http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/pathways/blackhistory/rights/slave\\_free.htm](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/pathways/blackhistory/rights/slave_free.htm)

Victor Sejour, “The Mulatto”

### Week Three

Roediger, Chapter 2

*Dred Scott v. Sandford* (C-SPAN Landmark Cases: <http://landmarkcases.c-span.org/>)

Quentin Tarratino, *Django* (view at: [drm.osu.edu](http://drm.osu.edu))

David Walker, “David Walker’s Appeal in Four Articles” <http://docsouth.unc.edu/nc/walker/menu.html>

### Week Four

Roediger, Chapter 3-4

*The Slaughterhouse Cases* (C-SPAN Landmark Cases: <http://landmarkcases.c-span.org/>)

1866 Civil Rights Act

14<sup>th</sup> Amendment

*Plessey v. Ferguson*

### Week Five

Cheryl Harris, “Whiteness as Property”

Ian Haney Lopez, Haney-Lopez, Ian F. "Social Construction of Race: Some Observations on Illusion, Fabrication, and Choice, The." *Harvard Civil Rights-Civil Liberties Law Review* 29 (1994): 1.

Patricia J. Williams, “The Emperor’s New Clothes” in *Seeing a ColorBlind Future: The Paradox of Race*

Lani Guinier, “From Racial Profiling to Racial Literacy”

### **Week Six**

Ida B. Wells, *A Red Record*

Roediger, Chapter 5

*United States v. Carolene Products* (1938)

### **Week Seven**

*Shelley v. Kraemer*

Civil Rights Act of 1968/Fair Housing Act

Lorraine Hansberry, *A Raisin in the Sun*

Rhonda Y. Williams, *The Politics of Public Housing: Black Women's Struggles Against Urban Inequality*

### **Week Eight**

Roediger, Chapter 6

*Brown v. Board of Education* (C-SPAN Landmark Cases: <http://landmarkcases.c-span.org/>)

*Méndez v. Westminster*

*Brown II*

Sam Cooke, “A Change Is Gonna Come” (music)

Nina Simone, “Mississippi Goddam” (music)

### **Week Nine**

*Heart of Atlanta Motel, Inc. v. United States* (1964)

Civil Rights Act of 1964

Tanisha Ford, *Liberated Threads: Black Women, Style, and the Global Politics of Soul*

### **Week Ten**

Ava Duvernay, *Selma* (view at: [drm.osu.edu](http://drm.osu.edu))

Brooklyn Museum of Art, “Witness: Art and Civil Rights in the Sixties”

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/02/12/civil-rights-art\\_n\\_4769268.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/02/12/civil-rights-art_n_4769268.html)



### **Week Eleven**

*Mapp v. Ohio* (1961) (C-SPAN Landmark Cases: <http://landmarkcases.c-span.org/>)

*Terry V. Ohio*

*Whren v. United States*

Frank Rudy Cooper, "Who's the Man-Masculinties Studies, Terry Stops, and Police Training."

*ColUM. J. genDer & l.* 18 (2008): 671.

Jay-Z, "99 Problems"

### **Week Twelve**

*Baker v. Carr* (1962) (C-SPAN Landmark Cases: <http://landmarkcases.c-span.org/>)

Voters Right Act of 1965

Blacksher, James, and Lani Guinier. "Free at Last: Rejecting Equal Sovereignty and Restoring the Constitutional Right To Vote Shelby County v. Holder." *Harv. L. & Pol'y Rev.* 8 (2014): 39.

Malcolm X, "The Ballot or the Bullet"

William Julius Wilson, *The Declining Significance of Race* (Chap. 6-7)

### **Week Thirteen**

*Loving v. Virginia* (1967)

Documentary

Ralph Banks, *Is Marriage for White People?*

### **Week Fourteen**

No class—Thanksgiving Break

### **Week Fifteen**

Multimedia Presentations

### **Week Sixteen**

Multimedia Presentations

**Fwd: Concurrent Request: AAAS 4610, "African Americans and the Law"**

Herrmann, Richard

**Sent:** Monday, May 07, 2018 1:59 PM**To:** Skinner, Ryan**Attachments:** AAAS\_2275\_BlacknessAndTheP~1.pdf (31 KB) ; AAAS 4610\_Syllabus.pdf (150 KB)

Dear Ryan,

These both appear to be interesting courses that add to Ohio State's curriculum. The Department of Political Science concurs with your proposal to establish 4610 African Americans and the Law and with your proposal to establish 2275 Blackness and the Politics of Sport.

Sincerely,

Rick Herrmann

**Richard K. Herrmann**

Arts and Sciences Distinguished Professor of Political Science and Chair

**Department of Political Science**

2140 Derby Hall, 154 N. Oval Mall, Columbus, OH 43210

614-292-9843 Office

[herrmann.1@osu.edu](mailto:herrmann.1@osu.edu) [osu.edu](http://osu.edu)

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Smith, Charles William" <[smith.3280@polisci.osu.edu](mailto:smith.3280@polisci.osu.edu)>**Subject:** FW: Concurrent Request: AAAS 4610, "African Americans and the Law"**Date:** May 2, 2018 at 11:05:45 AM EDT**To:** "Herrmann, Richard" <[herrmann.1@osu.edu](mailto:herrmann.1@osu.edu)>**Cc:** "Mitzen, Jennifer" <[mitzen.1@polisci.osu.edu](mailto:mitzen.1@polisci.osu.edu)>

Dear Rick and Jennifer,

African American and African Studies has sent concurrence requests to Political Science for two proposed courses, African Americans and the Law and Blackness and the Politics of Sports. Attached are the syllabi for these courses.

When you have a moment, would you please look them over. I don't see any reason to object to either. The 4610 class on African Americans and the Law would be a good addition to the list of courses for the Legal Foundations Minors.

AAAS will get some flack from EHE over their Blackness and the Politics of Sports (ask Marcus about his interactions w/ them for his politics of sports course).

Charles



**Charles Smith**

Coordinating Advisor

**Department of Political Science**

2140B Derby Hall, 154 N. Oval Mall, Columbus, OH 43210

614-292-1484 Office / 614-292-1146 Fax

[smith.3280@osu.edu](mailto:smith.3280@osu.edu) [osu.edu](http://osu.edu)

To schedule an appointment, please call 614-292-6961

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**From:** Skinner, Ryan

**Sent:** Thursday, April 26, 2018 12:42 PM

**To:** Smith, Charles William <[smith.3280@polisci.osu.edu](mailto:smith.3280@polisci.osu.edu)>

**Cc:** Drake, Simone <[drake.194@osu.edu](mailto:drake.194@osu.edu)>

**Subject:** RE: Concurrent Request: AAAS 4610, "African Americans and the Law"

I forgot to attached the syllabus. My apologies. See attached.

-Ryan

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**From:** Skinner, Ryan

**Sent:** Thursday, April 26, 2018 12:38 PM

**To:** Smith, Charles William

**Cc:** Drake, Simone

**Subject:** Concurrent Request: AAAS 4610, "African Americans and the Law"

Dear Charles,

In addition to AAAS 2275 (see previous follow-up message, sent 4/25), I would also like to ask the Department of Political Science to consider granting concurrence for AAAS 4610, "African Americans and the Law" (see attached syllabus).

Many thanks,

Ryan Skinner

[Ryan Skinner](#)

Associate Professor

Ethnomusicology

School of Music

Department of African American and African Studies

The Ohio State University

Director of [Undergraduate Studies](#) (AAAS)

Director of the [Lectures in Musicology](#) (Music)

Author of *[Bamako Sounds: The Afropolitan Ethics of Malian Music](#)* (University of Minnesota Press, 2015)

5/7/2018

Fwd: Concurrent Request: AAAS 4610, "African Americans and the Law"

**RE: Concurrence Request for AAAS 4610, "African Americans and the Law"**

Stebenne, David

**Sent:** Monday, May 07, 2018 11:02 AM**To:** Skinner, Ryan

Having heard no objections, concurrence is granted.

Best,

David Stebenne  
Professor of History and Law  
and Chair, Undergraduate Teaching Committee  
History Department

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**From:** Skinner, Ryan  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 06, 2018 6:34 PM  
**To:** Stebenne, David  
**Subject:** RE: Concurrence Request for AAAS 4610, "African Americans and the Law"


Dear David,

Was your committee able to weigh in on the concurrence request for AAAS 4610 on 5/4?

Thanks for your consideration!

Best,

Ryan

id:image001.png@01D22AD7.9B8B5260  
[Ryan Skinner](#)

Associate Professor  
Ethnomusicology  
School of Music  
Department of African American and African Studies  
The Ohio State University

Director of [Undergraduate Studies](#) (AAAS)  
Director of the [Lectures in Musicology](#) (Music)

Author of [Bamako Sounds: The Afropolitan Ethics of Malian Music](#) (University of Minnesota Press, 2015)

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**From:** Stebenne, David  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 02, 2018 11:00 AM  
**To:** Skinner, Ryan  
**Subject:** RE: Concurrence Request for AAAS 4610, "African Americans and the Law"

I usually allow a week for consideration by the committee, Ryan. I sent it to them last Friday and so will let you know where we stand by the end of the day on May 4th.

Best,

David

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**From:** Skinner, Ryan  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 02, 2018 10:41 AM  
**To:** Stebenne, David

**Subject:** RE: Concurrence Request for AAAS 4610, "African Americans and the Law"

Dear David,


A friendly follow-up to my message from last week.

Has your UG Studies faculty been able to review the syllabus for AAAS 4610?

I am hopeful to register your response before we disperse for the summer!

Best,

Ryan

id:image001.png@01D22AD7.9B8B5260

[Ryan Skinner](#)

Associate Professor  
Ethnomusicology  
School of Music  
Department of African American and African Studies  
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**From:** Stebenne, David

**Sent:** Friday, April 27, 2018 3:36 PM

**To:** Skinner, Ryan

**Subject:** RE: Concurrence Request for AAAS 4610, "African Americans and the Law"

Dear Professor Skinner,

I will circulate the request to the History Department's Undergraduate Studies Committee and let you know if there are any concerns.

Best,

David Stebenne  
Professor of History and Law  
Ohio State University

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**From:** Skinner, Ryan

**Sent:** Thursday, April 26, 2018 3:51 PM

**To:** Stebenne, David

**Subject:** Concurrence Request for AAAS 4610, "African Americans and the Law"


Dear Professor Stebenne,

Your Undergraduate Studies Coordinator, Maria Mazon, directed me to you, with regard to my inquiry below.

Please, at your nearest convenience, let me know if the Department of History would be willing to grant concurrence for AAAS 4610, "African Americans and the Law."

Many thanks,

Ryan Skinner

 id:image001.png@01D22AD7.9B8B5260[Ryan Skinner](#)

Associate Professor  
Ethnomusicology  
School of Music  
Department of African American and African Studies  
The Ohio State University

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**From:** Skinner, Ryan

**Sent:** Thursday, April 26, 2018 12:44 PM

**To:** Mazon, Maria

**Cc:** Drake, Simone

**Subject:**


To: Maria Mazon, Undergraduate Studies Coordinator, Dept. of History

I writing to ask if the Dept. of History would be willing to grant concurrence for a new undergraduate course in AAAS, "African Americans and the Law" (syllabus attached).

Many thanks for taking the time to consider this request.

Best,

Ryan Skinner

 id:image001.png@01D22AD7.9B8B5260[Ryan Skinner](#)

Associate Professor  
Ethnomusicology  
School of Music  
Department of African American and African Studies  
The Ohio State University

Director of [Undergraduate Studies](#) (AAAS)  
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**Fwd: Concurrence Request: AAAS 4610, "African Americans and the Law"**

Buchmann, Claudia

**Sent:** Monday, April 30, 2018 8:30 AM**To:** Skinner, Ryan**Cc:** Martin, Andrew**Importance:** High**Attachments:** 4610\_Syllabus.docx (27 KB)

Dear Ryan:

I am pleased to offer formal concurrence from the Sociology Department for the AAAS 4610 course.

Best,

Claudia Buchmann  
Professor & Chair  
Department of Sociology  
(614) 292-3959

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Martin, Andrew" <[martin.1026@osu.edu](mailto:martin.1026@osu.edu)>**Subject:** FW: Concurrence Request: AAAS 4610, "African Americans and the Law"**Date:** April 30, 2018 at 7:11:56 AM EDT**To:** "Buchmann, Claudia" <[buchmann.4@osu.edu](mailto:buchmann.4@osu.edu)>

Hi Claudia

I think you are the one that needs to grant the formal concurrence, but I think it looks like a great class that doesn't interfere with our offerings (I checked with Ryan and he didn't think there was any issues).

Best

Andrew

**Andrew W. Martin**

Professor and Director of Undergraduate Studies

Department of Sociology

238 Townshend Hall,

1885 Neil Avenue, Columbus, OH 43210

614-247-6641 Office

[martin.1026@osu.edu](mailto:martin.1026@osu.edu)

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**From:** Skinner, Ryan**Sent:** Thursday, April 26, 2018 12:41 PM**To:** Martin, Andrew <[martin.1026@osu.edu](mailto:martin.1026@osu.edu)>



5/2/2018

Fwd: Concurrence Request: AAAS 4610, "African Americans and the Law"

**Subject:** Concurrence Request: AAAS 4610, "African Americans and the Law"

**Importance:** High

Dear Professor Martin,

I am writing to ask if the Department of Sociology would be will to grant concurrence for a new undergraduate course in AAAS, "African Americans and the Law" (syllabus attached).

Many thanks for taking the time to consider this request.

Best,

Ryan Skinner

[Ryan Skinner](#)

Associate Professor  
Ethnomusicology  
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