

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

African American & African Studies

Academic Unit

Afam&Ast

Book 3 Listing (e.g., Portuguese)

759 Topics in African Diaspora Studies

Number	Title	Graduate	5
Tops in Afr Diasp Stud			
18-Character Title Abbreviation		Level	Credit Hours

Summer Autumn Winter Spring **X** Year **2008**

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 the instructions in the OAA curriculum manual. If this is a course with decimal subdivisions, then use one New Course Request form for the generic information that will apply to all subdivisions; and use separate forms for each new decimal subdivision, including on each form the information that is unique to that subdivision. If the course offered is less than a quarter or a term, please complete the Flexibly Scheduled/Off Campus/Workshop Request form.

Description (not to exceed 25 words): **A multi-disciplinary and critical examination of the origins, dimensions, and legacies of the African Diaspora. Topics will vary each term.**

Quarter offered: **Spring Quarter 2008** Distribution of class time/contact hours: **1 3-hr. cl.**

Quarter and contact/class time hours information should be omitted from Book 3 publication (yes or no):

Prerequisite(s): **Graduate Standing or permission of the instructor**

Exclusion or limiting clause:

Repeatable to a maximum of **20** credit hours.

Cross-listed with:

Grade Option (Please check): Letter S/U Progress What course is last in the series? _____

Honors Statement: Yes No GEC: Yes No Admission Condition
Off-Campus: Yes No EM: Yes No Course: Yes No
Embedded Honors Statement: Yes No

Other General Course Information: **N/A**

(e.g. "Taught in English." "Credit does not count toward BSBA degree.")

B. General Information

Subject Code _____ Subsidy Level (V, G, T, B, M, D, or P) _____

If you have questions, please email Jed Dickhaut at dickhaut.1@osu.edu.

1. Provide the rationale for proposing this course:

This course will expand the offerings in the Comparative African Diaspora Concentration of our graduate curriculum. By offering "topics" courses, several faculty can teach graduate seminars in their fields of research interests without having to create new course proposals or offer a group studies course.

2. Please list Majors/Minors affected by the creation of this new course. Attach revisions of all affected programs.

This course is (check one): Required on major(s)/minor(s) A choice on major(s)/minors(s)
 An elective within major(s)/minor(s) A general elective:

3. Indicate the nature of the program adjustments, new funding, and/or withdrawals that make possible the implementation of this new course.

N/A

4. Is the approval of this request contingent upon the approval of other course requests or curricular requests?

Yes No List:

5. If this course is part of a sequence, list the number of the other course(s) in the sequence: N/A

6. Expected section size: 15 Proposed number of sections per year: 1 every 2 years

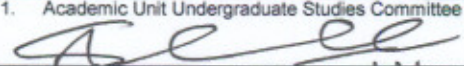
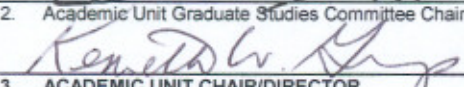
7. Do you want prerequisites enforced electronically (see OAA manual for what can be enforced)? Yes No

8. This course has been discussed with and has the concurrence of the following academic units needing this course or with academic units having directly related interests (*List units and attach letters and/or forms*):

Not Applicable

9. Attach a course syllabus that includes a topical outline of the course, student learning outcomes and/or course objectives, off-campus field experience, methods of evaluation, and other items as stated in the OAA curriculum manual and e-mail to asccurrofc@osu.edu.

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

1. Academic Unit Undergraduate Studies Committee Chair	Printed Name	Date
	Ediac J. Mowse	4/13/07
2. Academic Unit Graduate Studies Committee Chair	Printed Name	Date
	Kenneth W. Boinger	4/16/07
3. ACADEMIC UNIT CHAIR/DIRECTOR	Printed Name	Date

4. After the Academic Unit Chair/Director signs the request, forward the form to the ASC Curriculum Office, 105 Brown Hall, 190 West 17th Ave. or fax it to 688-5678. Attach the syllabus and any supporting documentation in an e-mail to asccurrofc@osu.edu. The ASC Curriculum Office will forward the request to the appropriate committee.

5. COLLEGE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE	Printed Name	Date
6. ARTS AND SCIENCES EXECUTIVE DEAN	Printed Name	Date
7. Graduate School (if appropriate)	Printed Name	Date
8. University Honors Center (if appropriate)	Printed Name	Date
9. Office of International Education (if appropriate)	Printed Name	Date
10. ACADEMIC AFFAIRS	Printed Name	Date

AAAS 759: Topics in African Diaspora Studies

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

A multi-disciplinary and critical examination of the origins, dimensions, and legacies of the African Diaspora. Topics will vary each term.

RATIONALE FOR PROPOSING THIS COURSE:

This course will greatly expand the offerings in the Comparative African Diaspora Concentration of our graduate curriculum. At present, the department offers eight courses in this concentration area, but four of the eight courses are in literature.

By offering a topics course, several departmental faculty can teach graduate seminars in their fields of research interests without having to create new course proposals. Likewise, we can insure that other disciplinary approaches, besides literature, are represented in this portion of our graduate curriculum. Finally, this addition to our graduate curriculum is partly a response to the recommendations made by an external review. In this regard, the review team suggested that the department might move towards creating and enhancing curricular initiatives which focus on the African Diaspora. 759: "Topics in African Diaspora Studies" is a decided move in that direction.

AAAS 759: TOPICS IN AFRICAN DIASPORA STUDIES—

DIASPORIC CULTURE & COMMUNITY IN THE ATLANTIC WORLD

Location/Time:	TBD	Phone:	292-7613
Office Location:	486N University Hall	Email:	rucker.71@osu.edu
Office Hours:	TBD		

OVERVIEW:

This course is intended to be a graduate-level analysis of the historical and ethnographic approaches to the creation of Diasporic cultures and communities in the Atlantic World. Selected readings will focus on the multitude of Diasporic communities composed of specific African ethnic groups or which were influenced by distinct modes of expressive culture and art, religious beliefs and spiritual systems, or philosophical influences. In certain cases, the weekly readings will concentrate on specific geographic locales and the Diasporic groupings imported into those regions. For the purposes of this course, "Diaspora" encompasses both a liminal realm (e.g., the physical movement of African peoples to particular geographic spaces) and several subliminal dimensions (e.g., the transference of religious, philosophical, political, scientific, and artistic concepts).

REQUIRED TEXTS:

1. Michael Gomez, *Black Crescent: The Experience and Legacy of African Muslims in the Americas*
2. Allan Austin, *African Muslims in Antebellum America*
3. Gwendolyn Midlo Hall, *Africans in Colonial Louisiana: The Development of Afro-Creole Culture in the Eighteenth Century*
4. Melville Herskovits, *Myth of the Negro Past*
5. Jane Landers, *Black Society in Spanish Florida*
6. Daniel Walker, *No More, No More: Slavery and Cultural Resistance in Havana and New Orleans*
7. David H. Brown, *Santeria Enthroned: Art, Ritual, and Innovation in an Afro-Cuban Religion*
8. Stanley Mintz and Richard Price, *The Birth of African-American Culture: An Anthropological Perspective*
9. David Barry Gaspar, *Bondmen and Rebels: A Study of Master-Slave Relations in Antigua*
10. Michael Gomez, *Exchanging Our Country Marks*
11. David Eltis & David Richardson, *Routes to Slavery: Direction, Ethnicity and Mortality in the Transatlantic Slave Trade*
12. Douglas Chambers, *Murder at Montpelier: Igbo Africans in Virginia*
13. Course Packet available at SBX by Week 1
14. JSTOR Articles available from on-campus computers at <http://www.jstor.org/>

REQUIRED WORK:

Students will write weekly one-page response papers on the assigned readings, a three-page book review on a recent publication (2003 to 2007), and a ten- to twelve-page literature review based on a theme chosen in consultation with the instructor. Consult the attached "Writing Guidelines" for details. All book reviews will be due Week 6 and all historiographic essays will be due Finals Week.

It should go without saying that attendance is mandatory in a graduate seminar. All students are expected to attend and actively participate during each session. Unless otherwise excused, each absence will reduce your course grade by half a letter. **Please take this policy seriously.** Also, please note that I will not, under any circumstance, grant incompletes.

GRADING:

Weekly Response Papers:	20%	Discussion:	20%
Book Review:	20%	Literature Review:	40%

STUDENT CONDUCT:

Students are expected to abide by the guidelines listed in the OSU Code of Student Conduct. In addition students are not allowed to sleep, read newspapers, leave class early without permission, use cell phones (to text message or talk), or hold off-topic conversations during the class session. The instructor will ask students to leave the class and reserves the right to withdraw students from the course for disruptive behavior. In addition, any form of academic dishonesty or misconduct (e.g., cheating, plagiarism, unauthorized copying or collaboration, forging signatures on class rosters) will be directed to the Committee on Academic Misconduct (COAM). Students found in violation of the Code of Student Conduct by COAM may receive a failing course grade and are subject to disciplinary probation, suspension, or expulsion from the Ohio State University (Faculty Rule 33356-5-487). For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct (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 for Disability Services is located in 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue; telephone 292-3307, TDD 292-0901; <http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/>.

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS, READINGS, AND ASSIGNMENTS:

Week 1:	Culture & Community: Africanisms & African Cultural Retentions
Readings:	Melville J. Herskovits, <i>Myth of the Negro Past</i>
	Richard L. Watson, "American Scholars and the Continuity of African Culture in the United States," <i>The Journal of Negro History</i> 63 (1978), 375-386. [JSTOR]
	Joseph Holloway, "The Origins of African-American Culture," in Joseph Holloway, ed., <i>Africanisms in American Culture</i> (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1990), 1-18. [PACKET]
Week 2:	Culture & Community: Creolization & Hybridity
Readings:	Stanley Mintz and Richard Price, <i>The Birth of African-American Culture: An Anthropological Perspective</i>
	Ira Berlin, "From Creole to African: Atlantic Creoles and the Origins of African- American Society in Mainland North America," <i>William & Mary Quarterly</i> 53 (1996), 251-288. [JSTOR]
	Philip Morgan, "The Cultural Implications of the Atlantic Slave Trade: African Regional Origins, American Destinations and New World Developments," in David Eltis & David Richardson, <i>Routes to Slavery</i>
Week 3:	Culture & Community: Atlantic World & Diasporic Perspectives
Readings:	Michael Gomez, <i>Exchanging Our County Marks</i>
	Kristin Mann, "Shifting Paradigms in the Study of the African Diaspora and of Atlantic History and Culture," <i>Slavery & Abolition</i> 22 (2001), 3-21. [PACKET]

Douglas Chambers, "Ethnicity in the Diaspora: The Slave-Trade and The Creation of African 'Nations' in the Americas," *Slavery & Abolition* 22 (2001), 25-39. [PACKET]

- Week 4:** Islamic Communities in the Americas
Readings: Gomez, *Black Crescent*, Part I Only

Austin, *African Muslims in Antebellum America*
- Week 5:** *Aminas & Coromantees: Rebellion & Gold Coast (Akan) Communities in the Americas*
Readings: David Barry Gaspar, *Bondmen and Rebels*

John Thornton, "War, the State, and Religious Norms in 'Coromantee' Thought: The Ideology of an African American Nation," in Robert Blair St. George, ed., *Possible Pasts: Becoming Colonial in Early America* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2000), 181-200. [PACKET]

Ray Kea, "'When I Die, I Shall Return to My Own Land': An 'Amina' Slave Rebellion in the Danish West Indies, 1733-1734," in John Hunwick and Nancy Lawler, eds., *The Cloth of Many Coloured Silks* (Evanston: Northwestern University Press, 1996), 159-193. [PACKET]

Monica Schuler, "Akan Slave Rebellions in the British Caribbean," *Savacou* 1 (1970): 15-23. [PACKET]
- Week 6:** Bight of Biafran (Igbo) Exiles in the Americas
Readings: Douglas Chambers, *Murder at Montpelier: Igbo Africans in Virginia*

Douglas Chambers, "'My Own Nation': Igbo Exiles in the Diaspora," in David Eltis & David Richardson, *Routes to Slavery*

David Northrup, "Igbo and Myth Igbo: Culture and Ethnicity in the Atlantic World, 1600-1850," *Slavery & Abolition* 21 (2000), 1-20. [PACKET]

Douglas Chambers, "The Significance of Igbo in the Bight of Biafra Slave-Trade: A Rejoinder to Northrup's 'Myth Igbo,'" *Slavery & Abolition* 23 (2002), 101-120. [PACKET]
- Week 7:** Diasporic Communities in Spanish Florida
Readings: Jane Landers, *Black Society in Spanish Florida*

Jane Landers, "The Central African Presence in Spanish Maroon Societies," in Linda M. Heywood, ed., *Central Africans and Cultural Transformations in the American Diaspora* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2002), 227-241. [PACKET]

Jane Landers, "Black Community and Culture in the Southeastern Borderlands," *Journal of the Early Republic*, 18 (1998), 117-134. [PACKET]
- Week 8:** Diasporic Communities in French Louisiana
Readings: Gwendolyn Midlo Hall, *Africans in Colonial Louisiana*

Peter Caron, "'Of a Nation Which Others Do Not Understand': Bambara Slaves and African Ethnicity in Colonial Louisiana, 1718-1760," in David Eltis & David Richardson, *Routes to Slavery*

- Week 9:** *Santería & Vodun: Syncretism & African Religious Diasporas*
Readings: David Brown, *Santería Enthroned*
- Andrés I. Pérez y Mena, "Cuban Santería, Haitian Vodun, Puerto Rican Spiritualism: A Multiculturalist Inquiry into Syncretism," *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 37 (1998), 15-27. [JSTOR]
- John K. Thornton, "On the Trail of Voodoo: African Christianity in Africa and the Americas," *The Americas* 44 (1988), 261-278. [JSTOR]
- Week 10:** *Community & Diaspora: Urban Slavery, Resistance, & Culture*
Readings: Daniel Walker, *No More, No More: Slavery and Cultural Resistance in Havana and New Orleans*
- Mieko Nishida, "Manumission and Ethnicity in Urban Slavery: Salvador, Brazil, 1808-1888," *The Hispanic American Historical Review* 73 (1993), 361-391. [JSTOR]
- Joao Jose Reis, "'The Revolution of the Ganhadores': Urban Labour, Ethnicity and the African Strike of 1857 in Bahia, Brazil," *Journal of Latin American Studies* 29 (1997), 355-393. [JSTOR]

AAAS 759: TOPICS IN AFRICAN DIASPORA STUDIES—

SPIRITUALITY & RELIGION IN THE EARLY ATLANTIC WORLD

Location/Time:	TBD	Phone:	292-7613
Office Location:	486N University Hall	Email:	rucker.71@osu.edu
Office Hours:	TBD		

OVERVIEW:

This course is intended to be a graduate-level analysis of the historical and ethnographic approaches to the formation of African-derived spiritual and religious systems in the early African Diaspora. Selected readings will focus on the multiple Diasporic religious expressions, including Christianity and Islam, and how these religious systems manifested in enslaved communities. In complicating the artificial divide between “traditional” and “non-traditional” African religions, this course is designed to introduce students to contemporary historical, anthropological, and religious studies debates which center on issues regarding transmission, conversion (both forced and voluntary), and hybridization. Thus, one goal of this course will be to demystify African-derived systems such as Vodun, Santeria, and Candomblé and to read them as the natural manifestations of cultural interaction and fusion. Another goal will be to address matters central to the practice and worship of African-derived religious systems, including artistic concepts, philosophical concerns, and socio-political influences (and impulses).

REQUIRED TEXTS:

1. Suzanne Preston Blier, *African Vodun: Art, Psychology, and Power*
2. George Brandon, *Santeria from Africa to the New World*
3. Sylviane A. Diouf, *Servants of Allah: African Muslims Enslaved in the Americas*
4. Jon F. Sensbach, *Rebecca's Revival: Creating Black Christianity in the Atlantic World*
5. João José Reis, *Slave Rebellion in Brazil: The Muslim Uprising of 1835 in Bahia*
6. Yvonne Chireau, *Black Magic: Religion and the African American Conjuring Tradition*
7. Carolyn Long, *A New Orleans Voodoo Priestess: The Legend And Reality of Marie Laveau*
8. Margaret Washington, “A Peculiar People”: *Slave Religion and Community Among the Gullahs*
9. Robert Farris Thompson, *Flash of the Spirit: African & Afro-American Art & Philosophy*
10. Robert A. Voeks, *Sacred Leaves of Candomblé: African Magic, Medicine, and Religion in Brazil*
11. Course Packet available at SBX by Week 1
12. JSTOR Articles available from on-campus computers at <http://www.jstor.org/>

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SCHEDULE OF TOPICS, READINGS, AND ASSIGNMENTS:

- Week 1:** Religious, Artistic, & Philosophical Groundings: The Circle & the Cross
Readings: Robert Farris Thompson, *Flash of the Spirit*
- Rosalind I. J. Hackett, "Art and Religion in Africa: Some Observations and Reflections," *Journal of Religion in Africa* 24 (1994), 294-308. [JSTOR]
- Suzanne Preston Blier, "Truth and Seeing: Magic, Custom, and Fetish in Art History," in Robert Bates, V.Y. Mudimbe, and Jean O'Barr, eds., *Africa and the Disciplines: The Contributions of Research in Africa to the Social Sciences and Humanities* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1993), 139-163. [PACKET]
- Week 2:** Religion & Class: Peasant Consciousness, Subaltern Modes, & Power Relations
Readings: Suzanne Preston Blier, *African Vodun: Art, Psychology, and Power*
- John Thornton, "War, the State, and Religious Norms in 'Coromantee' Thought: The Ideology of an African American Nation," in Robert Blair St. George, ed., *Possible Pasts: Becoming Colonial in Early America* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2000), 181-200. [PACKET]
- Week 3:** African Christianity in the Americas: The West-central African (Kongo) Religious Diaspora(s)
Readings: Jon F. Sensbach, *Rebecca's Revival*
- John Thornton, "On the Trail of Voodoo: African Christianity in Africa and the Americas," *The Americas* 44 (1988), 261-278. [JSTOR]
- Hein Vanhee, "Central African Popular Christianity and the Making of Haitian Vodou Religion," in Linda M. Heywood, ed., *Central Africans and Cultural Transformations in the American Diaspora* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2002), 243-264. [PACKET]
- Week 4:** African Christianity in the Caribbean: Santeria & Vodun
Readings: Brandon, *Santeria from Africa to the New World*

Andrés I. Pérez y Mena, "Cuban Santería, Haitian Vodun, Puerto Rican Spiritualism: A Multiculturalist Inquiry into Syncretism," *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 37 (1998), 15-27. [JSTOR]

Harry G. Lefever, "When the Saints Go Riding in: Santería in Cuba and the United States," *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 35 (1996), 318-330. [JSTOR]

- Week 5:** African Christianity in Louisiana: Hoodoo & Voodoo
Readings: Carolyn Long, *A New Orleans Voodoo Priestess*
- Jessie Gaston Mulira, "The Case of Voodoo in New Orleans," in Joseph Holloway, ed., *Africanisms in American Culture* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1990), 34-68. [PACKET]
- Stephen C. Wehmeyer, "Indian Altars of the Spiritual Church: Kongo Echoes in New Orleans," *African Arts* 33 (2000), 62-69, 95-96. [JSTOR]
- Week 6:** The Five Pillars of Islam: Enslaved African Muslims & the Practice of Islam in the Americas
Readings: Sylviane A. Diouf, *Servants of Allah*
- Michael Gomez, "Muslims in Early America," *Journal of Southern History* 60 (1994), 671-710. [JSTOR]
- Week 7:** Islam & Millenarianism: Revolt, Jihad, & Reform in Brazilian Slave Communities
Readings: Reis, *Slave Rebellion in Brazil*
- Alida C. Metcalf, "Millenarian Slaves? The Santidade de Jaguaripe and Slave Resistance in the Americas," *The American Historical Review* 104 (1999), 1531-1559. [JSTOR]
- Week 8:** Conjure, Obeah, & Myalism in the Early Americas
Readings: Chireau, *Black Magic*
- Walter Rucker, *The River Flows On: Black Resistance, Culture, and Identity Formation in Early America*, Chapters 1 & 2. [PACKET]
- Yvonne Chireau, "Conjure and Christianity in the Nineteenth Century: Religious Elements in African American Magic," *Religion and American Culture* 7 (1997), 225-246. [JSTOR]
- Jerome S. Handler and Kenneth M. Bilby, "On the Early Use and Origin of the Term 'Obeah' in Barbados and the Anglophone Caribbean," *Slavery & Abolition* 22 (2001), 87-100. [PACKET]
- Week 9:** Between Conjure & Christianity: Theorizing Gullah Religion
Readings: Washington, "A Peculiar People"
- Washington, "Gullah Attitudes toward Life and Death," in Joseph Holloway, ed., *Africanisms in American Culture* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1990), 69-97. [PACKET]
- Georgia Writer's Project, *Drums and Shadows*, excerpts. [PACKET]

Week 10: Manifesting Orisha in Brazil: Candomblé, Capoeira, and Subversive Expression
Readings: Robert A. Voeks, *Sacred Leaves of Candomblé*

Mattijs Van De Port, "Circling around the Really Real: Spirit Possession Ceremonies and the Search for Authenticity in Bahian Candomblé," *Ethos* 33 (2005), 149-179. [JSTOR]

Thomas Desch-Obi, "Combat and the Crossing of the Kalunga," in Linda M. Heywood, ed., *Central African and Cultural Transformations in the American Diaspora*, 353-370. [PACKET]