COURSE SYLLABUS

Psychology 558  
*Psychology and the African Experience*  
3 Credits  
Spring, 2002  
Wednesdays, 4:10 - 7:00 pm  

Instructor: Craig C. Brookins, Ph.D.  
Office: 726 Poe Hall AND  
2806 Hillsborough Street, #1  
Office Hours: Wed. 2:00 - 3:30 pm  
Phone: (919) 515-7518 / 5-1828 (fax)  
e-mail: Craig_Brookins@ncsu.edu

Course Format and Goals:

This course uses a combination of lecture, audiovisual, and extensive discussion to focus on the historical and cultural antecedents of Psychology from an African perspective. The later sessions will partially be devoted to the discussion of particular areas of interest to African (mostly African American) psychologists. Since "Afrikan Psychology" is a relatively young and redeveloping conceptual, humanistic, and scientific perspective discussion of relevant issues and concerns will be a major part of the course. Upon completion of this course the student will:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of the historical roots of psychology from an Africentric perspective and be able to identify the development of "Afrikan (Black) Psychology" as a distinct system of psychological thought and research.
2. Display knowledge of the "Africentric world view" and its role in the psychological study of African peoples.
3. Demonstrate an understanding of how "Lived Experience" can assist in the understanding of the African American experience and provide a frame of reference for which to study the psychological experience of other peoples throughout the world.
4. Demonstrate the ability to conduct a critique of at least one of the primary areas interest to African Psychologists.
5. Explore his or her own world view and thought patterns as they relate to psychological and social experiences.

E-mail Listserve

All students will be required to subscribe to an e-mail listserver that has been setup for Africana Studies Students. You will be subscribed to this listserver for the duration of the course and will be able to unsubscribe at the end of the semester. This listserver will allow students and the instructor to communicate outside of the class. It will be used to distribute general information on Africana Studies issues that may be of relevance to students. By the end of the 2nd week of class each student should have subscribed to the listserver by sending an email message to "mj2@lists.ncsu.edu" (without the quotes) with the following single line message "subscribe africana-l" (without the quotes; without any other text in the message.)
Supplemental Web Page

All students, by January 14th (5 points will be awarded), will also be required to subscribe to a Web Page setup specifically for this course. You will need to access the following web page:

http://www.blackboard.com/courses/MDS240/

and enroll yourself in the course using the following:

Access Code = abpsi

This web page will be used for a variety of communications for the course. It will contain class handouts, updated course information, the course syllabi, schedule changes, and quizzes. You will also be able to communicate with the instructor as well as other students through this web page. More information on subscribing will be forthcoming.

Course Requirements:

1. Student should COME PREPARED TO EVERY CLASS having read weekly class readings.
2. There will be four reaction papers, a final exam, and one project paper.
3. The REACTION PAPERS will be non-graded (points will be given for ON-TIME submissions). These assignments will be based on a critique and reaction to the class readings and discussions. Students will be responsible for an informal presentation of one (1) of these reaction papers during one of the weekly class sessions to be announced. During the week prior to the "scheduled" presentation, the student will make copies of their paper and distribute it to the instructor and each of the class members.
4. The FINAL EXAM will be an essay. The essay questions will require students to adequately integrate the course material with authentic social and psychological issues. A BLUE (ESSAY/EXAM) BOOK WILL NEED TO BE PURCHASED FROM THE BOOKSTORE for this exam.
5. A PROJECT PAPER will be due at the end of the semester. An outline and list of supporting references for this paper will be submitted by February 20th and is worth 5 points. This project will be both an individual and group project and will be mutually agreed upon by students and the instructor. This project is expected to be an intellectual exploration and critique based on the issues related to Psychology and the African experience as read about and/or discussed in class. The following criteria for the individual written project report should be adhered to:

{ be appropriate in length to adequate coverage of the topic chosen, written in APA style, and grammatically appropriate.
{ briefly describe the theme and important points relevant to the topic.
{ describe how the topic contributes to the understanding of an issue or issues discussed within
this course.
{ offer a critique of the issues, literature and research identified through a thorough literature
review using class materials AND the student's own perspective.
{ the project paper will be due Wednesday, May 1st (the last day of class).
{ As a group, students will make an oral presentation of their project during the last couple of
weeks of the class (April 24th and May 1st). There will be a great expectation that this
presentation be thorough, innovative, participatory and thought provoking for the other class
members (this includes the instructor. This presentation will be worth 50 Points.
{ the grading criteria for this paper will be as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Criteria</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>grammar, typographical, APA format, adherence to outline listed above. (please note that the paper should be submitted with only a staple in the upper left hand corner. Do not submit in fancy binders, covers, paper clips, etc. Points will be deducted if this is the case!)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>adequacy of coverage of topic. How thorough has it been covered? How extensive was the literature review.?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>adequacy of integration of topic with course material</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>adequacy of critique and use of supplemental materials. How well did writer integrate their own perspective?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60</td>
<td>Total Possible Points</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

{ The grading criteria for the group presentation will be as follows with each group member receiving the same grade:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Criteria</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>clarity, organization, and presentation style</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>description of book</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>critique of topic in relation to course material</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>personal reactions and critique of materials presented</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50</td>
<td>Total Possible Points</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Overall Class Grading:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points</th>
<th>% of Grade</th>
<th>Assignments and Activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>5.56%</td>
<td>Class Attendance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>5.56%</td>
<td>Class participation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>3.70%</td>
<td>Paper project outline &amp; supplemental references (due by February 20th, late submissions will lose points comparable to a letter grade).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>14.81%</td>
<td>Four reaction papers @ 10 points each</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>7.41%</td>
<td>Two external assignments and write-ups</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60</td>
<td>22.22%</td>
<td>Project paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50</td>
<td>18.52%</td>
<td>Paper presentation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>22.22%</td>
<td>Final Exam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>270</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
<td>Total Points</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage of Points</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100 - 96%</td>
<td>A+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>95 - 92%</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>91 - 90%</td>
<td>A-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>89 - 86%</td>
<td>B+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85 - 82%</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>81 - 80%</td>
<td>B-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>89 - 76%</td>
<td>C+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75 - 72%</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>71 - 70%</td>
<td>C-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

University Policies

1. **Academic Integrity:** In all matters related to academic integrity, this course will adhere to the rules set out in the NCSU Code of Student Conduct. Students will be expected to familiarize themselves with these rules (see [http://www.fis.ncsu.edu:80/cnsulegal/41.03-codeof.htm](http://www.fis.ncsu.edu:80/cnsulegal/41.03-codeof.htm)) and to uphold the principle and spirit of the Honor Pledge: "I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid on this test or assignment."


3. For NCSU policies on working with **students with disabilities**, see: [http://www.ncsu.edu/provost/has/current/appendix/append_k.html](http://www.ncsu.edu/provost/has/current/appendix/append_k.html).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Assignments Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| January 9th  | Introduction and Overview
Vide: "Black History: Lost, stolen, or strayed;"                   |                                          |
| January 16th | History of traditional and Afikan Psychology                           | Reaction Papers                          |
| January 23rd | Conceptual Framework - Afrocentricity
Video: "Afrocentricity Lecture"                                         | Reaction Papers                          |
| January 30th | Conceptual Framework - Optimal Psychology
Video: "The Primal Mind"                                                | Reaction Papers                          |
| February 6th | African Roots                                                          | Reaction Papers                          |
| February 13th| The Psychology of Oppression                                           | Reaction Papers                          |
| February 20th| "Isms" (Gender, race, class, etc.)
Video: "TBA"                                                            | Reaction Papers                          |
| February 27th| Afrikan Personality and Identity Development                           | Reaction Papers                          |
| March 6th    | African American Mental Health
Video: *James Baldwin: The Price of the Ticket*                          | Reaction Papers                          |
| March 13th   | Spring Break                                                           |                                          |
| March 20th   | Ecological Perspectives                                                | Reaction Papers                          |
| March 27th   | Easter Break                                                           |                                          |
| April 3rd    | Microsystem Issues, Psychology, and the African Experience
Video: "TBA"                                                          | Reaction Papers                          |
| April 10th   | Psychology & the African American Community                            | Reaction Papers                          |
| April 17th   | Future Directions - Video: "TBA"                                       |                                          |
| April 24th   | Student Presentations                                                  |                                          |
| May 1st      | Student Presentations                                                  | Final Project Paper Due                  |
| May 6th      | Final Exam - 1:00 - 4:00 pm                                            | Final Exam                               |
Required Text & Readings:


Course Readings Schedule:

(*=text, **=course packet/electronic reserve, ***=video to be seen in class)

January 9th


{ Guthrie, R. V. *The psychology of African Americans: An historical perspective*, (p. 33-46)
{ Hayes, W. A. *Radical black behaviorism*, (p. 65-78).
{ Jenkins, A. H. *A humanistic approach to black psychology*, (p. 79-98).


January 16th and 23rd


{ White, J.L. *Toward a Black psychology*, (p. 5-14)


♦ Banks, W. C. *Theory and method in the growth of African American psychology*, (p. 3-8).


January 30th


{ Bowman, P.J. *Race, class and ethics in research: Belmont principles to functional relevance*, (p. 747-764).


{ Wyatt, G. E. *Why we know so little about African American sexuality*, (p. 167-190).


February 6th and 13th


{ Delaney, L. T. *The other bodies in the river*, (p. 597-608).

{ Jones, J.M. *Racism: A cultural analysis of the problem*, (p. 609-636).

{ Jones, M. *The concept of race in social psychology* (p. 441-468).

{ Taylor, J. *Dimensionalization of racialism* (p. 637-648).

February 20th and February 27th


**March 6th**


{ Smitherman, G. *Talkin' and testifyin': Black english and the black experience*, (p. 249-268).


**March 13th**


{ Akbar, N. *Paradigms of African American research*, (p. 709-726).


{ Coppock, N. W. *Afrocentric organizational development*, (p. 81-99).
March 20th and April 3rd


{ Hilliard, T. O. *Applications of psychology and the criminal justice system*, (p. 693-704).
{ Jones, F. *The black psychologist as consultant and therapist*, (p. 653-666).


{ Brookins, C. C. *African/Community psychology: Exploring the foundations of a progressive paradigm*, (p. 27-50).


April 10th


Supplemental Readings:


