New Course Request

Check Appropriate Boxes: Undergraduate credit X Graduate credit □ Professional credit □

1. School/Division: Liberal Arts
2. Academic Subject Code: AFRO
3. Course Number: A414 (must be cleared with University Enrollment Services)
4. Instructor: M. H. Little
5. Course Title: Seminar in African American and African Diaspora Studio
   Recommended Abbreviation (Optional): Seminar in AAADS
   (Limited to 32 Characters including spaces)
6. First time this course is to be offered (Semester/Year): Spring, 2009
7. Credit Hours: Fixed at 3.0 or Variable from _________ to _________
8. Is this course to be graded S-F (only)? Yes ___ No X
9. Is variable title approval being requested? Yes ___ No X
10. Course description (not to exceed 50 words) for Bulletin publication:
    Senior capstone course in African American and African Diaspora Studies. Involves intensive discussion of selected themes/topics related to AAADS. Students are expected to engage in in-depth library and/or field research to apply Diasporic theory concepts and analyses to real-life people, events and/or issues impacting people of African descent.
11. Lecture Contact Hours: Fixed at 1.5 or Variable from _________ to _________
12. Non-Lecture Contact Hours: Fixed at 1.5 or Variable from _________ to _________
13. Estimated enrollment: 20 of which 0 percent are expected to be graduate students.
14. Frequency of scheduling: Each semester
15. Will this course be required for majors? Yes
16. Justification for new course: Provide capstone experience for AAADS majors
17. Are the necessary reading materials currently available in the appropriate library? Yes
18. Please append a complete outline of the proposed course, and indicate instructor (if known), textbooks, and other materials.
19. If this course overlaps with existing courses, please explain with which courses it overlaps and whether this overlap is necessary, desirable, or unimportant.

A copy of every new course proposal must be submitted to departments, schools, or divisions in which there may be overlap of the new course with existing courses or areas of strong concern with instructions that they send comments directly to the originating Curriculum Committee. Please append a list of departments, schools, or divisions thus consulted.

Submitted by: M. H. Little
Date: 1/3/09
Department Chairman/Director

Approved by: [Signature]
Date: 3/13/09
Dean

Dean of Graduate School (when required)
Date: ______________________
Chancellor/Vice-President
Date: ______________________

University Enrollment Services

After School/Division approval, forward the last copy (without attachments) to University Enrollment Services for initial processing, and the remaining four copies and attachments to the Campus Chancellor or Vice-President.

UPS 724
A414
Seminar in African American and African Diaspora Studies
Section: TBA
Days/Time: TBA

Instructor: M. H. Little
Phone: (317) 274-0098
Email: mlittle@iupui.edu

Introduction

Welcome to A414 Seminar in African American and African Diaspora Studies. This course is designed as a senior capstone seminar. The course is thematic. Coursework will involve intensive discussion of AAADS as an interdisciplinary field of scholarship--its historical development, current condition and future prospects. Students are also expected to develop an individual or group research paper or project which applies diasporic theory in the discussion and analysis of selected people, events and/or issues impacting people of African descent that demonstrates mastery of the discipline’s key concepts and paradigms.

Course work will involve knowledgable and informed discussion of assigned course readings, development of a 1-2 page research paper/project bibliography, a 5-7 page research paper/project proposal and a 12-15 page individual or group research paper or project. Students will be graded on the basis of their: a) attendance--15%; b) informed participation in discussions--15%; c) research paper/project bibliography--20%; d) research paper/project proposal--20%; and e) completed research paper/project--30%. Please note that the instructor reserves the right to modify the content of this syllabus, at his discretion, during the semester.

Written assignments are assessed for their logic, cogency, and appropriate use of historical as well as social science perspectives and concepts. When grading papers, comparisons are inevitable. This means that an A paper is qualitatively better than a B paper, which is better than a C paper. The difference may lie in the fact that one paper is more factually comprehensive than another, argues its case more persuasively, is better
organized, contains fewer errors of grammar, spelling and punctuation, or is simply a more literate, polished piece of work.

In assessing your individual contributions during in-class discussions, I will listen for thoughtful, insightful remarks that occur on a regular basis. Assessment criteria include demonstration of mastery of the subject matter, to zero in on the main points of the assigned reading and to display a capacity for effective synthesis and analysis.

The following is the grade scale used in the course:

A+ 98, A 93, A- 90, B+ 88, B 83, B- 80, C+ 78, C 73, C- 70, D+ 68, D 63, D- 60.

**Administrative Withdrawal**

A basic requirement of this course is that you will participate in class and conscientiously complete writing and reading assignments. **Please contact me in advance if you are unable to attend class or complete an assignment on time for any reason.** If you miss more than half our class meetings within the first four weeks of the semester without contacting me, you will be administratively withdrawn from this section. Our class meets once per week. Thus, if you miss more than two classes in the first four weeks, you may be withdrawn. Administrative withdrawal may have serious academic, financial aid and/or student scholarship implications. Administrative withdrawal will take place after the full refund period, and if you are administratively withdrawn from the course you will not be eligible for a tuition refund. If you have questions about the administrative withdrawal policy at any point during the semester, please contact me.

**Academic Misconduct**

It must be noted that any form of academic misconduct by a student in the course will not be tolerated. This includes obvious types of academic misconduct such as cheating on examinations and/or plagiarism as well as submitting the same paper for credit in different courses without prior consultation with the instructor. Any student who is found guilty of such misconduct by the instructor will receive an F on that assignment as well as the course and have his/her infraction recorded as a permanent part of his/her academic record. For a more detailed explanation of the different types of academic misconduct, please consult "Attendance, Policies and General Course Requirements" for this course and the IUPUI Code of Student Rights, Responsibilities and Conduct handbook.

**Policy Regarding People with Disabilities**

Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis is committed to the spirit and letter of the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. These laws provide a clear and comprehensive mandate for the elimination of discrimination against individuals with disabilities. Together, they require equal treatment of persons with disabilities in employment, public services and transportation, public accommodations, and telecommunications services, and include an
obligation to provide reasonable accommodation to the known physical or mental limitations of qualified individuals with disabilities.

**Course Texts**

The following texts are **required** reading for the course. They can be purchased online at either Amazon.com or Barnes & Noble.com. Additional readings marked with an asterisk are available online via the “Calendar” option in Oncourse CL or directly thru the University Library on JSTOR.

Paul Gilroy, *The Black Atlantic: Modernity and Double Consciousness*
Charles W. Mills, *The Racial Contract*

Weekly assignments are as follows:

**Week 1**  -  Introduction to the Course

**Week 2**  -  Understanding the Ideology of Race and Racial Domination I  
Read: Mills, pp. 1-40

**Week 3**  -  Understanding the Ideology of Race and Racial Domination II  
Read: Mills, pp. 91-133

**Individual research paper/project consultation with instructor.**

**Week 4**  -  Perspectives on the Historical Development of AAADS  

**Week 5**  -  Perspectives on the Present and Future of AAADS  

**Submission of research paper/project bibliography**
Week 6 - The Diaspora as Concept and Method

Week 7 - The Diaspora as Concept and Method

Week 8 - Toward a Synthesis

Week 9 - The African Diaspora in Operation: The Case of Religion

Week 10 - Settlement, Identity and Transformation I
Week 11 - Settlement, Identity and Transformation II

Week 12 - Settlement, Identity and Transformation III

Week 13 - New Perspectives on the African Diaspora
Read: Gilroy, pp. 1-40, 72-110

Week 14 - New Perspectives on the African Diaspora
Read: Gilroy, pp. 187-223

Week 15 - In-class executive summary of student research paper/project

Submission of completed research paper/project.

Last revised: 12/12/07