

**Eastern Illinois University
New Course Proposal
PLS 4923, African American Political Thought**

1. CATALOG DESCRIPTION
 - A. Political Science 4923
 - B. African American Political Thought
 - C. (3-0-3)
 - D. Spring-even numbered years
 - E. AF AMER POL THT
 - F. Course Description: This course investigates the history of African American political thought with reference to the ideologies and strategies African Americans have used to engage the political system, including Black Nationalism, Black Feminism, Black Conservatism, and Black Marxism. This course also studies the role of American political thought in the development of African American political philosophy.
 - G. Prerequisites: PLS 1153G or permission of the instructor.
 - H. Fall 2007

2. STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES AND EVALUATION
 - A. Students enrolled in this course will:
 - Analyze the evolution of African American Political Ideas
 - Critique African American Political Thought in the Broad Context of American Politics
 - Engage the students critical thinking and writing skills
 - Demonstrate and apply the students knowledge of how African American Political Ideas evolved into political strategies and public policy

 - B. Evaluation of Undergraduate Student performance in the course will be based on
 - **Midterm Exam** 30%

 - **Final Exam** 30%

 - **Short Papers** 40% One paper will be assigned for each section of the course (for a total of three). The student will choose a topic within that section and address a critical question in African American Political Thought.

 - C. This course will not be a Technology Delivered course.

 - D. Graduate students enrolling in this course will have a more detailed and research oriented reading list and in lieu of the two exams, the students

will write two research papers on a particular African American Ideological tradition.

- E. This course will be Writing Intensive; Exams will include essay questions and each student will be required to write three analytical papers on critical topics in African American Political Thought.

	Midterm Exam	Final Exam	Short Papers
Analyze the evolution of African American Political Ideas	X	X	X
Develop critical thinking and writing skills.	X	X	X
Critique African American Political Ideas	X	X	X
Demonstrate knowledge of And assess how African American Political though evolved into political action.		X	X

3. Outline of the Course:

- A. This course will meet 45 times during the semester (3 times a week). The outline of course topics is as follows:

Reading Assignments

Introduction:

Week 1: Themes and Methods

Problems of Definition; What is African American Political Thought?

Part 1: The Diversity of African American Liberalism

Weeks 2 & 3: Slavery and African American Dissent

The Slave Trade, The Constitution, and The Rise of Abolition

Weeks 3 & 4: The Rise of Egalitarian Thought

Abolition Evolved, The Civil War, and Reconstruction,

PAPER 1 Due

Weeks 5 & 6: Liberalism Reborn

The Industrial Revolution and the Rise of Jim Crow

Exam 1

Part 2: Conversations Within: African American Ideas Evolving

Weeks 7 & 8: Black Nationalism

One Nation: Unity in Exclusion; The rise of the Garvey Movement

Week 9: Black Feminism

Sexism and Survival: The unique concerns of African American Women in a Post-Industrial Age

Weeks 10 & 11: Black Conservatism

Economic Theories of African American Emancipation; The Power of Churches in the Community.

PAPER 2 Due

Part 3: Reform, Revolution, and African Americans: Critiques and Questions

Week 12: Civil Rights & Wrongs

Civil Rights Ideologies: Sit-Ins, Boycotts, Marches, and Lawsuits, the path to African American Liberation.

Week 13: Black Marxism

Revolution as Reform; Challenges to the Civil Rights Movement

Week 14: Problems and Prospects

The Effects of Integration, The Reparations Movement, and the Modern Political System

Week 15: Summary and Review

Paper 3 Due

Final Exam

B. This course will not be a technology delivered course.

4. RATIONALE

- A. This course will expand the department's offerings in Political Theory by offering students the opportunity to explore the background, legacy, and political philosophies of one of the nation's most vital communities. This course can also supplement courses in American political behavior and political institutions by exploring the links between race and political activity across a broad spectrum of American life.
- B. The new course would be appropriate for junior and senior majors and non-majors as well as graduate students. Prerequisites: PLS 1153G or permission of the instructor. This course requires a foundation in American Government and knowledge of the Institutions, Practices, and Policies of American Politics and thus, PLS 1153G will be helpful to the potential student. This course will be listed as a 4000 level course because it will utilize critical analysis of original source material to explore the evolving role of political ideology in the African American community; therefore upper class standing will be essential for comprehending the subject matter.
- C. This course will explore and analyze the legal, political, and social ideas impacted by race in America. This course also frames African American ideas from a political science perspective. Although other university departments offer courses that cover some aspects of African American political life, Political Science 4923 is not similar to any existing course.
- D. This course allows students to complete their requirements in the Political Theory area and serves as an upper level elective for both the Political Science major and minor. Graduate students may count this course as an elective to supplement their concentration and minor requirements.

5. IMPLEMENTATION

- A. Initially the course will be assigned to Dr. Kevin Anderson. Other qualified faculty may be assigned to teach the course in the future.
- B. No additional cost will be incurred by the students
- C. The class will use textbooks by Michael Dawson, **Black Visions: The Roots of Contemporary African American Political Ideologies** University of Chicago Press. 2003 And Manning Marable and Leith Mullings **Let Nobody Turn Us Around: Voices of Resistance, Reform, and Renewal: An African American Anthology** Rowman and Littlefield 2003

6. COMMUNITY COLLEGE TRANSFER

A community college course will not be judged equivalent to this course but may be accepted as a substitute; however, upper-division credit will not be awarded.

7. DATE APPROVED BY DEPARTMENT OR SCHOOL October 19, 2005

8. DATE APPROVED BY COLLEGE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE November 11, 2005

9. DATE APPROVED BY CAA January 12, 2006 CGS January 17, 2006