

# BENNETT COLLEGE FOR WOMEN

## DIVISION OF HUMMANITIES DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY, PHILOSOPHY, RELIGION AND INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

### WS 203-00: African Women/Women of Color in the Diaspora SPRING 2008

INSTRUCTORS:	Dr. Valerie A. Johnson and Dr. Karla M. McLucas
OFFICES:	AWS Bldg-700 Gorrell St. (Dr. Johnson) 200-D, Black Hall (Dr. McLucas)
OFFICE HOURS:	Mondays: 10 am — 12 noon 2:00—4:00 pm Tuesdays & Thursdays: 2:30—4:30 pm Wednesdays: 10 am – 12 noon
OFFICE PHONE:	336-517-2259 (Johnson); 336-517-2176 (McLucas)
E-mail address:	<a href="mailto:vajohnson@bennett.edu">vajohnson@bennett.edu</a> and <a href="mailto:kmclucas@bennett.edu">kmclucas@bennett.edu</a>
Prerequisite:	permission of instructor if 1 <sup>st</sup> year student
Credits:	Three (3)
Class Meeting Time:	Tuesdays & Thursdays: 2:30-3:45 pm
Class Location:	Holgate Library, Classroom, Lower Level

***The success of this class depends on everyone's cooperation. Reading newspapers, talking to your friends, arriving late, using mobile telephones, leaving class early are all very disruptive, distracting, and discourteous and are unacceptable. Please be considerate of your peers.***

**Course Description, Aims and Objectives:** This is a **research seminar** designed to help students apply the humanities and social science research methods in the exploration and understanding of African Women in the anthropological, historical, social, political, educational and other arenas from pre-colonial Africa, through the trans-Atlantic slave trade into the "new worlds"...

At the end of the course you should be able to:

- Understand and apply the research methods tools and skills set to critically evaluate existing research and practice ...
- Apply the major research approaches and quantitative, qualitative and mixed methodological modes of inquiry in your specific research project
- Prepare and complete a ten-page research paper
- Present your research completed research project to the class and others

TEXT: Steady, Filomina Chioma. *Black Women, Globalization, and Economic Justice: Studies from Africa and the African Diaspora* (2002), Rochester, Vermont: Schenckman Books.

Additional readings will be distributed in class or will be placed on reserve in the Holgate Library.

Students may make liberal use of the Holgate Library as well as the Holgate Library internet site where resources: NCLIVE and J-STOR, are available. These internet sources provide Citations, Abstracts as well as complete articles as they appear in a number of Journals.

### **Teaching/Learning Approaches:**

This course will use a combination of student-centered learning circle, seminar discussions and interactions, lectures, video watching, field trips and extensive library research. Additionally, students will be required to complete a research paper and present their research findings in class. Students may have only **two (2) unexcused absences**.

### **Class Attendance Policy**

Bennett College recognizes the positive effect of class attendance and participation on academic success. **Regular and punctual class attendance is expected of all students. An instructor will drop a student from a course and assign a failing grade for excessive absences. Excessive absences mean failure to attend 80% of scheduled class meetings.** For classes meeting twice a week, students must not miss more than six (6) classes. For classes meeting three (3) times a week a student must not miss more than 9 classes. A student so dropped may appeal through the College's due process procedure. The Attendance Policy governs all classes.

All students including those who enroll in classes late are responsible for work covered and assigned from the first meeting of a class. The same responsibilities are entrusted to students coming late to classes.

At the time of a test/exam the students are expected to be on time. No student will be allowed to enter the classroom on the day of the test/exam, once the first student exits the class after finishing an exam.

## **Special Needs Statement**

Bennett College is committed to meeting the needs of students with disabilities. Compliant with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act, Bennett College does not discriminate against otherwise qualified candidates in regard to college life.

If you require special accommodations it is your responsibility to communicate them to the instructor. You may also arrange a meeting with the Coordinator of Disability Services for an assessment of special need.

## **Course Methods**

The instructor will employ the following methods, among others, to facilitate student accomplishment of course objectives:

- + Portfolio of materials from previous WS classes
- + Group discussions
- + Discussions with individual students on their research
- + PowerPoint or Poster presentations of student research
- + Draft Research Paper
- + Final Research Paper

## **Technology Requirement**

Written assignments submitted for a grade must be computer generated and submitted electronically to [www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com). Computers and printers are available in several locations on the campus. Unless otherwise specified, no handwritten assignments will be accepted.

## **Requirements, Student Evaluation and Grading**

Students will be evaluated on class attendance & participation, quizzes, journal articles, reaction papers, obituary, research paper, and the final class presentation of the research paper:

- ***Class Participation and Attendance (10%)*** Class attendance, arriving on time for class, participating in class discussion, and completion of all reading assignments will be counted toward class participation.

- **Assignments, Examinations/Quizzes (30%)** You will be required to complete in-and out-of- class assignments, short quizzes and/or other activities throughout the semester.

**Assignments**

- **Journal Entries (12)**
- **Reaction Papers**
- **Research Paper Outline**
- **Midterm**
- **Draft Research Paper**
- **Obituary**
- **Final Research Paper**

**Due Date**

**Every Thurs.**  
**As assigned**  
**2/14/08**  
**2/28/08**  
**4/3/08**  
**4/17/08**  
**4/29/08 (or by consensus)**

- **Presentation (20%):** Student will make a twenty (20) minute presentation on their completed research project. The presentations are scheduled for the following dates:

- **April 22 and 24, 2008**

- **Research Report (40%):** Students will be required to write and present a research paper which includes, but is not limited to the following elements: Your work will be graded on the basis of content, grammar, analysis of the material and other guidelines detailed in this syllabus. Students must use correct citations for any information drawn from works published by others and include all references in the bibliography page.

**For each assignment, your bibliographic entries and in-text citations must be complete and correct. We will not compromise on this point. We will review citation styles in class, and we will expect you to conform to them.**

The research paper is **REQUIRED** and must be submitted by **Tuesday, April 29, 2008**. **Students who do not submit their research paper on the due date will fail the course. THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS.**

**Grading Scale:**

90 – 100%	=	A	Excellent (Superior Work)
80 – 89%	=	B	Very Good (More than satisfactory)
70 – 79%	=	C	Satisfactory (Basic understanding of the subject)
60 – 69%	=	D	Not Satisfactory (Failure to meet or complete course requirements)
< 59%	=	F	Unsatisfactory (Failure to meet minimum course requirements)

All assignments are due by class time on the scheduled date. The instructors are under no obligation to accept late assignments

**Participation:** Regular class attendance, faithful completion of the reading assignments, and informed participation in class discussions, presentations and other activities.

**Course Schedule:** The course schedule may be changed at our discretion in order to accommodate necessary adjustments/conflicts.

**Midterm Examination:** **The examination cannot be taken early or late. There will be no make up examination.** The midterm is scheduled for *Thursday, February 28, 2008*. This exam will be composed of multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions. The material on the exam will be drawn from lectures, presentations and the required textbook readings).

**Course Policies and Procedures:** We will hold you responsible for the information in this syllabus, so we expect you to read it, understand it, sign the contract and ask questions about anything you do not understand throughout the semester.

**Academic Integrity:** All students are responsible for maintaining the highest standards of honesty and integrity. The penalties for academic dishonesty are severe and ignorance is not an acceptable defense. Please take time to read and comprehend Bennett College's policy on Academic Integrity. You are responsible for your own work. It is your responsibility to see either your writing lab tutor or one of us if you have any questions concerning documented or cited sources before you submit your work to us for grading.

**Final thoughts:** Our objective is to make this course interesting and worth your time, effort and enhance your understanding of scholarly research methods and design. We will try to do all that is reasonable and within our power to ensure that you learn and succeed. If you are concerned with **any** aspect of this course please contact one of us. You owe it to yourself to talk with either one of us as we can only help if we know there is an issue.

## **CLASS TOPICS SCHEDULE:**

*Introduction; Part 1—Pre Colonial Africa*  
*African Slave Trade*  
*“Slave Castles” and the Transatlantic Slave Trade*  
*African Voices on the Transatlantic Slave Trade*  
*Africans in the Americas and the Diaspora*  
*Contemporary Legacy of the Slavery and the Slave Trade*  
*21st Century issues of African Women in the Diaspora*

## **ADDITIONAL READINGS SELECTED FROM THE FOLLOWING TEXTS:**

**“History of the Atlantic Slave Trade and Relevant Historical Sites in Ghana”—Osei Tutu**

**Forced Migration—Joseph Inikori**

**African Voices of the Atlantic Slave Trade: Beyond the Silence and the Shame—Anne C. Bailey**

**Dropping Anchor, Setting Sail—Jacqueline Nassy Brown**

**Anowa—Ama Ata Aidoo**

**Fighting the Slave Trade: West African Strategies—Sylviane Diouf, ed.  
Their Eyes Were Watching God – Zora Neale Hurston**

## **SELECTED FILMS and DOCUMENTARIES:**

**Life and Debt; “Africans in America” series; Eve’s Bayou; Sankofa; Daughters of the Dust; Through the Door of No Return (Shirikiana Aina); Adanggaman (Roger G. Mbala), H-2 Worker**

## **Bennett College for Women - Mission Statement**

Bennett College is a small, private, historically Black liberal arts college for women. The College offers women an education conducive to excellence in scholarly pursuits; preparation for leadership roles in the workplace, society, and the world; and life-long learning in a technologically advanced, complex global society. As a United Methodist Church-related institution, Bennett College promotes morally grounded maturation, intellectual honesty, purposeful public service, and responsible civic action.

The College welcomes students, faculty, and staff from diverse backgrounds, recognizing that the educational experience is enriched and strengthened when multiple voices are represented and heard. Operating in an interdisciplinary, learning-centered environment, students, working with faculty and staff, will learn to use sophisticated intellectual skills, think analytically, and solve problems in ways that respect a variety of viewpoints and deepen their understanding of different cultures.

At Bennett College, education takes place in an environment of open inquiry where teachers and students are immersed in educational processes that build community, foster authentic research, create knowledge, and advance scholarship and personal empowerment. Students will leave Bennett College prepared for success in the world of work and further studies, possessing a greater appreciation of the history and culture of Africa and the African Diaspora, the struggles and accomplishments of women, and a realization of their own ability and the possibilities to help change the world.

Bennett College is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, GA 30033, 404-679-4500, [www.sacscoc.org](http://www.sacscoc.org); the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE); the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE).

April 22, 2008 Presentations

Time

1:00—1:20 pm  
1:20—1:40 pm  
1:40—2:00 pm  
2:00—2:20 pm  
2:20—2:40 pm  
2:40—3:00 pm  
3:00—3:20 pm  
3:20—3:40 pm

Presenter

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April 24, 2008 Presentations

Time

1:00—1:20 pm  
1:20-- 1:40 pm  
1:40—2:00 pm  
2:00—2:20 pm  
2:20—2:40 pm  
2:40—3:00 pm  
3:00—3:20 pm  
3:20—3:40 pm

Presenter

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IN ORDER TO REMAIN IN THIS CLASS, YOU MUST READ THE SYLLABUS,  
COMPLETE THE FORM BELOW, AND RETURN IT TO THE INSTRUCTORS

A. Statement of Understanding Course Requirements

I have read the syllabus for Women Studies 203 and I understand the course requirements including the policies on attendance, class participation and academic dishonesty.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ (Print)

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_