

## DEPARTMENT OF BLACK STUDIES - FALL Winter 2010

**NAME OF COURSE:** Research Methods in Black Studies **BST 396 CRN:**  
**INSTRUCTOR:** E. Kofi Agorsah, 308 Neuberger Hall **Tel:** 503-725-5080 **Fax:** 503-725-4003  
**CONTACT:** e-mail: [agorsah@pdx.edu](mailto:agorsah@pdx.edu) **OFFICEHOURS:** TR 10:00AM-12:00 PM or by Appointment  
**CLASS HOURS:** TBA **CLASSROOM:** TBA

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

Course introduces students to different aspects of qualitative and quantitative research and approaches in the social sciences and specifically as they apply to issues in Black Studies (Africa, African America and Caribbean) issues, themes or concepts in Social Science Research. Research design, processes of data collection and interviewing, content and context analysis, interpretation and reporting are discussed. Students are led to design a research project on selected topics for evaluation.

### COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- (1) Attendance and group participation **(20%)**
- (2) Class assignments **(60%)**
- (3) Final Project paper/or presentation **(20%)**

### COURSE OUTLINE:

- 1 Introduction - Research - definitions - Theory, Method and Techniques -  
- approaches - conceptual and operational -
2. Research and evidence - Social Science Research - Black Studies -  
Cultural Studies - experimental, natural, correlation, etc
3. Evidence - Units of data collection and analysis - Variables - Levels of measurement.
4. Implication for Black Studies - contexts - content - themes  
Africa/African American/Caribbean - subjects and concepts of research interest;
5. Research Strategies/Procedure -Research design/proposal:  
preliminaries to field research - guidelines - a model
6. Techniques of data recording and analysis -  
- interviewing process & techniques  
- methods of data evaluation and analysis - (qualitative and quantitative)  
- ethnographic & Oral History research
7. Applications for Africa and the African Diaspora:  
Evidence and Interpretations - research reporting - Examples
8. Review of Projects - group discussions and class mini presentations -

**READING MATERIAL** Course readings consisting of selected papers or research methods will be made available in class. Readings will be assigned in class at appropriate points of the course.

#### Appendix: COMMANDMENTS

- I - Thou shall not EAT during class – drinks only ok
- II- Thou shall submit to a charge of loss of 10% marks for late submission of any one assignment in this course.
- III – Thou shall earn full attendance for each class only for punctuality and staying full time for such a class. Exception only on medical grounds with authentic medical certification.

**1. Attendance and participation (20%)** – Each class attendance equals 1%. An attendance sheet is passed around each class time and students sign against their assigned class numbers.

**2. Class assignments (60%)**

**3. Final/Class Project (20%).** Students undertake a comparative research project on assigned /selected topic in the study of the “black experience in Africa or the Americas.