

PROPOSAL FOR A NEW AFRO-AMERICAN STUDIES COURSE

PURPOSE:

Today, more than at any other time in our history as a nation, "internationalism", and especially the delineation of "third world" political segmentalism(e.g., Vietnam, Cambodia and Nigeria) has become paramount in American foreign relations. No longer can a "benign isolationism" of the United States in world affairs be tolerated nor encouraged. Within this context, the relationship between the development of Afro-Americanism and the Human Rights movement in the United States has evidenced striking parallels to the drive for African independence and nation development. Although each of these subjects have been offered as separate course entities at the University of Idaho(e.g., one under Political Systems of African and the other under Ethnic and Racial Relations in the United States) yet, to date, their exploitation on an ethno-historical continuum has not been proffered.

We strongly suggest the addition of a course in the curriculum of the University of Idaho which would deal specifically with the axiomatic ethno-historical relationships which exist between Africans and their descendants in the Western Hemisphere--especially in the United States.

We further recommend that the course be entitled "Pan-Africanism-Afro-Americanism: Comparative Perspectives". It would be offered on the 400 level under the option of "special seminar" for 3 credits. The designated room for course instruction would be the Black Student Union seminar room(BSU House). Instructors for the course would be Edwin R. Robinson and Kenneth A. Johnson.

In the event that such a course would elicit attitudes favorable to its adoption, further details(i.e., course outline and description) would be forthcoming.