

Bureau of Educational Research:  
2009-2010 Seminar Series

# RETHINKING THE ORIGINS OF THE VALUE OF LITERACY & SCHOOL IN THE AFRICAN AMERICAN EXPERIENCE, 1790 – 1865



## DR. CHRISTOPHER SPAN

2009-2010

**DISTINGUISHED SCHOLAR**

Associate Professor,  
Educational Policy Studies

**WHERE:**

242 EDUCATION BUILDING

**WHEN:**

THURSDAY, September 24th 12-1:00PM

This presentation will theorize and document the origins and evolution of the cultural value enslaved African Americans in pre-Civil War America placed on **LITERACY AND KNOWLEDGE**.

Dr. Span will attempt to retrace the origins of the value of literacy and knowledge in the **ENSLAVED AFRICAN AMERICAN EXPERIENCE** prior to the Civil War. He will posit that the value enslaved African Americans placed on literacy and knowledge was a cultural value distinct within the African American experience; it was a **VALUE BORN AND NURTURED DURING ENSLAVEMENT** and then passed on from one generation to the next.

His presentation will offer an historical interpretation about the longstanding cultural value African Americans have had for learning and the connections they made of **EQUATING LITERACY AND KNOWLEDGE TO FREEDOM, CITIZENSHIP, AND DEMOCRACY**.