

**RARITAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
ACADEMIC COURSE OUTLINE**

**HUMN 191- INTRODUCTION TO AFRICANA PHILOSOPHY
& THOUGHT**

I. Basic Course Information

A. Course Number and Title: HUM 191- Introduction to Africana Philosophy & Thought

B. New or Modified Course: New

C. Date of Proposal: Semester: Fall Year: 2021

D. Effective Term: Fall 2022

E. Sponsoring Department: Humanities, Social Science, Social Work, & Education

F. Semester Credit Hours: 3

G. Weekly Contact Hours: 3 Lecture: 3
 Laboratory: 0
 Out of class student work per week: 6

H. Prerequisites/Corequisites: Placement into ENGL 111 English Composition I with ENGL 070 English Composition I Workshop, or higher.

I. Laboratory Fees: None

J. Name and Telephone Number or E-Mail Address of Department Chair and Divisional Dean at time of approval:

Dr. Isabel Gutierrez- HSSE Department Chair- Isabel.Gutierrez@raritanval.edu.

Dr. Patrice Marks- Dean of the Liberal & Fine Arts- Patrice.Marks@raritanval.edu

II. Catalog Description

Co-requisites: Students must have successfully placed into ENGL 111 English Composition I with ENGL 070 English Composition I Workshop, or higher.

This course serves as an introduction to Africana philosophy and thought. As such, it explores the unique set of questions raised by the emergence of “Africans” and their diaspora designated by the term “Africana.” Such concerns include the convergence of most Africans with the racial term “black” and its many connotations. Africana philosophy then designates a specific subset of Africana thought, which involves theoretical questions raised by critical engagements with ideas

in Africana cultures and their hybrid, mixed, or creolized forms worldwide. This course will explore questions such as: Is there Africana philosophy? If so, what is it? Who are Africana philosophers? Who counts as an Africana philosopher? These questions also lead to questions about the idea of “Africa” itself, as well as metaphilosophical questions about the nature of philosophy, and philosophical anthropological questions about the nature of being human.

III. Statement of Course Need

- A. In alignment with the college’s mission to provide an “inclusive college community inspiring excellence in education,” as well as our on-going efforts to diversify the curriculum in order to be more cultural responsive to our changing student population, this course is designed to expose students to ideas that help to shape ,as well as challenge, the traditional Western philosophical canon. As such, this course will supplement other courses in the humanities which explore the history and ideas of African Americans, such as African American History (HIST 191), African American Literature (ENG 231), Race in American Literature and Pop Culture (ENG 214), & Global Patterns of Racism (ANTH 202/ENG 207/HIST 204). This course will also prepare students for further study in the humanities and/or philosophy.
- B. Lab Component: N/A
- C. Please describe the transferability of this course.
 - 1. This course generally transfers as a Humanities general education course.
 - 2. This course generally transfers as a liberal arts program elective.
 - 3. This course generally transfers as a free elective.

IV. Place of Course in College Curriculum

- A. Free Elective
- B. This course serves as a General Education course in Humanities or Global/Cultural Awareness (status pending)
- C. This course satisfies a program requirement for a variety of programs
- D. To see course transferability: a) for New Jersey schools, go to the NJ Transfer website, www.njtransfer.org; b) for all other colleges and universities, go to the individual websites.

V. Outline of Course Content

- A. Africana Philosophy as a form of Philosophy
 - 1. Metaphilosophy: What is Philosophy?
 - a. Traditional Narratives
 - b. Counter-Narratives

- c. Philosophical Anthropology
 - 2. On the Social Constructions of Africa & Europe
 - 3. Exploring the term “Africana”
 - 4. Is there an Africana philosophy?
- B. Eighteenth & Nineteenth Century Foundations
 - 1. Anton Wilhelm Amo
 - 2. Quobna Ottobah Cugoano
 - 3. Anténor Firmin
 - 4. George Wilmot Blyden
- C. Pillars of Africana Philosophy & Thought
 - 1. Anna Julia Cooper
 - 2. W.E.B. Dubois
 - 3. Frantz Fanon
- D. Africana Thought in United States & Britain
 - 1. Pragmatism and the Prophetic Tradition
 - 2. Black Feminist & Womanist Thought
 - 3. Afrocentrism & Afrocentricity
 - 4. African-American Analytical Philosophy
 - 5. African-American & Afro-British European Continental Philosophy
 - 6. African-American Existential Philosophy & Phenomenology
- E. Afro-Caribbean Philosophy
- F. African Philosophy
 - 1. African Humanism
 - 2. The Theme of Invention in Recent African Philosophy & Critiques of Invention
 - 3. Recent African Political Thought

VI. General Education and Course Learning Outcomes

A. General Education Learning Outcomes:

At the completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. analyze works in the field of Africana thought by applying commonly used approaches and criteria (GE-6)
2. link cultural perspectives of Africana thinkers to the geographic and/or historical conditions from which they arose (GE-8)
3. recognize and assess the contributions and impact of people from various nations and/or cultures (GE-8)
4. logically and persuasively defend (in speech and in writing) their own point of view regarding a question and/or problem in the field (GE-1)

B. Course Learning Outcomes:

At the completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. describe major perspectives within Africana thought and philosophy.
2. compare and contrast the strengths and weaknesses of different philosophical perspectives.
3. evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of different philosophical perspectives through an ethical lens (GE-ERA)

C. Assessment Instruments

Given the outcomes described above, LIST which of the following assessment methods may be used; please note any instruments that will be *required* to assess outcomes as listed above (e.g., research papers for information literacy):

1. art work
2. poster projects
3. presentations
4. essays
5. research papers
6. quizzes

VII. Grade Determinants

What factors may enter into the determination of the final? LIST the grade determinants. Please note any grade determinants that will be *required* for the course. For example:

- A. essays (required)
- B. annotated bibliography
- C. presentations
- D. research paper

Given the goals and outcomes described above, LIST the primary formats, modes, and methods for teaching and learning that may be used in the course:

- A. lecture/discussion
- B. small-group work
- C. close reading (in-class)
- D. community of inquiry
- E. films with facilitated discussion
- F. guest speakers
- G. student collaboration
- H. student oral presentations

VIII. Texts and Materials

LIST which of the following types of course materials will be used. Specify title and publication information about textbooks and any other major text sources or other materials.

- A. suggested textbook:
Gordon, Lewis. *An Introduction to Africana Philosophy*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2008.
- B. primary sources:
Bernal, Martin. *Black Athena: The Afroasiatic Roots of Classical Civilization*. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 1987.
Bernal, Martin. *Black Athena Responds to His Critics*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2001.
Gordon, Lewis. *Existential Africana: Understanding Africana Existential Thought*. New York: Routledge, 2000.
Mignolo, Walter. *The Darker Side of the Renaissance: Literacy, Territoriality, and Colonization*. Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan Press, 2003.
Mudimbe, V.Y. *The Invention of Africa: Gnosis, Philosophy, and the Order of Knowledge*. Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 1998.
Obenga, Théophile. *African Philosophy: The Pharaonic Period*. Popenguine, Senegal: Ankh, 2004.
Outlaw, Lucius T. *On Race and Philosophy*. New York: Routledge, 1996.
- C. interviews
- D. film and video
- E. web sources

Please Note: The course outline is intended only as a guide to course content and resources. Do not purchase textbooks based on this outline. The RVCC Bookstore is the sole resource for the most up-to-date information about textbooks.

IX. Resources

- A. Library databases and resources
- B. Online databases to access sources and conduct research

X. Honors Options [if relevant]

N/A