

**RUTGERS, THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF AFRICANA STUDIES**

Introduction to Africana Studies (01:014:103:03)

Course Syllabus

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Office hours: By arrangement

Fall 2023
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

The intellectual roots of Africana Studies lie in the struggle of people of African descent to define for themselves their cultural, economic and political identities in the United States. During the political ferment of the 1960s, students called for the establishment of academic departments within universities that analyzed and preserved the memory of the collective experiences, cultures and socio-economic development of the African diaspora.

The aim of this course is to give students an overview of 1) the circumstances that led to the institutionalization of the discipline within the American academy and 2) the intellectual traditions of the discipline. The course will emphasize a comparative research agenda to study the worldwide dispersal of African peoples. This diasporic approach takes as its starting point the connection between the history, politics, and protest of peoples of African descent, whether they are in Johannesburg, Kingston, Lagos, Brixton, Harlem, or Los Angeles. It seeks to explore the connection between intellectuals, the development of economic institutions, the construction of identities across the African diaspora, and the emergence of social movements such as #BlackLivesMatter

REQUIRED READING MATERIALS

There are no purchases required for this class. The readings are available on Canvas at no cost to you.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Readings and lectures (including guest lectures and videos) complement one another; they are not mutually exclusive. It is important that students keep up with both.

Students must participate, take three quizzes, and submit a final examination to earn a grade in this course.

GRADE DISTRIBUTION

3 Tests	60
Final exam	30
Participation	10
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	100 %

GRADE ALLOCATION

A	90 and above
B+	85-89
B	80-84
C+	75-79
C	70-74
D	65-69
F	64 and below

COURSE SCHEDULE (subject to change)

W 9/6

Introduction and Overview

“About Us” on the Rutgers Africana Studies website:

<https://africanastudies.rutgers.edu/about-us>

Bethel, L. “A History of Africana Studies at Rutgers University”
<https://africanastudies.rutgers.edu/about-us/36-about> (also look in Sakai)

M 9/11

The Discipline of Africana Studies

Murch, D. (2010) *Living for the City: Migration, Education, and the Rise of the Black Panther Party in Oakland, California*, Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, pp.97-116

McCormick, R.P. (1990) *The Black Student Protest Movement at Rutgers*, New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, pp. 93-108

Adams, B.J et al (2020) “The Rutgers Race Man: Early Black Students at Rutgers College” in Kendra Boyd et al (eds.) *Scarlet and Black: Constructing Race and Gender at Rutgers, 1865-1945*. New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press. pp 72-105.

W 9/13

Hine, D.C. “The Black Studies Movement: Afrocentric-Traditionalist-Feminist Paradigms for the Next Stage, *The Black Scholar*, 22(3), pp. 11-18.

M 9/18

The African Heritage: Ancient and Modern

Davidson, B. (1994) “The Search for Africa: History, Culture and Politics (The Ancient World and Africa: Whose Roots,” in Basil Davidson (ed.), *The Search for Africa: History, Culture and Politics*, New York: Random House, pp. 318-333.

W 9/20

Ramsamy, E. (2006) *The Place of Africa in History and Scholarship: A Conversation with Ivan Van Sertima*, in Edward Ramsamy and Gayle T. Tate (eds.), *The Black Experience in America*, Dubuque: Kendall/Hunt Publishing Company, pp. 8-15.

M 9/25

Empire, Slavery, and Colonialism in Africa

Davis, D. B. (1984) *Slavery and Human Progress (Chapter 5) From White to Black: European Expansion and the Changing Source of Slaves*, New York: Oxford University Press, pp.51-81.

W 9/27

Rodney, W. (2010) “How Europe Underdeveloped Africa,” in Roy Richard Grinker *et al* (eds.), *Perspectives on Africa*, Malden: Wiley-Blackwell, pp.439-449.

M 10/2

Anti-Imperial Struggles in Africa

Nyangoro. J. (2005) “Africa’s Road to Independence,” in Mario Azevedo (ed). *Africana Studies: A Survey of Africa and the African Diaspora*, Durham: Carolina Academic Press, pp. 163-172.

W 10/4

South Africa: Apartheid and the Struggle for Democracy

Ramsamy, E. (2014) “Remembering Nelson Mandela: A Tribute” in the *Newsletter of the Center for African Studies*, Rutgers University, Spring 2014, vol. XXIII, pp. 20-23.

M 10/9 Ramsamy, E. (2012) “The Anti-Apartheid Movement” in E. Ramsamy (ed.) *The Cultural Sociology of the Middle East, Asia, and Africa: An Encyclopedia*, Vol. 2, Africa, pp. 228-231.

W 10/11 **TEST 1**

The Middle Passage

Equiano, O. (2014) “The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano” in H.L.Gates and V.A. Smith, (eds.) *The Norton Anthology of African American Literature*, vol. 1, 3rd edition, New York: Norton, Chapter 2, pp. 130-134

The Modern African Diaspora

Butler, K.D. (2001) “Defining Diaspora, Refining a Discourse” *Diaspora*, vol. 10, no. 2, pp. 189-219.

M 10/16 **Brazil: the Largest African Diaspora**

Butler, K. D (1998) “Introduction: Brazil and the Afro-Atlantic Diaspora: Recontextualizing Abolition” in K.D. Butler, *Freedoms Given, Freedoms Won*, New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, pp. 1 -15.

W 10/18 Walters, R. Chapter 10 “Pan Africanism in Brazil: Comparative Aspects of Color, Race and Power”, pp. 272 – 296.

M 10/23 **The United States: Racial Slavery**

Douglass, F. (2014) “Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass” Chapter 1, in H.L.Gates and V.A. Smith, (eds.) *The Norton Anthology of African American Literature*, vol. 1, 3rd edition, New York: Norton, pp. 337-340.

W 10/25 Tate, G. (2011) “Slavery, Resistance and Freedom: An Introduction” in Edward Ramsamy & Gayle T. Tate (eds) *The Black Experience in America*, Dubuque: Kendall/Hunt Publishing Company.

Takaki, R. (2002) “Why the Switch to Slavery: Fears of Rebellious White Workers” in R. Takaki, (ed.) *Debating Diversity: Clashing Perspectives on Race and Ethnicity in America*, New York: Oxford University Press

M 10/30

Racial Segregation in the United States

Wright, R. (2014) "The Ethics of Living Jim Crow, an Autobiographical Sketch" in H.L. Gates and V. A. Smith (eds.) *The Norton Anthology of African American Literature*, vol. 2, 3rd edition, New York: Norton

Wilson, W.J. (1980) "Segregation and the Rise of the White Working Class" in W.J. Wilson, *The Declining Significance of Race*, Chicago: University of Chicago Press. pp. 42-60

Booker T. Washington's *Atlanta Exposition Address* in Edward Ramsamy & Gayle T. Tate (eds) *The Black Experience in America*, Dubuque: Kendall/Hunt Publishing Company.

W 11/1

TEST 2

African-American Migration

Wilkerson, I. (2010) "Leaving" in *The Warmth of Other Suns*, New York: Random House

African American Urbanization

Wilkerson, I. (2010) "Transplanted in Alien Soil" in *The Warmth of Other Suns*, New York: Random House

The Harlem Renaissance

Ramachandran, K. (2011) "Representing Blackness: The 'New Negro' Art of the Harlem Renaissance" in G.T. Tate and E.Ramsamy, (eds.) *The Black Experience in America*, 2nd edition, Dubuque, Iowa: Kendall Hunt

M 11/6

The Civil Rights Movement

Ramsamy, E (2011) "Traditions of Resistance and Phases of the Civil Rights Movement: A Conceptual Overview" in G.T. Tate and E.Ramsamy, eds.) *The Black Experience in America*, 2nd edition, Dubuque, Iowa: Kendall Hunt

Prashad, V. (2009) "Waiting for the Black Gandhi," in Michael O. West, et al (ed.), *From Toussaint to Tupac*, Chapel Hill: North Carolina University Press, pp.179-196.

W 11/8

McGevna, A. (2011) "The Unsung Heroism of Ruby Hurley" (Chapter 39, 283-295) in Ramsamy and Tate

M 11/13

Black Nationalism, the Black Power Movement, and Identity Politics

Tate, G. T. (2007) "Black Nationalism: An Angle of Vision" in G.T. Tate and E.Ramsamy (eds.) *The Black Experience in America*, 2nd Edition, Dubuque, Iowa: Kendall Hunt

W 11/15

Race and Racism

Marable, M. (1997) "What is Race?" in M. Marable, *Black Liberation in Conservative America*, Boston: South End Press

West, C. (1982) "A Genealogy of Modern Racism" in C. West, *Prophecy Deliverance: An Afro-American Revolutionary Christianity*, Philadelphia: Westminster Press

Olubayi, O. (2011) "Thinking of Race in the Age of DNA" in Edward Ramsamy & Gayle T. Tate (eds) *The Black Experience in America*, Dubuque: Kendall/Hunt Publishing Company.

M 11/20

The "New" Jim Crow

Wacquant, L. (2006) "From Slavery to Mass Incarceration: Rethinking the "Race" Question in the United States," in Donald Macedo and Panayota Gounari (eds). *The Globalization of Racism*, Boulder: Paradigm Publishers, pp. 94-110

W 11/22

FRIDAY CLASSES TODAY DUE TO THANKSGIVING

M 11/27

A "Post-racial" America?

Gautier, A. (2011) "On Post Racial America in the Age of Obama," *Dédalus*, Winter 2011, pp.90-107.

W 11/29

Bigotry in America

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Bronner, S.E. (2014) “The Bigot Today” in S.E.Bronner, *The Bigot: Why Prejudice Persists*, New Haven, Connecticut: Yale University Press

West, C. (2004), *Democracy Matters: Winning the Fight Against Imperialism* (Chapter 6, The Necessary Engagement with Youth Culture, New York: Penguin Books, pp. 173-200.

M 12/4

TEST 3

Black Lives Matter

Ransby, B. (2017) “Black Lives Matter is Democracy in Action” *The New York Times*, October 21, 2017. Available on Sakai under Resources.

W 12/6

Present Challenges

Ramachandran, K. (2011) “Black-Asian Relations in the United States: Negotiating Globalization and Racialization” in in G.T. Tate and E.Ramsamy, (eds.) *The Black Experience in America*, 2nd edition, Dubuque, Iowa: Kendall Hunt

M 12/11

McCormick, R.L. (2014) “Converging Perils to College Access for Racial Minorities: Examples of Responses that Work from Washington State and New Jersey”, in Richard, D. Kahlenberg (ed.), *The Future of Affirmative Action: New Paths to Higher Education Diversity after Fisher v University of Texas*, New York: The Century Foundation Press. pp. 110 – 121.

W 12/13

Review

W 12/20

Final exam due