

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

**Introduction to Africana Studies**

Edward Ramsamy, Ph.D.  
Course: 01:014:103:04  
M/W 1:40pm -3pm  
TIL HALL, RM-253  
Office Hours: by appointment

Spring 2017

**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 the formation of intellectuals, the development of economic institutions, and the construction of cultural and social identities and groupings across the African diaspora.

**REQUIRED READING MATERIALS**

There is no single text for the class. The readings consist of a set of articles, which are available on SAKAI.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

- 1) Readings and lectures complement one another; they are not mutually exclusive. It is mandatory that lectures are attended and readings are completed on time.
- 2) There will be three quizzes and a final examination. Grade distribution:

## **GRADE DISTRIBUTION**

- |    |                   |           |
|----|-------------------|-----------|
| 1) | 3 Quizzes         | 60 Points |
| 2) | Final Examination | 40 points |

## **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**

**W 01/18**                      **Introduction and Overview**

**M 01/23, W01/25**        **The Discipline of Africana Studies**

Leonard Bethel, The History of Africana Studies at Rutgers (from

<http://africanastudies.rutgers.edu/about-us-mainmenu-138?task=blogcategory>

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

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

Donna Murch, (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.

**01/30, W 02/1**

**The Land of The Ancestors – The African Heritage**

Basil Davidson (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.

Edward Ramsamy (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.

**02/6**

**Empire and Colonialism**

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

**02/08, 02/13**

**Anti-Imperial Struggles**

Julius E. Nyangoro (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.

**02/15/20/22/27/1/6**

**South Africa**

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.

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.

Edward Ramsamy (2016) “The International Community and Transformations in South Africa: From Protests to Engagement”, in Sandra M. Tomlinson-Clarke and Darren L. Clarke (eds.), *Social Justice and Transformative Learning*, New York: Routledge, pp. 24-39.

02/08

**Empire, Slavery and the Black Diaspora**

David Brion Davis (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.

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

03/20, 22

**Brazil, the Largest African Diaspora**

Kim D. Butler (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.

Michael Conniff and Thomas Davis (1994) Africans in the Americas, (Africans in Brazil, pp. 89-106), New York: St. Martin’s Press.

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

03/27

**Racial Slavery in the United States**

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, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, New York: Norton, pp. 337-340.

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

**03/29; 04/3**

**The Life and Legacy of Paul Robeson**

Paul Robeson (1958) *Here I Stand (Prologue)*, Boston: Beacon Press, pp. 6-27

Paul Robeson, Jr. on the Life and Legacy of his Famous Father, *Common Purposes*, Vol 5(1), 1994.

John Hope Franklin (1998) "Paul Robeson, Icon for the Twenty-First Century", in Jeffrey C. Stewart (ed.), *Paul Robeson: Artist and Citizen*, New Brunswick, Rutgers University Press, pp.291-300.

**04/10, 04/12**

**The Civil Rights Movement**

Vijay Prashad (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.

Edward Ramsamy, "Traditions and Phases of the Civil Rights Movement"

**04/17, 04/19**

**The Black Power Movement**

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

**04/24**

**The New Jim Crow and New Social Movements**

Loïc Wacquant (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.

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

04/26;05/01

**Current Challenges**

Richard L McCormick (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.

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

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

**FINAL EXAMINATION – MAY 9<sup>TH</sup>, 12PM – 3PM**