I. Dr. Blanche Radford Curry  
Philosophy 212 – African American Philosophy – Spring 2014

3 Credit Hours (Web Enhanced Course)  
Office: LSA 234 Office # 672-1945 or 1659  
E-mail: bcurry@uncfsu.edu  
Office Hours: Mondays and Tuesdays 2:30-3:30 and by appointment.

FSU Policy on Electronic Mail: Fayetteville State University provides to each student, free of charge, an electronic mail account (username@uncfsu.edu) that is easily accessible via the Internet. The university has established FSU email as the primary mode of correspondence between university officials and enrolled students. Inquiries and requests from students pertaining to academic records, grades, bills, financial aid, and other matters of a confidential nature must be submitted via FSU email. Inquiries or requests from personal email accounts are not assured a response. The university maintains open-use computer laboratories throughout the campus that can be used to access electronic mail.

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II. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is a critical examination of concepts and issues pertaining to African American experience in historical and contemporary periods. Concepts and issues such as oppression, resistance, justice, liberation, separatism, integration, affirmative action, identity, self-respect, race, class, gender, the universality of Western Philosophy, and cultural features of philosophy. These concepts and issues will be addressed through an analysis of writings by major figures such as: Sojourner Truth, Frederick Douglass, and W.E.B. DuBois, Alain Locke, Martin Luther King, Jr., Malcolm X, William Jones, Cornel West, Angela Davis, Leonard Harris, and Bernard Boxill. Pre-requisite: Philosophy 110.

III. REQUIRED TEXTS

W.E.B. DuBois, The Souls of Black Folk
Alex Haley, Malcolm X
Frederick Douglass, Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass
James A. Montmarquet, William H. Hardy, Reflections: An Anthology of African American Philosophy
The Black Scholar Volume 43 No.4
Supplementary Readings, Required Essays

IV. COURSE OBJECTIVES AND GOALS

1. To analyze extended, involved arguments about alternative conceptual schemes, culturally complex topics, and philosophical issues in the African-American experience.
2. To evaluate these arguments in writing and orally with special attention to the evidence presented pro and con.
3. To develop and refine skills in reading, writing, speaking, analyzing, and evaluating claims and arguments.
4. To develop an understanding of African American perspectives on important philosophical questions.

V. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to demonstrate the following learning outcomes classified under Bloomber’s Taxonomy:
1. Recognize and understand the basic concepts of the course including, philosophy, oppression, resistance, emancipation, assimilation, social justice, civil rights, civil disobedience, Affirmative Action, etc.
2. Explain or illustrate in their own words using their own examples the above concepts and related theories and principles.
3. Identify instances of the issues being raised in class from related books in history, political science, sociology, and social justice etc.
4. Apply key the theories, principles, and values from the course to discuss African American philosophical issues and arguments in the media as well as published library and online materials. These may include legal cases, movies, journal and newspaper articles, editorials, formal speeches, sermons, web blogs, tweets, etc.
5. Analyze the definitions, theories, and arguments used to defend or reject various positions on the philosophical issues of concern to African Americans, e.g. abolition of slavery, methods of resistance, emancipation, assimilation, emigration and segregation.
6. Examine critically from the stand points of ethics and rationality the merit of violence and non-violent means to conflict-resolution and social transformation.
7. Argue with substantive philosophical and empirical evidence for or against King’s Method of Civil Disobedience
8. Argue with substantive philosophical, empirical and legal documents or cases for or against Affirmative Action for Blacks and women.
9. Propose and defend solutions to contemporary social/political/legal/ethical issues affecting African Americans including high school drop-out rates, high unemployment rates, hunger, homelessness, high incarceration and recidivism rates, and black-on-black violence using skills and values from multiple disciplines and sources.
10. Construct power point essays defending or critiquing a position one on of the philosophical/controversial issues discussed in class and, or more specifically from the text, James A. Montmarquet, William H. Hardy, *Reflections: An Anthology of African American Philosophy.*

VI. TEACHING STRATEGIES

1. Group work, discussion board posts, classroom discussions, oral presentations, and audio-visuals.
2. **Service Learning:** In collaboration with the FSU Service learning Center, Students will be assigned to volunteer for 8 hours at opportunities related to experiencing application of materials covered in the course. [www.uncfsu.edu/civic-engagement/](http://www.uncfsu.edu/civic-engagement/)
3. Enhancement of **Library Skills** through Chesnutt Library: **Information Literary (IL)**
4. Enhancement of **Writing Skills** through Writing Across the Curriculum (WAC)

VII. COURSE REQUIREMENTS and EVALUATION CRITERIA  Total Points 1010

1. Class attendance is mandatory for all students. Those who miss the equivalent of one week or 10 % of attendance will be subject to withdrawal or grade X for no show. **Students should evidence a close reading of materials in order to actively participate in black board discussion, group discussion and class discussion.** It is the responsibility of the student to obtain information missed during his/her class absence. Students will not be rewarded with points just for showing up in class.  

2. Students will complete a **pre and post test. 5 points each** Extra Credit  

3. **Reflective journals** of the course materials for **units 1 through 9.** Each journal should be 3-4 typed pages and submitted in accordance with Assignments Due Dates – See attached Course Topics and Assignment Due Dates.

   8 journals at 100 points each  

4. **Discussion board posts**  

   8 DBPs at 10 points each  

5. The **Final Exam** is three parts. **Part I** is a three page reflective paper consisting of 3 to 4 questions. **Part II** is one page essay and presentation on your 8 hours Service Learning Civic Engagement Project. **Part III** is a research paper from **unit 10** text, *More Dimension of African American Philosophy* (to be approved by Dr. Radford-Curry prior to midterm. **Part I** – 10 points, **Part II** – 15 points  

   **Part III** – Term Paper – WAC (10 pts) IL (10pts) Content (50 pts) PPT (15pts)  

   A=930-1000  B=929-830  C=829-710  D=709-640  F= 639-0  

   Scale 1000 out of 1010
No late work is accepted a week beyond the due date. Late deduction for journals is 10 points. Late deduction for Discussion Board Post (DBPs) is 5 points.

VIII. COURSE TOPICS and READING ASSIGNMENTS

Unit 01 Concerning The Character Of Philosophy Jan 14-23

Unit 02 Debate Concerning Black Philosophy Jan 28- 30

Unit 03 African American Philosophy: Transformative Philosophy of Frederick Douglass Feb 4-11 Readings: Broadus N. Butler, “Frederick Douglass: The Black Philosopher in the United States: A Commentary;” “Lectures on Liberation,” Angela Y. Davis, Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass (Selected Chapters) Film: “when The Lion Wrote History” Journal #3 Due 2/17
Journal #4 Due 2/24

Unit 05  Malcolm X: Personal, Political, and Economic Transformation  Feb 20-25  Readings: *Malcolm X* (Selected Chapters)  Journal #5 Due 3/3

Unit 06  Alain Locke: Unity Within Diversity  Feb 27 –March 6  Readings: Washington, “Alain Locke, Yesterday and Today”, *Locke*, “Unity through Diversity”

Unit 07  Martin Luther King, Jr. : Spiritual and Moral Transformation  March 18-25  Readings: King, *Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community?* (Selected Chapters)  Journal #6 (Units 6/7) Due 3/24

Unit 08  Angela Davis: Transformative Philosophy  March 27-April 1  Readings: Judith M. Green and Blanche Radford Curry, “Notorious Philosopher: The Transformative Life and Work of Angela Davis.”  Journal #7 Due 4/7
Unit 09  
**The Politics of Commonalities and Differences**  April 10-17  ov  12-21  

Unit 10  **More Dimensions of African American Philosophy**  April 22-24  
Readings: Foundations, Moral and Political Philosophy, Philosophy and Related Disciplines 4/29 and Final Exam

Unit 11  **Synthesis/ Final Exam -- 4/29**

**Final Grades:** Assignment grades are posted in black board. If you have questions about any given assignment grade, please make an office appointment to discuss it along with the graded given assignment. You should follow up any grade concern within a week of posting of the grade.

**Student Behavior Expectations:** Mutual respect between students and instructor and among students. The following behaviors are not permitted while lectures are in progress and especially during tests and exams:

a) Use of cell phones, headgear or other paraphernalia distracting to class  
b) Use of profanity, private conversations, and passing of notes.  
c) No food. (Water and soda are okay)

2. Consequences for Non-compliance:
1st violation: Students will receive verbal warning.
2nd violation: Loss of grade points (1-20 maximum)
3rd violation: Student will be reported to Dean of Students for disciplinary action from according to the FSU Code of Student Conduct.

Academic Support Resources: Besides classes and office hours, every student is encouraged to use as many of the available support resources as necessary. These include readings recommended and course related materials in the FSU library or borrowing from the UNC integrated library system and professionally written online resources. The English Dept helps students to evaluate their essays using SmartThinking and Turn-It-In etc. to help students detect and correct poor sentence structures, grammar, tenses, spelling, and plagiarism etc.

Important Dates/Schedules

Jan 11th Late registration ends
Jan 18th Interim Grades and Class and, or University withdrawal
Jan 20th Martin Luther King, Jr.
Jan 24th No-Show deadline
March 1st Midterm
March 8th Spring Break
April 10th Founder’s Day
April 18th Deadline for Withdrawing
April 25th Interim grading period ends
April 28th Final Exams for Seniors

BIBLIOGRAPHY

AFRICAN AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL PERSPECTIVE


CULTURAL DIVERSITY AND RACISM


HISTORY

