

**United States International University
Phl 4230: African Philosophy**

Instructor:

Email:

Cell:

COURSE OUTLINE

1. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is about the discourse of philosophy in Africa. It exposes students to the general problems that are involved in conceptualizing African Philosophy as well the work that has been done in African philosophy as scholarly undertaking. It situates African philosophy in the wider context of world philosophy.

2. LINK TO UNIVERSITY MISSION OUTCOMES

The course content for Phl.4230 directly contributes to higher order thinking outcome. It also invaluablely contributes to the career preparedness outcome.

3. COURSE OBJECTIVES

- To expose students general problems in conceptualizing African philosophy.
- To confront and correct some popular prejudices and misconceptions about Africans
- To enable students appreciate the role of philosophy in the attempt to understand who we are, what we can know about the world and ourselves and what we can hope for.

4. EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Evaluate arguments
- Enhance ability for critical and creative thinking
- Enhance ability for decision making and problem solving
- Enhance capacity for open- mindedness.

5. COURSE CONTENT

SECTION A: CLASS LECTURE AND DISCUSSION TOPICS

Week one

General Introduction of the course: The problematic of defining philosophy; philosophy as a process; philosophy as a product; philosophy as particular ;philosophy as universal;

Week Two

The concept of rationality

The Setting of African Philosophy: The impact of slave trade and slavery and colonialism; European discourse on Africans: Emmanuel Kant

Week Three

European discourse on Africans: Fredrick Hegel, Lucien Levy-Bruhl

Black Response: Civil Rights Movement

Week Four

Harlem Renaissance: Blyden, Dubois, Lewis Perry, Marcus Garvey.

Week Five

Negritude: Aime Cessaire, Leopold Senghor

Week six

Negritude: Jean Paul Sartre; Frantz Fanon; African philosophy and European philosophical schools.

Week Seven

African philosophy or ethnophilosophy? Placide Tempels' idea of African philosophy.
Mid-semester exams

Week Eight

Responses to Tempels' idea of African philosophy: Eboussi Boulaga, Paulin Hountondji

Week Nine

Towards the definition of African philosophy: Paulin Hountondji: African philosophy
Myth and Reality

Week Ten

Towards the definition of African Philosophy: Odera Oruka-Major Trends in African
philosophy

SECTION B: GROUP PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION TOPICS

Week Eleven

- 1) Are there cultural universals? Kwasi Wiredu
- 2) What can philosophy do for Africa? Kwasi Wiredu

Week Twelve

- 3) African socialism-Ujamaa philosophy: Julius Nyerere
- 4) African concept of time: John S.Mbiti

Week Thirteen

- 5) The invention of Africa: Vincent Y.Mudimbe

Week Fourteen

Final Examination

6. TEACHING METHODOLOGY

Lectures, class presentations and discussions, blackboard

7. COURSE TEXTS

- Odhiambo, Ochieng 1997: **African Philosophy: An Introduction**
Nairobi: Consolata Institute of Philosophy
- Hountondji, Paulin 1996: **African Philosophy: Myth and Reality.**
Indiana University
- Masolo, Dismas 1995: **African Philosophy in Search of Identity.**
Nairobi: East African Educational Publishers
- Masibo, Dismas 2010: **Self and Community in a Changing World**
Bloomington: Indiana University Press
- Wiredu, Kwasi 1980: **Philosophy and an African Culture**
Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

8. EVALUATION

Attendance and participation	10%
Assignment 1	10%
Assignment 11	10%
Mid-term	20%
Term Essay	20%
Final Examination	30%
TOTAL	100