



Tutorial Letter 101/3/2018

Introduction to African Philosophy PLS1502

Semesters 1 and 2

**Department of Philosophy, Practical and Systematic
Theology**

Discipline of Philosophy

This tutorial letter contains important information
about your module.

BARCODE

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1 INTRODUCTION

Dear Student

Welcome to the module **PLS1502, Introduction to African Philosophy**. We are delighted to have you as a student this year, and we wish you every success in your studies.

The tutorial letter you are reading is called **Tutorial Letter 101**. The tutorial letter sets out a programme for the two academic semesters. Please focus on the readings of the semester for which you are registered. This tutorial letter is a valuable document containing important information. You should read through this document before doing anything else. This Tutorial Letter 101 must be read in conjunction with the prescribed readings, and the Study guide.

The purpose of this Tutorial Letter, accordingly, is to guide you through your reading of the Study guide and the prescribed readings. This entails that this tutorial letter facilitates a smoother reading of the prescribed readings and the Study guide.

The content of this module stretches over ONE semester. Please be informed that the Discipline of Philosophy operates according to the semester system. In other words, you register in the beginning or shortly before the beginning of the year, and ideally, you should write the final examination for this module in May/June (first semester students). Alternatively, you register in June and ideally, you should write the final examination for this module then in October/November (second semester students/or those granted an aegrotat/supplementary examination opportunity). Second semester students who qualify for, or are granted an aegrotat/ supplementary examination may write these in the May/June the following year. Once you have passed the examination you have completed the module and have earned your credits for the module.

We should like to draw your attention to Tutorial Letter WYSALLB/301/4/2018. This is perhaps the most important of all the tutorial letters that you will receive in the study of Philosophy. Many of you will find meeting our requirement to write essay-type question quite foreign. It is for this reason that you need to pay special attention to the second part of this tutorial letter so that you are properly orientated concerning what it is that we expect of you.

You are about to embark on a study of philosophy arising from the African experience or focussed upon it. We wish to emphasise that this is African Philosophy. In addition, it is *philosophy* proper that you will be studying. The fact that you are a black African is neither a licence nor an exemption for you to take lightly the fact that you have chosen to study African philosophy. You do not become a qualified and competent African philosopher simply by virtue of your having been born a black African. Yet, a systematic study of assignments and examinations shows unfortunately that some black African students choose African philosophy on the illusion that their blackness qualifies them automatically as competent philosophers. On the other hand, the same study has revealed that other students who are not black by birth and who do not regard themselves as an integral part of African tradition and culture appear to base their choice of African philosophy on curiosity about the exotic. As a result they condescend to African philosophy. They tend to take African philosophy lightly. Instead of approaching it as a field of study like any other, they tend to look for excitement and fun from it. We wish to emphasise that neither this attitude nor that of black African students is acceptable. It helps neither yourselves nor us as your lecturers. It is therefore important that you adopt the only correct attitude towards African philosophy, namely, that it is a field of study that demands your serious intellectual attention, and will demand intellectual rigour from you.

Post-independent Africa has produced some very fine philosophy, particularly in countries like Ghana, Nigeria, Uganda, Kenya, Senegal, Ivory Coast, Benin, Mali, the Democratic republic of the Congo, Malawi and South Africa - countries which obtained independence many years ago. Independence produced a great impetus towards the reconstruction of Africa's cultural life. Philosophy was at the forefront of this revival, and so it is no accident that the best known names in African philosophy – Kwasi Wiredu, Kwame Gyekye, Paulin Hountondji, Anthony Appiah, Cheikh Anta Diop, Valetine Mudimbe, Abiola Irele, Theophilus Obenga, Issa Laleye, Odera Oruka and many others hail from post- independent Africa. Post-independent Africa includes the African experience expressed by Africans in the diaspora. No wonder then that the voices of African Americans, Latin Americans and the Caribbeans will be heard in this study. True to the meaning of philosophy as reasoned dialogue our teaching of this module will reflect African philosophy in dialogue with other world philosophies and, for historical reasons, especially in dialogue with Western Philosophy.

We hope that you will enjoy every aspect of your study of this subject.

2 PURPOSE OF AND OUTCOMES FOR THE MODULE

2.1 Purpose

The aim of this module is to introduce students to African Philosophy, by way of exploring selected themes and trends in this wide field of study. Through the study of this module students will be enabled to critically discuss and assess philosophy texts in order to determine their merits or demerits.

2.2 Outcomes

This module will be useful to students of all disciplines across all colleges. Those who complete this module should be

- able to think critically and creatively about Africa and her experiences.
- introduced to a systematic reflection on the African experience of the world.
- exposed to the history of the emergence of African Philosophy.
- able to explore critically what it means to be human in the African culture and what constitutes 'right' or 'wrong' in the African experience.

3 LECTURER(S) AND CONTACT DETAILS

3.1 Contact details of lecturers

Your lecturer(s) responsible for this module are:

Dr Ezekiel Mkhwanazi

Module Leader

e-mail: mkhwaeas@unisa.ac.za

Telephone: +27 12 429 6397

or Discipline secretary +27 12 429 6888

Ms Motlatsi Khosi

Lecturer

e-mail: khosim@unisa.ac.za

Telephone: +27 12 429 2665

or Discipline secretary +27 12 429 6888

3.2 Department

The contact number for the Discipline of Philosophy is: +27 12 429 6888 and e-mail address: sekhunp@unisa.ac.za.

3.3 University

Contact addresses of the various administrative departments are included in the brochure *Studies @ Unisa*, which you received with your study package.

Always use your student number when you contact the university.

4 MODULE-RELATED RESOURCES

4.1 Prescribed books

There is no prescribed book for PLS1502.

4.2 Recommended books

We have no specific recommended books for this module. However, students are advised to consult the back pages of their study guide where they will find a list of references for further reading. The preferred way of requesting recommended or additional books is online via the library's catalogue. Go to <http://oasis.unisa.ac.za> or via *myUnisa*, go to <http://my.unisa.ac.za> > Login > Library > Library catalogue, or for mobile access (AirPAC), go to <http://oasis.unisa.ac.za/airpac>

4.3 Electronic Reserves (e-Reserves)

The prescribed reading can be downloaded from the library's catalogue at <http://oasis.unisa.ac.za>. Under *search options*, click on *Course code search* and type in your course code, e.g. PLS1502. Click on the *Electronic reserves* for the current year. The recommended articles are available in PDF (portable document format). The Adobe Reader should be loaded on your computer so that you can view or print scanned PDF documents. This can be done free of charge at <http://www.adobe.com>.

Telephonic book requests

This can be done on +27 12 429 3133. Please supply the reservation order number (RON).

Postal requests

Books may also be requested by completing one library book request card for each book. Request cards are included in your study package. These should be mailed to

The Head: Request Services
Department of Library Services
PO Box 392
UNISA 0003
or faxed to +27 12 429 8128.

Enquiries about requested books should be addressed to bib-circ@unisa.ac.za – note that requests should not be sent to this email address.

Telephonic enquiries can be made at +27 12 429 3133/3134. An after-hour voicemail service is also available at these numbers.

4.4 Library services and resources information

For brief information go to: <http://www.unisa.ac.za/contents/studies/docs/myStudies-at-Unisa2018-brochure.pdf>

For more detailed information, go to the Unisa website: <http://www.unisa.ac.za/>, click on Library. For research support and services of Personal Librarians, go to: <http://www.unisa.ac.za/Default.asp?Cmd=ViewContent&ContentID=7102>

The Library has compiled numerous library guides:

- finding recommended reading in the print collection and e-reserves – <http://libguides.unisa.ac.za/request/undergrad>
- requesting material – <http://libguides.unisa.ac.za/request/request>
- postgraduate information services – <http://libguides.unisa.ac.za/request/postgrad>
- finding , obtaining and using library resources and tools to assist in doing research – http://libguides.unisa.ac.za/Research_Skills
- how to contact the library/finding us on social media/frequently asked questions – <http://libguides.unisa.ac.za/ask>

5 STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES FOR THE MODULE

For information on the various student support systems and services available at Unisa (e.g. student counselling, language support), please consult the brochure *Studies @ Unisa*, which you received with your study material.

5.1 myUnisa

If you have access to a computer that is linked to the internet, you can quickly access resources and information at the university. The myUnisa learning management system is Unisa's online campus that will help you to communicate with your lecturers, with other students and with the administrative departments of Unisa – all through the computer and the internet.

To go to the myUnisa website, start at the main Unisa website, <http://www.unisa.ac.za>, and then click on the “Login to myUnisa” link on the right-hand side of the screen. This should take you to the myUnisa website. You can also go there directly by typing in <http://my.unisa.ac.za>.

Please consult the brochure *Studies @ Unisa*, which you received with your study material, for more information on myUnisa.

For library service request procedures, please consult the *Studies @ Unisa* brochure.

5.2 Information on tutorial offerings at Unisa

Please be informed that, with effect from 2013, Unisa offers online tutorials (e-tutoring) to students registered for modules at NQF level 5, 6 and 7, this means qualifying first year, second year and third year modules. Please log on to myUnisa to find out if any of the modules that you have registered for falls in this category. PLS1502 will be utilising e-tutors from 2018.

Once you have been registered for a qualifying module, you will be allocated to a group of students with whom you will be interacting during the tuition period as well as an e-tutor who will be your tutorial facilitator. Thereafter you will receive a sms informing you about your group, the name of your e-tutor and instructions on how to log onto myUnisa in order to receive further information on the e-tutoring process.

Online tutorials are conducted by qualified e-Tutors who are appointed by Unisa and are offered free of charge. All you need to be able to participate in e-tutoring is a computer with internet connection. If you live close to a Unisa regional Centre or a Telecentre contracted with Unisa, please feel free to visit any of these to access the internet. E-tutoring takes place on myUnisa where you are expected to connect with other students in your allocated group. It is the role of the e-tutor to guide you through your study material during this interaction process. For you to get the most out of online tutoring, you need to participate in the online discussions that the e-tutor will be facilitating.

5.3 Services offered by the Bureau for Student Counselling and Career Development

For a comprehensive description of the services offered at the Main Campus and at the Regional Centres, you may consult the brochure *Studies @ Unisa*.

5.4 Unisa Library Services

The *Studies @ Unisa* booklet, which is part of your registration package, lists all the services offered by the Unisa Library.

You will be required to provide your login details, i.e. your student number and your myUnisa password, in order to access the library's online resources and services. This will enable you to

- View or print your electronic course material
- Request library material
- View and renew your library material
- Use the library's e-resources

For library requests and other library services and procedures, students are advised to consult the *Studies @ Unisa* brochure.

6 MODULE-SPECIFIC STUDY PLAN

CONTENTS OF THE MODULE

PART I: ON DEFINING AFRICAN PHILOSOPHY AND ITS SCOPE AND TRENDS

Chapter 1: Defining African Philosophy

- The Controversy of the term 'Africa'
- Africanity of African Philosophy
- Philosophicality of African Philosophy
- Summary: African Philosophy
- Prescribed Reading: 'How is African philosophy to be defined?' by Samuel E. Imbo

Chapter 2: Discourses on Africa

- The term 'discourse'
- Discourses on Africa
- Prescribed Reading
 - 'Categories of Cross-cultural cognition and the African condition' by E. Biakolo
 - 'The Struggle for Reason in Africa' by MB Ramose

Chapter 3: Trends in African Philosophy

- What is a trend?
- The most general classification of African Philosophy: Language
- Wiredu's Classification
- Nkombe and Smet's classification of African Philosophy
- H. Odera Oruka's four trends in African Philosophy
- Prescribed Reading: 'Four trends in current African philosophy' by H. Odera Oruka

PART II: ISSUES AND THEMES IN AFRICAN PHILOSOPHY

Chapter 4: Philosophical Anthropology

- Context: African Cosmology
- Two poles of African Anthropology
- Prescribed Reading: 'Person and community in African thought' by Kwame Gyekye

Chapter 5: Morality in African Thought

- The distinction between morality and ethics
- Prescribed Reading: 'Ethics and morality in Yoruba culture' by J.A.I Bewaji

6.1 Suggested study plan

Study Guide	Prescribed Book (Reader)	Schedule	
		First Semester	Second Semester
Learning Unit 1	Read		
Defining African Philosophy	**'How is African philosophy to be defined?' by Samuel E. Imbo	9 to 23 March	13 to 26 July
Submit Assignment No. 1		23 March 2018	27 July 2018
Learning Unit 2	Read		
Discourses on Africa	**'Categories of Cross-cultural cognition and the African condition' by E. Biakolo **'The Struggle for Reason in Africa' by MB Ramose	24 to 30 March	28 July to 3 August
Learning Unit 3	Read		
Trends in African Philosophy	**'Four trends in current African philosophy' by H. Odera Oruka	31 March to 6 April	3 to 10 August
Submit Assignment No. 2		6 April 2018	10 August 2018
Learning Unit 4	Read		
Philosophical Anthropology	**'Person and community in African thought' by Kwame Gyekye	7 to 17 April	11 to 22 August
Learning Unit 5	Read		
Morality in African Thought	**'Ethics and morality in Yoruba culture' by J.A.I Bewaji	18 to 27 April	23 August to 7 September
Submit Assignment No. 3		27 April 2018	7 September 2018
Revision	Read		

Learning Units 1-3	<p>**How is African philosophy to be defined?' by Samuel E. Imbo</p> <p>**'Categories of Cross-cultural cognition and the African condition' by E. Biakolo</p> <p>**'The Struggle for Reason in Africa' by MB Ramose</p> <p>**'Four trends in current African philosophy' by H. Odera Oruka</p>	27 April to 6 May	8 to 21 September
Learning Units 4 & 5	<p>Read</p> <p>**'Person and community in African thought' by Kwame Gyekye</p> <p>**'Ethics and morality in Yoruba culture' by J.A.I Bewaji</p>	6 May to exam	21 September to exam

7 MODULE PRACTICAL WORK AND WORK-INTEGRATED LEARNING

None for this module

8 ASSESSMENT

8.1 Assessment plan

Students have an opportunity to assess themselves and will also be assessed by means of the following:

Assignments

Assignments are a very important part of your work in this module. They are an official tool through which lecturers are able to give feedback to the students about their performance. Assignments are also linked to exam admission as we shall explain in some detail below. You are therefore advised to send them all in and on time. There are three assignments to submit each semester. Please note that the submission of the first assignment is compulsory. This assignment contributes twenty percent (20%) toward your year mark. The second assignment carries forty percent (40%). The third assignment also carries forty percent (40%). It is in your very best interest to submit all assignments because the three assignments together add up to a total of thirty percent (30%). After the marking of the third assignment, a calculation will be made to determine your admission to the examination. Forty percent (40%) is the minimum required for your admission to the end of semester examination. You must keep in mind that admission to the examination is no longer automatic. The percentage you obtain from the minimum forty percent (40%) upwards shall be credited to your end of semester examination.

The examination itself shall comprise of seventy percent (70%). You must obtain fifty percent (50%) in order to pass the examination.

8.2. General Comments on Assignment Writing

It is necessary to keep in mind that the primary requirement in the writing of a philosophy essay is always to present the reasoning underlying a particular philosophy. This means that it is obligatory to focus your attention specifically upon the argumentation for or against a particular position. Reasoning does not occur in a vacuum. It occurs within a context. It is therefore important that you situate your reasoning in a context. Furthermore, you cannot present the reasoning of a philosopher unless you know what the philosopher is actually arguing for or against. For this reason, it is vital that you should provide evidence of knowledge of the study material.

8.2.1 Structure of assignments

It is important to keep in mind that when writing a philosophical essay, it needs to comprise of an introduction, a body and a conclusion. For your third assignment, you need to write an essay of about 750 words. It is important to note that the length is a guideline: you will only be penalised if you go more than 100 words over the word count. If you have (substantially) more words, for instance, more than 900 words, you need to make sure that everything you say is absolutely integral to the argument, otherwise you will be penalised. If you have (substantially) less, for instance, less than 650 words, you need to ensure that you have covered all your bases and left no stone unturned, otherwise you will be penalised.

In an introduction the following elements are important:

- i) Context to the question – Use this section to show the relevance of the question or why it might be important to take such a question seriously.

- ii) Background to the question – Discuss the environment within which the essay question arose. What was the setting against which the question is being asked?
- iii) Thesis statement (what point are you defending) – Explain the claim that you will be defending in the paper. If you are giving a summary of an author's work, then provide the claim that the author intended to argue for in their paper and explain which aspect of the argument that you will be dealing with in your paper.
- iv) Plan of the essay – Provide an outline of the essay. This will enable the reader to get a full picture of what she can expect from your paper.

Your body needs to comprise of well written, logically constructed paragraphs. You should attempt to keep to one point per paragraph. Make sure each section follows on the next and that each sentence relates to those sentences before and after it. In terms of contents, you should ensure that you answer the question by highlighting relevant themes and following the plan you set out in the introduction. You will be given marks for both content and structure, so please keep this in mind when writing an essay.

Finally, in your conclusion, you should not introduce new information. You need to provide an overview of what you have done (which includes an overview of the topic as well as your thesis statement), as well as an answer to the 'so what?' question. Why is this topic important? Finally, provide some suggestions for future enquiries.

You should also have a complete reference list. Please use the Harvard Method of Referencing throughout the paper – this means you will have in text references as well as a reference list. This will provide the reader with the information needed to identify and locate the exact readings you have used.

Skill in writing essays is both useful and necessary for your examination preparation: in the examination you will be required to write your responses to the questions posed also in essay-format. Please take note that you will be penalised should you not adhere to this instruction.

Essays comprised of bullet entries are not acceptable.

8.2.2 Plagiarism

Some students have not taken care in avoiding plagiarism. It is essential that you ensure that every idea used in your essays – which are not your own unique thoughts – is referenced. In doing this, you avoid plagiarism. Some students think that if they change the sentence structure or a couple of words, then it is not plagiarism. This is false. Any IDEA (whether it is a direct quote, a modified quote or a summary in your own words) that is not your OWN IDEA, needs to be referenced.

Those of you who are not familiar with the Harvard method of referencing need to consult the Discipline of Philosophy's Tutorial Letter 301 (WYSALLB/301/2018).¹ It is completely unacceptable to have incorrect or missing references. Take note that each reference contains two parts, firstly, an in text reference (typically: Surname, year: page) and the longer reference entry in your reference list.

Please take note that in the examination, you are not required to provide references in your essays.

8.2.3 Responding to the topic posed

It is imperative that your essay be relevant to the topic, and not a generalised summary of a related issue. Without this being done your marks suffer immensely.

¹ If you have not received Tutorial Letter 301 with your study material you are able to locate it on *myUNISA*: once you have accessed PLS1502's webpage select "*Official Study Material*", after which you will see the link for "*Tutorial Letter 301 (Both) for WYSALLB*".

This is usually a problem in the examination, too. Only by maintaining relevance to the question posed will your essay obtain a good result. Perhaps an important suggestion in the process of writing your examination essays is that you **KEEP THE QUESTION ASKED/TOPIC POSED IN MIND** throughout the essay-writing process. With each paragraph, you need to identify the extent to which the claim posed in this section relates to the assignment question posed in the introduction

After completing your essay, read through it, edit it, and continue to ask whether your written work corresponds to the topic you have been asked to write on.

If you want to improve your marks in the second assignment, and perhaps aim for a distinction, I suggest that you read wider than the prescribed reading. Consulting journal articles (available online via the UNISA library), resources such as the Stanford Encyclopaedia of Philosophy and books available in the library, and successfully incorporating these into your essay will improve your marks greatly.

8.3 General assignment numbers

There are three assignments to submit in one academic semester.

8.3.1 *Unique assignment numbers*

The three assignments for the semester each has its own unique number. Please indicate this number in your assignment.

<i>FIRST SEMESTER</i>	
Assignment	Unique number
Assignment No. 1	825031
Assignment No. 2	747989
Assignment No. 3	749098

SECOND SEMESTER	
Assignment	Unique number
Assignment No. 1	838412
Assignment No. 2	784660
Assignment No. 3	762040

8.3.2 Due dates for assignments

FIRST SEMESTER	
Assignment	Due date
Assignment No. 1	23 March 2018
Assignment No. 2	6 April 2018
Assignment No. 3	26 April 2018
SECOND SEMESTER	
Assignment	Due date
Assignment No. 1	27 July 2018
Assignment No. 2	10 August 2018
Assignment No. 3	7 September 2018

8.4 Submission of assignments

Students may submit written assignments by post or electronically via *myUnisa*. Assignments may not be submitted by fax or e-mail.

When submitting by post, assignments should be addressed to:

The Registrar
 PO Box 392
 UNISA
 0003

When submitting electronically:**To submit an assignment electronically via *myUnisa***

- Go to *myUnisa*
- Log in with your student number and password
- Select the module from the orange bar
- Click on assignments in the left menu
- Click on the assignment number you want to submit
- Then follow the instructions

8.5 Assignments: First and Second Semester**8.5.1 Assignments: First Semester***a) Assignment 1*Instructions:

- This compulsory assignment consists of ten (10) multiple-choice questions.
- This assignment counts 20% towards your year mark.
- You can complete this first assignment using only the Tutorial Letter 101.
- This assignment focuses on general assignment writing guidelines for this module (please read 8.2 'General Comments on Assignment Writing' in depth before answering these questions).
- Due date: 23 March 2018
- Unique assignment number: 825031

Answer all questions. For each question, you must identify the one correct answer and submit it for marking via myUnisa.

1 Complete the sentence

The primary requirement of writing a philosophical essay...

1 ... is to copy information from the relevant Wikipedia article.

- 2 ... is to summarise the content as provided in the material.
- 3 ... is to argue for or against a particular position.
- 4 ... is to ensure that your essay is free of spelling mistakes.

2 Match the element of an introduction in Column A with the description thereof in Column B.

Column A	Column B
1. Context to the question	a. Explain the claim that you will be defending in the paper.
2. Background to the question	b. Discuss the environment within which the essay question arose. What was the setting within which the question is being asked?
3. Thesis statement	c. Provide an outline of the essay, which will enable the reader to get a full picture of what she can expect from your paper.
4. Plan of the essay	d. Show the relevance of the question or why it might be important to take such questions seriously.

- 1 1 – a; 2 – c; 3 – d; 4 – b
- 2 1 – b; 2 – c; 3 – a; 4 – d
- 3 1 – d; 2 – b; 3 – a; 4 – c
- 4 1 – b; 2 – c; 3 – d; 4 – a.

3 How long should an essay be that you write for PLS1502 – Introduction to African Philosophy?

- 1 1000 words
- 2 750 words
- 3 500 words
- 4 350 words

4 Fill in the missing word(s)/phrase(s).

Your body needs to comprise of well written, _____ constructed _____.

- 1 logical; paragraphs.
- 2 poorly; sentences.
- 3 informally; sentences.
- 4 logically; reference lists.

5 Which of the following statements about an academic essay is the most accurate?

- 1 You should use the Chicago method of referencing
- 2 Your introduction should not provide an overview of the essay.
- 3 An essay comprised of bullet point is not acceptable.
- 4 Your body should be one long paragraph.

6 Complete this sentence

Plagiarism is when you...

- 1 ...provide a reference list at the end of your essay to indicate which sources you have consulted.
- 2 ... use someone else's ideas as if they were your own, and not providing adequate referencing.
- 3 ... rewrite your essay to improve the quality thereof before submission.
- 4 ... use someone else's ideas, but provide an adequate in text citation and reference list to give credit to them.

7 Complete the following sentence.

When writing an essay for PLS1502 – Introduction to African Philosophy, the _____ should be used.

- 1 Harvard Method of Referencing
- 2 Oxford Method of Referencing
- 3 Chicago Method of Referencing
- 4 American Psychological Association Method of Referencing

8 Which of the following statements about the conclusion of an academic essay is the most accurate?

- 1 You should introduce new information in your conclusion.
- 2 You need not provide an overview of what you have done.
- 3 You need to indicate why the topic is an important one.
- 4 You do not always need to write a conclusion.

- 9 Which of the following statements does not reflect the character of a paragraph in an academic essay?
- 1 Every paragraph should deal with one point.
 - 2 Paragraphs should follow on one another.
 - 3 Paragraphs need to be logically constructed.
 - 4 A paragraph should have more than one point.
- 10 What does it mean to respond to the topic posed?
- 1 You should just provide a summary of the reading, without heeding the topic.
 - 2 You should read the question carefully, and make sure your essay adequately responds to it.
 - 3 You should include irrelevant information to reach the word limit.
 - 4 You should let the creative process dictate the way that you construct the essay.

b) Assignment 2

Instructions:

- This assignment consists of twenty (20) multiple-choice questions.
- This assignment counts 40% towards your year mark.
- This assignment focuses on more theoretical questions. Please consult your prescribed reading and your Study Guide to answer these questions.
- Due date: 6 April 2018
- Unique assignment number: 747989

- 1 What is the name of this module? Choose the correct answer.
 - 1 Introduction to Western philosophy
 - 2 Australasian philosophy
 - 3 Introduction to African philosophy
 - 4 African Philosophy

- 2 What Discipline offers the module?
 - 1 Practical Theology Discipline
 - 2 Theological Ethics Discipline
 - 3 History Discipline
 - 4 Philosophy Discipline

- 3 The term 'Africa' in this module is descriptive of the following:
 - 1 The landscape of the African continent
 - 2 Climatic conditions of the continent
 - 3 The cultural life of the people of the continent
 - 4 The mineral resources of the people of the continent

- 4 In the Study guide it is stated that the question, 'Can there be an African philosophy?' is an ontological, rather than an empirical question. This statement implies that:

- 1 The questioner is affirming the existence of African philosophy
 - 2 The questioner is proposing the destruction of African philosophy
 - 3 The questioner prefers the study of Ontology to African philosophy
 - 4 The questioner doubts if Africans have a rational capacity to do philosophy
- 5 The two African philosophers in this module who argue that the question of whether African philosophy exists or not, is an ontological rather than an empirical question, are:
- 1 Biakolo and Oruka
 - 2 Gyekye and Bewaji
 - 3 Ramose and Imbo
 - 4 None of the above
- 6 How many factors does Osuagwu identify for consideration in the definition of an African philosopher?
- 1 Two
 - 2 Four
 - 3 Five
 - 4 Six
- 7 Ali Mazrui distinguishes between 'Africans of the blood' and 'Africans of the soil'. He then defines the former group in terms of:

- 1 Racial and genealogical terms
- 2 Geographical terms
- 3 Educational categories
- 4 None of the above

8 Etymologically, the term 'philosophy' means

- 1 The love of money
- 2 The love of wisdom
- 3 The love of education
- 4 The love of practical ideas

9 In his explication of the term, 'African philosophy,' Osuagwu considers the adjective 'African' as:

- 1 The localising or particularising factor of philosophy.
- 2 The spoiler of the dignified subject of philosophy
- 3 The critical factor of all philosophies
- 4 None of the above

10 According to Imbo different philosophies such as African, Western, Chinese and Indian arise because of:

- 1 Different educational backgrounds among people
- 2 Different IQ's among different people

- 3 Different experiences of the world by different people
 - 4 Different climatic conditions in different parts of the world
- 11 For Imbo, one of the challenges of post-Modernism to mainstream philosophy is:
- 1 The presupposition that there is one reality that is accessible to any impartial observer
 - 2 That African philosophy does not exist
 - 3 That only Western philosophy exists
 - 4 That there is only one truth
- 12 Post-modernism, as perceived by Imbo represents:
- 1 A narrow thinking on philosophy
 - 2 Bold stance against African philosophy
 - 3 A vague philosophy which criticises everything
 - 4 A voice calling rather for an inclusive approach that allows the different experiences of humanity to construct complementary narratives
- 13 According to Paulin Hountondji and Tsenay Serequeberhan, the affirmation of African philosophy requires the existence of:
- 1 Both oral and literary tradition
 - 2 Written texts alone
 - 3 Oral tradition alone

4 None of the above

14 Biakolo's 'Categories of cross-cultural cognition' are about:

- 1 Cultural exchanges between Westerners and Africans
- 2 The categorical imperatives of African culture
- 3 Cultural philosophy of some African countries
- 4 How the Western world thought about the 'Other' in general and the 'African' in particular

15 One of the misconceptions uncovered by Biakolo in his analysis of the five cross-cultural analysis is that:

- 1 African people are truly scientific, logical and conceptual in their view of reality
- 2 For Africa to develop, the path it must tread involve abandoning an oral, magical, pre-logical past, and gradually assimilating a written, logical scientific culture of the West.
- 3 African people must embrace their cultural heritage and develop it further to greater heights
- 4 None of the above

16 According to Biakolo, the cross-cultural categories that he discussed:

- 1 Contribute significantly towards understanding the African condition
- 2 Help us to understand Africa's past
- 3 Help stop the exploitation of African people
- 4 They merely serve to repeat the outdated myth of Africa as the 'white man's burden'

17 In his essay, 'The struggle for reason in Africa', Ramose expresses among others:

- 1 The need for Africans to revenge themselves against the colonisers
- 2 The need for Africans to protect themselves against the colonisers
- 3 The need for Africans to construct an authentic and truly African discourse about Africa so as to break the silence imposed on them
- 4 The need for Africans to engage in mimesis of Western discourses

18 In 'The struggle for reason in Africa', Ramose is critical of colonisers for:

- 1 Claiming to be the sole producers of all knowledge and the only holders of truth
- 2 Initiating the process of decolonization in Africa
- 3 Assisting Africans to construct their own discourses about Africa
- 4 Making it difficult for Africans to unite

19 Ramose, in the same essay, equally criticises his fellow Africans for:

- 1 Writing poor discourses on the evolution of Africa
- 2 Reducing themselves into being passive as well as uncritical assimilators, coupled with faithful implementation of knowledge produced from outside Africa
- 3 Cooperating with colonisers in the underdevelopment of Africa
- 4 Not taking education seriously

20 Implied in Aristotle's statement that, 'Man is a rational animal' lies, according to Ramose:

- 1 A great philosophy of man
- 2 An understatement of the century
- 3 A subtle racism and sexism
- 4 None of the above

c) *Assignment 3*

Instructions:

- This compulsory assignment consists of one essay question of 750 words.
- You can choose between question A or B – PLEASE DO NOT DO BOTH.
- This assignment counts 40% towards your year mark.
- This assignment focuses on writing a philosophical essay. You can use the information you have learnt in Assignment 1 to inform the writing of this essay.
- Due date: 26 April 2018
- Unique assignment number: 749098

OPTION A

Discuss critically Oruka's four trends of African philosophy. In your view, which trend characterises African philosophy properly and why?

Readings for the assignment

Prescribed Reading: See H. Odera Oruka's essay and the corresponding readings in the study Guide.

OR

OPTION B

Gyekye's communitarianism is an attempt to strike a balance between an extreme individualism and communitarianism pertaining to human rights. Does he succeed in doing so? Discuss.

Readings for the assignment

Prescribed Reading: See Kwame Gyekye's essay and the corresponding readings in the study Guide.

8.5.2 Assignments: Second Semester**a) Assignment 1****Instructions:**

- This compulsory assignment consists of ten (10) multiple-choice questions.
- This assignment counts 20% towards your year mark.
- You can complete this first assignment using only the Tutorial Letter 101.
- This assignment focuses on general assignment writing guidelines for this module (please read 8.2 'General Comments on Assignment Writing' in depth before answering these questions).
- Due date: 27 July 2018
- Unique assignment number: 838412

Answer all questions. For each question, you must identify the one correct answer and submit it for marking via myUnisa.

- 1 What is the primary requirement of writing a philosophical essay?
 - 1 To argue for or against a particular position
 - 2 To summarise the content.
 - 3 To copy information off the internet.
 - 4 To ensure that your essay is free of spelling mistakes.

- 2 What structure does the ideal academic essay follow?
- 1 A body, a conclusion, and a reference list
 - 2 An introduction, a reference list, and a body.
 - 3 An introduction, body, conclusion and reference list.
 - 4 A conclusion, and a reference list.
- 3 Which of the following elements are not essential to an introduction?
- 1 Providing a context to the question.
 - 2 A list of sources consulted.
 - 3 A thesis statement.
 - 4 A plan of the essay.
- 4 Fill in the missing word(s)/phrase(s).
- A _____ explains the claim that you are defending in the paper.
- 1 Conclusion
 - 2 Reference list
 - 3 Harvard method
 - 4 Thesis statement
- 5 Which of the following statements about an academic essay are not accurate?
- 1 An essay comprised of bullet point is acceptable.
 - 2 Your introduction should provide an overview of the essay.

- 3 You should use the Harvard method of referencing.
- 4 Your body needs to comprise of well written, logically constructed paragraphs.

6 What does plagiarism mean?

- 1 It is when you add an in-text citation when you present someone else's information.
- 2 It is providing a list of sources at the end of your essay stipulating the sources consulted.
- 3 It is using someone's ideas as if they were your own, and not providing adequate referencing.
- 4 It is the process that one goes through when planning an philosophical essay and doing research.

7 Which of the following statements about the conclusion of an academic essay is not accurate?

- 1 You should not introduce new information in your conclusion.
- 2 You need to provide an overview of what you have done.
- 3 You need to indicate why the topic is an important one.
- 4 You need to have a nice quote to finish off your essay.

8 Which method of referencing is employed by the Discipline of Philosophy at Unisa?

- 1 American Psychological Association
- 2 Harvard Method of Referencing
- 3 Chicago Method of Referencing
- 4 Oxford Method of Referencing

- 9 In which tutorial letter can you find more information about referencing in the essay that you will write for PLS1502 – Introduction to African Philosophy?
- 1 Tutorial Letter 301
 - 2 Tutorial Letter 101
 - 3 Tutorial Letter 201
 - 4 Tutorial Letter 202
- 10 Which of the following statements best reflects the character of a paragraph in an academic essay?
- 1 Every paragraph should deal with one point.
 - 2 Paragraphs should not follow on one another.
 - 3 Paragraphs need not be logically constructed.
 - 4 A paragraph should have more than one point.

b) Assignment 2

Instructions:

- This assignment consists of twenty (20) multiple-choice questions.
- This assignment counts 40% towards your year mark.
- This assignment focuses on more theoretical questions. Please consult your prescribed reading and your Study Guide to answer these questions.
- Due date: 10 August 2018
- Unique assignment number: 784660

- 1 The module 'Introduction to African philosophy' is offered by the following department:
 - 1 African History department
 - 2 Linguistic department
 - 3 African philosophy department
 - 4 Philosophy, Practical and Systematic Theology department

- 2 The tutorial letter that contains information about your assignments is called:
 - 1 Tutorial Letter 301
 - 2 Tutorial Letter 501
 - 3 Tutorial Letter 101
 - 4 Tutorial Letter 201

- 3 In the study guide it is stated that the question, 'Can there be an African philosophy?' is an ontological, rather than an empirical question. This statement implies that:
 - 1 The questioner is affirming the existence of African philosophy
 - 2 The questioner doubts if Africans have a rational capacity to do philosophy
 - 3 The questioner is proposing the destruction of African philosophy
 - 4 The questioner prefers the study of Ontology to African philosophy

- 4 How many factors does Osuagwu identify for consideration in the definition of an African philosopher?
- 1 Four
 - 2 Two
 - 3 Five
 - 4 Six
- 5 Ali Mazrui distinguishes between Africans of the blood and Africans of the soil. He then defines the former group in terms of:
- 1 Educational categories
 - 2 Racial and genealogical terms
 - 3 Geographical terms
 - 4 None of the above
- 6 The term 'Africa' in this module is descriptive of the following:
- 1 The landscape of the African continent
 - 2 The cultural life of the people of the continent
 - 3 Climatic conditions of the continent
 - 4 The mineral resources of the people of the continent

- 7 Etymologically, the term 'philosophy' means
- 1 The love of wisdom
 - 2 The love of education
 - 3 The love of practical ideas
 - 4 The love of money
- 8 In his explication of the term, 'African philosophy,' Osuagwu considers the adjective 'African' as:
- 1 The spoiler of the dignified subject of philosophy
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 - 3 None of the above
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 - 4 The need for Africans to engage in mimesis of Western discourses
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- 1 Writing poor discourses on the evolution of Africa
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 - 3 Cooperating with colonisers in the underdevelopment of Africa
 - 4 Not taking education seriously
- 18 In 'The struggle for reason in Africa', Ramose is critical of colonisers for:
- 1 Claiming to be the sole producers of all knowledge and the only holders of the truth
 - 2 Initiating the process of decolonization in Africa
 - 3 Assisting Africans to construct their own discourses about Africa
 - 4 Making it difficult for Africans to unite

19 Implied in Aristotle's statement that, 'Man is a rational animal' lies, according to Ramose

- 1 A great philosophy of man
- 2 An understatement of the century
- 3 A subtle racism and sexism
- 4 None of the above

20 How many study units are in this module?

- 1 6
- 2 5
- 3 4
- 4 2

c) *Assignment 3*

Instructions:

- This compulsory assignment consists of one essay question of 750 words.
- You can choose between question A or B – PLEASE DO NOT DO BOTH.
- This assignment counts 40% towards your year mark.
- This assignment focuses on writing a philosophical essay. You can use the information you have learnt in Assignment 1 to inform the writing of this essay.
- Due date: 7 September 2018
- Unique assignment number: 762040

OPTION A

“Being morally upright is not as much a matter of pleasing the supernatural forces as it is of promoting human welfare” (Bewaji, p. 57).

Discuss this statement critically, and indicate also why if this is true, there is so much human disaster in Africa despite Africa’s humanistic ethics.

Readings for the assignment

Prescribed Reading: See J.I.A Bewaji’s essay and the corresponding readings in the Study guide.

OR

OPTION B

Does it make sense to retain the term ‘Africa’ for the name of the continent even though it was initially an imposition on Africans? Discuss critically.

Readings for the assignment

See the Study guide: Study Unit 1 especially on the ‘Controversy of the term ‘Africa.’

9 OTHER ASSESSMENT METHODS

Self-test Exercises: We have provided self-test exercises in the study guide, in order to afford you an opportunity to test yourself on how much you have understood and comprehended the matter dealt with in different essays. Answers to the exercises need not be submitted to the university or to lecturers.

10 EXAMINATION

There will be an examination at the end of each semester (May/June for the first semester and October/November for the second semester). There will also be supplementary exams for those students who did not do well, but who qualify to sit for those exams.

You will be supplied with details of these exams during the course of the semester. Please note that assignments in this module are connected to examination entry. You will not be allowed to sit for an examination if you do not submit any of the two assignments. Admission to the examination is no longer automatic. Please note also that examinations are not an occasion for random guesswork. On the contrary, they are an occasion for you to prove your knowledge, understanding and critical assessment of the prescribed study material.

11 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

11.1 Where is the prescribed book?

Answer: There is no prescribed books. However, you do have prescribed readings that are made available as e-resources. Please consult 4.3 above.

11.2 Can you please grant me an extension for assignment no. 1?

Answer: Please note that there will be no extension for this assignment. Assignment No. 1 in both semesters is a compulsory assignment. Not only is this assignment compulsory, but it is also very unique and special. It is a “subsidy assignment” and as such indicates to us at UNISA and to the National Department of Education in the country that you are an active student. As a result, the Department of Education subsidises the university based on the submission of this assignment. Failure to submit this assignment at all or to submit it timeously will disable the university to get any financial assistance from government for enrolling you in this module. It is for this reason that the university has decided to make this assignment a special indicator of your enrolment in the module. You are therefore strongly urged to submit this assignment. You are also advised to keep a copy of the completed assignment, so that in the event that this assignment is lost on its way to or from the university, you will have the necessary proof that you did work on it.

11.3 I have not received my assignment back. When will I get it?

Answer: Enquiries about assignments (e.g. whether or not the university has received your assignment or the date on which an assignment was returned to you) must be addressed to the Assignment Section of Unisa not to the lecturer. Use your booklet, *Studies @ Unisa* for contact details of the relevant department. You might also find information on *myUnisa*.

12 SOURCES CONSULTED

- Dussel, E. 1988. *Ethics and Community*. Trans. by Robert R. Barr. Maryknoll: Orbis books.
- Gbadegesin, S. 2002. Eniyan: The Yoruba concept of a person. In *Philosophy from Africa: a text with readings*, 2nd edition. Edited by Coetzee, P.H. and Roux, A.P.J. Cape Town, Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Irele, A, et al. 2010. *The Oxford Encyclopedia of African Philosophy, vol. 1 & 2*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Okolo, C.B. 2002. Self as a problem in African Philosophy. In *Philosophy from Africa: a text with readings*, 2nd edition. Edited by Coetzee, P.H. and Roux, A.P.J. Cape Town, Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Osuagwu, M. 1999. African Historical Reconstruction. Amamihe Lectures, vol. 1. Owerri: Assumpta Press.
- Wiredu, K. 2004. *Blackwell Companion to African Philosophy*. Malden: Blackwell Publishing Ltd.

13 CONCLUSION

We hope you will enjoy studying this module. Please feel free to call or e-mail us whenever you need help especially in matters relating to the content of this module. We urge you to cultivate a habit of logging into myUnisa in order to check for our posted messages in the 'Announcements,' 'Additional study material' and 'discussion forum.' You may also want to chat with your fellow students through the 'discussion forum' tool.

14 ADDENDUM

None
