

Tutorial Letter 001/3/2021

Introduction to African Philosophy

Semester 1 and 2

Department of Philosophy, Practical & Systematic Theology

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Please register on myUnisa, activate your myLife e-mail account and make sure that you have regular access to the myUnisa module website, PLS1502-2021-S1/S2, as well as your group website

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CONTENTS

Page

1	ASSESSMENT	3
1.1	Assessment criteria	3
1.2	Assessment plan	4
1.3	Assignment numbers	4
1.3.1	General assignment numbers	4
1.3.2	Unique assignment numbers	4
1.4	Assignment due dates	4
1.5	Submission of assignments	4
1.6	The assignments	5
1.7	Other assessment methods	6
1.8	The examination	6

Dear Student

1 ASSESSMENT

Due to the ministerial request to extend the 2021 registration dates, Unisa had to revise both the tuition periods and the assessment arrangements for the 2021 academic year.

The purpose of this TL001 is to inform you of the new assessment requirements for module PLS 1502 for students registered for both semester periods.

1.1 Assessment criteria

You will be required to submit Two assignments. The **first assignment (Assignment 01)** is a brief discussion of particular philosophical concepts and their definition. The assignment will consist of short questions assessed on the following criteria:

- a) Grammatically correct and precise language (no circumlocution, spelling errors, contradictions, poor use of punctuation).
- b) Comprehensiveness of the definition/discussion. Independent synthesis (said in own words rather than simply parroting the study guide).
- c) Referencing(intext/referencelistatendofquestion).

The **second assignment, (Assignment 02)** is an essay question which will be marked on the following criteria:

- a) Grammatically correct and precise language (no circumlocution, spelling errors, contradictions, poor use of punctuation).
- b) Correct understanding of the concept being discussed, good and clear argumentation.
- c) Critical insight (signs of independent understanding and reckoning with the idea by own example and contextualisation).
- d) References and bibliography/reference list (crediting of sources used both in the attribution of borrowed and quoted ideas in text as well as a comprehensive sources list at the end of the text giving full bibliographic details to the texts consulted).

After the closing date of each assignment immediate feedback will be posted on myUnisa in the form of follow up Tutorial letters 201 and 202 for the first and second assignment respectively.

1.2 Assessment plan

The final module mark is comprised of the following components: Year mark: (assignments) 40%

Examination: 60%

Final Mark 100%

1.3 Assignment numbers

1.3.1 General assignment numbers

There are 2 Assignments numbered Assignment 01 and Assignment 02. Each Assignment has its own unique number. It is essential that you use the correct assignment unique number when submitting your assignment

1.3.2 Unique assignment numbers

Assignment 1 **894664**

Assignment 2 **762844**

1.4 Assignment due dates

Assignment 01: Due Date 10 May 2021

Assignment 02: Due Date 15 July 2021

1.5 Submission of assignments

The assignments must be submitted on or before the due date. No extensions will be granted.

The reason for this is that the submission of the assignment is what establishes that the student is actively registered. Failure to submit the first assignment will lead to a denial of admission into the exam.

For detailed information on assignments, please refer to the my Studies @ Unisa brochure.

Assignments are submitted electronically via myUnisa. NO Assignments may be submitted to

the Lecturer via Email.

To submit an assignment via myUnisa:

- ☐ Go to myUnisa.
- ☐ Log in with your student number and password.
- ☐ Select the module.
- ☐ Click on "Assignments" in the menu on the left-hand side of the screen.
- ☐ Click on the assignment number you wish to submit.
- ☐ Follow the instructions.

1.6 The assignments

Assignment 01

Question: For a value of 20 marks each please discuss briefly what your understanding of the following contains:

1. "African philosophy" (you may refer to etymology, periods, movements, figures, branches and problems) [20 marks]
2. "Ethnophilosophy" (you may refer to relevant sub-branches, problems/concerns and figures in the course of answering this question) [20 marks]
3. "Philosophical Sagacity" (you may refer to relevant sub-branches, problems/concerns and figures in the course of answering this question) [20 marks]

[Total 60 marks]

Assignment 02 (Here you may choose to answer either one of the 2 of the following options and may use approximately 500 words. You may not exceed 750 words!)

OPTION A

Towards the end of his seminal essay: *The Struggle for Reason in Africa*, Ramose makes the assertion that "To deny the existence of African philosophy is also to reject the very idea of philosophy."

Write an essay evaluating this claim in light of the reasoning he provides in the essay with regard to the "history of rationality" in Africa. In other words in light of is discussion about who was thought rational and why. You may also make use of your recommended source

Readings for the assignment

Prescribed Reading: See Ramose's (2002) essay, **The struggle for reason in Africa, and the corresponding readings in the study Guide.**

Recommended Reading:

See **Dladla N. (2017) Racism and the Marginality of African Philosophy in South Africa, Phronimon: Journal of Greek Philosophy and the Humanities, 18 pp. 204-231, (can be located under your additional resources on MyUnisa)**

OR

OPTION B

Menkiti and Gyekye' take different positions on the role and position of an individual within the context of African communitarianism. Gyekye is regarded as moderate whereas Menkiti's position is interpreted by some as radical. Critically discuss these philosophers' positions. Which of these two positions do you support? Why?

Readings for the assignment

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

Menkiti, I. 1984. 'Person and Community in African Traditional Thought', in R.A. Wright (ed.), African Philosophy: An Introduction. Lanham: University Press of America, 171–181. (under additional resources on MyUnisa)

Recommended Reading

Molefe,(2016). **Revisiting the Menkiti-Gyekye Debate: Who Is a Radical Communitarian?. Theoria. 63. 10.3167/th.2016.6314903. (see under additional resources on MyUnisa)**

1.7 Other assessment methods

There are no other assessment methods for this module

1.8 The examination

There will be one main exam for 2021, around September to November 2021. More information on this will be made available during the course of the year.

For all other information regarding module PLS1502, you should still refer to Tutorial letter 101

Best Wishes with your Studies

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