

**1. Describe the subject matter that the interdisciplinary field of Africana Studies deals with. Why was Africana/created Studies created? What did civil unrest have to do with it?**

Africana Studies is a course that in my understanding that is broad in dealing with a number of issues affecting Africans. As an interdisciplinary subject, African Studies deals extensively with issues to help understand the experiences that African immigrants especially students experienced while living in Diaspora. Africans in these regions usually experienced issues with socialization therefore made their stay difficult. This subject was therefore introduced to help deal with the ultimate transformation of higher education by addressing diversity and alter the structure of education in these higher learning institutions to effectively accommodate the Africans and those of African decency. The civil unrest of 1960s provided light about the demand for Africana Studies which saw it spread across institutions for transformative outcomes to include Africans in the system. It served as a change point for the previously held disparities against Africans in institutions of learning.

**2. What were African Americans like James Meredith dealing with? How did the demand for Africana Studies at colleges and universities partly grow out of the demand for desegregation in America?**

Meredith and his counterparts formed among them the first African Americans who struggled for inclusion of Africans or rather Blacks into the White systems such as education and the advocacy of their rights to vote.

Following his successful incorporation into Virginia University and most probably after he won the racial segregation case against Ole Miss, there were and have been more blacks enrolling in the University. The demand for Africana Studies grew as such as a predominant integration of black students in white schools across the nation and with the fact that African American Students demanded for their portion of education as a reflection of their history.

**3. Where does the origin or source of ancient Egyptian civilization lie? What was the “Green Sahara” and what did it have to do with the rise of the Egyptian civilization, according to Davidson’s video, “Separate But Equal”?**

According to Davidson, civilization in Egypt was associated with the rise dating back to 3500 B.C. This civilization is thought to have arisen from the Nile. The green Sahara is a representation of the region in the desert where water once flowed and of course in abundance as Davidson explained in the video. It was considered green most definitely because of the historical perspectives of the communities who previously inhabited the region and most definitely being black as owning marvelous creations of galleries. These galleries meant that the place extensively practiced agriculture thereby meaning that it was green. The Egyptian civilization is thought to encompass development from this region particularly with the likes of paintings attributed to be 7000-8000 years old. The use of horse saddles and bridle in the Green Sahara has been pointed out to the development of transport systems. The disastrous change of the Sahara’s climate led to the redistribution of these civilizations.

**4. Describe how Europeans regarded Africa and Africans, as depicted in European art and history during the Middle Ages. Contrast this attitude with European attitudes during**

**the modern period, as described by Davidson. What caused this shift from “ancient” to “modern” views of Africa, according to Davidson?**

The Europeans disregarded other races thereby regarding Africans as inferior in terms of race and civilization. However, in the Middle Ages even as Davidson explained, the Whites accepted the equality as existing between Blacks and Whites. This case was as a result of the equal dignity that came as a result of the Whites and Blacks holding the same position in art especially following the reports that were brought by traders and diplomats who had visited some kingdoms in West Africa.

According to Davidson, the shift from ancient to modern views of Africa was as a result of the realization that Africans too were civilized especially with their forms of art which rather seemed not quite different from those of Europeans. The acceptance of equality therefore served as a reason for the shift from ancient to modern views culminating the set to end slavery out of Africa.

**5. Identify and describe the five functions of Africana Studies, as stated by Professor Manning Marable.**

Prescriptive function: This is a basic and significant element for eradicating racism with further empowerments for blacks. As a prescriptive subject, Africana Studies are identified as a significant element for treating everyone with respect and that Blacks possess the responsibility of fighting for equal rights.

Transformative function: This function revolves along the need for instituting change as a result of actions from civil rights activists such as James Meredith. These changes lead to social changes in institutions that favor all people irrespective of their racial backgrounds and affiliations. The transformations serve to distribute equality.

Corrective function: It engages the corrections for the dominant myths and stereotypes about African Americans. For this as a corrective role, Africana Studies has served to correct stereotypes built on racism and general assumptions of Black inferiority which has been common existence among Whites.

Explanatory function: In this category, the course offers a much more deep understanding about the ideals of historical perspectives and the events leading to such aspects even with regard to racism in education.

Descriptive function: It describes the history and life of blacks with an analysis of the realities of Black experiences from their points of view. This function also encompasses a broad illustration of the broad understanding of the scope of Black misrepresentation in privileges set to be harnessed by all people for instance.

**6. What is a paradigm, according to Thomas Kuhn? How do paradigms become the “normal science” and when do they change? What did Kuhn call this cyclical process? Give an example from the history of science.**

According to Thomas Kuhn, paradigms encompass generally recognized scientific achievements on a universal aspect with which for given moments in context offer modeled

challenges or problems coupled with their solutions to people involved. With this in regard, the paradigm according to him comprises of assumptions, methods and a set of principals that govern how a community functions. According to Thomas Kuhn, paradigms become the normal science when the anomalies accumulate to question the basis of the existing paradigm that offers a challenge to the dominant paradigm to be accepted as a new paradigm which in other terms comes to be known as 'normal science'. Paradigm change occurs whenever the anomaly cannot be explained any longer in terms of normal science and this shift is what is known as the paradigm shift according to Thomas Kuhn. Examples of paradigm shift according to Thomas Kuhn included the theory of evolution and relativity.

**7. What are the paradigms that comprised the Black Studies movement, according to Professor Darlene Clark Hine? Describe them.**

**Traditionalists:** These paradigms recognize the gap for existing paradigms in the traditional disciplines filling the gap. Traditionalists are only limited to some frameworks for dominant paradigms. This consist of both White and Black historical academicians that have brought in with them new interpretations, perspectives, innovations, new methodologies and new sources with probes for the established disciplines

**Authentists/Afrocentrists:** This paradigm entails the move beyond the European paradigm. The paradigm entails the rejection of European standards with commemoration that we need to make steps and know that African culture and history is important.

**Black Feminists:** This looks at the racial intersectionalities, sex and class with much inclusivity of black women since black feminism was developed towards white women as well as the pro-black movement that was instilled towards blacks.

**Black Intellectuals:** These comprised of black elite in the run for equality and as a paradigm for change. This not only included African American men but also women too.

**8. What did the Enlightenment philosophers have to say about Africa and Africans? Give an example of how American thought about Black people, from the time of the country's founding, contradicts the spirit of our democracy.**

Their ideals were materialized on the basis of the current democracies and particularly in the 21st century. Their philosophies were established on the beliefs in science, reason, secularism, skepticism and equality even amongst the African Americans. Africans for instance were identified as obstacles to national unity by Lincoln irrespective of the fact that they formed the majority. There was a systemic suppression of democracy through disregard of black life particularly in the South by 1920s and 1930s for instance.

**9. What is Eurocentrism? Describe an example of Eurocentrism as identified by Ivan Van Sertima. What was Eurocentric about it?**

Eurocentrism is defined as the study and evaluation of European and other societies from a distinctly European standpoint. It's a catch-all term for any opinion that Europeans are superior to non-Europeans in the past or today. The European perspective is founded on ideas derived from European intellectual traditions and a common generation, which were then used to hypothetical research on the past, people's livelihoods, and society, resulting in a plethora of social science subjects, including sociology.

From the interview, I identified the concept of Eurocentrism from the way the Europeans perceived Africans as being in the 'jungle' which meant that they stayed in an uncivilized

society. However with regard to Ivan, the superiority can be opposed to the existence of steel smelting machines in along the lakes of Uganda and Tanzania which were better in terms of energy saving. It is actually said that they processed steel in a single process unlike the German method that involved two stage processes.

It was Eurocentric in that the Germans and the American French believed themselves to be superior to Africans in terms of technology but little did they perceive that it was the greatest smelting technology in the world being the only one smelting steel at 2600 degrees Fahrenheit.

**10. Identify an example of Eurocentrism as it was practiced during the Modern period. What was Eurocentric about this practice, as noted by Walter Rodney or David Brion Davis?**

According to Rodney, Capitalism was such a common aspect that could relate to Eurocentrism in the modern world. Capitalism is a system with which the political and economic systems of a country's industry as well as trade are under private control. The Europeans exhibited this form of ownership upon the entry into Africa with much postulation that they were superior at the expense of using Africans as Slaves.

With regard to Walter Rodney, Eurocentrism was for instance encompassed in line with the social services that were brought up by capitalism to the European workers only. The only services that could reach the middle class group was the by-product service but Africans had to remain inferior and void of accessing these services.