

Title of Grant: Introduction to African Literature course development

S2008 – 175P –FF

Date of Funding: Summer 2008

Name: Memuna Sillah

College: Northern Virginia Community College (NVCC)

Email: msillah@nvcc.edu

Abstract:

This grant developed a course in African Literature that will provide an option in the area of Foreign Literature requirements to our diverse student population as they transfer to four year institutions. Currently, African-American Literature is the only VCCS course that fulfills the Foreign Literature requirement.

Actual Outcomes:

The course was offered in the Spring and Fall of 2008, giving students a wider choice of courses to fulfill their Non-Western Literature requirement.

Other Colleges:

N/A

Discussion and Critique:

Even though the course was offered in the last two semesters, it did not receive enough student registration to run in both semesters. A major reason for student reluctance to sign up for this course was the course numbering. Because of the temporary designation of a 295 course, and the lack of a course description and content on the course transfer information, students who take this course face the added challenge of having to prove to their transfer schools that ENG 295 is a transferable literature course.

What I would change is this: I would work with the Counseling Office to get a better understanding of the transfer process and try to prepare for this challenge before I offer the course.

Evaluation:

When I the course did not get enough, even though quite a few students had expressed interest in the course, I spoke with a few of my colleagues who teach non-western literature, and contacted the student counselors. The problem of the lack of course description and course content information on a 295 label is one that both parties mentioned as a major challenge.

Dissemination:

I have not done any dissemination of findings related to the actual teaching of the course, but I have been working with the counselors to find ways of surmounting the huddle of getting the course to meet registration numbers. Once this bridge is crossed, I will be able to realize most, if not all of the expected outcomes.