

**Dr. LaRose T. Parris**

This assignment will be used during the Fall I 2018 semester in my ENG225 honors course (African American Literature). Most of the students will be majors and non-majors, upper-level sophomores preparing for the transfer process. This African American literature honors course may best be described as a mid-point course. This is a low stakes assignment that the students should be able to complete in a few hours. It will be worth 10% of the students' class participation grade.

The assignment is on the historiographical and epistemological consequences of the Reconquista, which engendered an irrevocable shift in global perceptions of African people, history, culture, and knowledge production in the West. After workshopping the assignment, I revised it to include an additional question on the long-term socio-political and cultural implications of revisionist historiography initiated by prominent Western philosophers and historians.

**Dr. Parris**

**African American Literature**

**Honors Section**

**Low Stakes Reflection & Writing Exercise**

### **War and Knowledge Production**

- Directions:**
- 1) Reflect on the BBC documentary *When the Moors Ruled Spain* from the course PowerPoint presentation.
  - 2) Connect the information in the documentary to the introductory chapter of Lewis Gordon's *An Introduction to Africana Philosophy*.
  - 3) Write a detailed paragraph in response to each of the following questions.
  - 4) Be prepared to share your responses during the next class session.

- I) Based on the documentary and Gordon's text, how did the Reconquista of the late 15<sup>th</sup> century radically alter European historical records and cultural perceptions of the African Moors?
- II) According to *When the Moors Ruled Spain*, what technological and scholarly innovations did the Moors bring to Spain? According to Gordon's text, who were the most prominent Moorish philosophers of the 12<sup>th</sup> century?
- III) Based on Gordon's study, as well as the texts of Mignolo, Dussel, and Bernal, what role did 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>-century Renaissance intellectuals play in creating a purely Eurocentric image of ancient Greece? What geopolitical and socio-economic changes motivated these scholars to write the Moors' influence out of history?
- IV) What are the current implications and epistemological consequences of this revisionist historiography, which has become a standard feature of mainstream Western historical studies?