

47th Annual KIPAS

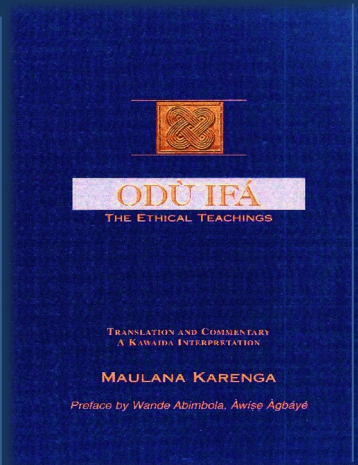
KAWAIDA INSTITUTE OF PAN-AFRICAN STUDIES

SEMINAR IN SOCIAL THEORY AND PRACTICE

6266 | JULY 12, 19, 26, AUGUST 2 – SUNDAYS: 12:00-3:00 PT | 2026

__A KAWAIDA MASTER CLASS IN THE ETHICS OF THE ODU IFA __

“BRINGING AND ENJOYING GOOD IN THE WORLD:
THE FUNDAMENTAL MISSION AND MEANING OF HUMAN LIFE”



“Let’s not engage the world hurriedly. Let’s not grasp at the rope of wealth impatiently.” (1:1)

“Let’s do things with joy. Surely humans have been divinely chosen to bring good in the world.” (78:1)



DR. MAULANA KARENGA

MAULANA (MASTER TEACHER) | SEBA MAAT (MORAL TEACHER)

Executive Director, African American Cultural Center (Us); Professor Emeritus/Former Chair, Department of Africana Studies, California State University, Long Beach; Chair, Us and the National Association of Kawaïda Organizations (NAKO); Co-Chair, Black Community, Clergy and Labor Alliance (BCCLA); Creator of *Kwanzaa* and the *Nguzo Saba*

AUTHOR |

Odu Ifa: The Ethical Teachings | *Kwanzaa: A Celebration of Family, Community and Culture* | *Maat, The Moral Ideal in Ancient Egypt: A Study in Classical African Ethics* | *Selections from the Husia: Sacred Wisdom of Ancient Egypt* |

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— A KAWAIDA MASTER CLASS IN THE ETHICS OF THE ODU Ifa —

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This Kawaida Master Class is in the ethics of the *Odu Ifa*, which is the sacred text of the spiritual and ethical tradition of Ifa. Also, the *Odu Ifa* is one of the great sacred texts in the world and a classic of African and world literature.

The governing interest of this Master Class is to present the ethical teachings of the Odu in the language of modern moral discourse while at the same time preserving and building on its distinctiveness as an ancient body of moral literature capable of framing, informing and inspiring modern ethical and philosophical reflection.



“It is through constantly
studying Ifa that we
come to understand Ifa.

It is through missing the
way that we come to
know the way.

It is the road we have not
traveled before that
causes us to wander
here and there.”

Odu Ifa 191:1

COURSE DESCRIPTION (CONTINUED)

The interpretation of this sacred text for this Master Class is within the Kawaída philosophical tradition. Kawaída philosophy defines itself as an ongoing synthesis of the best of African sensibilities, thought and practice in constant exchange with the world.

Moreover, Kawaída maintains that we must constantly dialog with African culture in the ongoing quest to become and be the best of what it means to be African and human in the fullest sense. And the *Odu Ifa* offers us an excellent source for this essential practice.

For it offers us sacred wisdom for dealing with concerns critical to African and human life. Including issues of everyday life, of human dignity, life's meaning, the good life, the moral person, racial and social justice, the just society, and the good world.



“So, speak truth; do justice.
Be kind and do not do evil.
Truth travels on a narrow
path. But the wicked
wander on a wide road.

Speak truth; do justice. Do
justice and speak truth. For
one who is righteous is
supported by the Divine.”
Odu Ifa 33:1

Learning Objectives

Through lectures, readings, group dialog, addressing particular questions and concerns and tailored instruction, you will learn:

- essential concepts and principles of Odu Ifa Ethics and practical ways to use them to ground, enrich and enjoy your life and bring good in the world,
- understandings of ways to relate to others and the natural world that are dignity-affirming, life-enhancing and world preserving.
- an enhanced ability to engage in critical and ethical thinking and advocacy concerning central issues of our times such as freedom, justice, human rights , African and human good and the well-being of the world from an African-centered standpoint.



“The ancestors said that the world should stop making sacrifices for wealth, And instead make sacrifices that would protect earth from its enemies.

In this way, we will live.
And so we plead
That as long as we live on earth,
That the earth not be destroyed.”

Odu Ifa 33:1

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Lecture-Discussion Schedule

Session	Date	Time (PT)
1. The Ifa Ethical Tradition; <i>Odu Ifa</i> , The Sacred Text; the Goodness of the World; Good and Joy; <i>Eniyan</i> , Chosen and Choosing; <i>Odu 78:1</i> The Mission and Meaning of Human Life	July 12	12:00-3:00pm
2. The <i>Ori</i> - The Head (Inner and Outer); Consciousness; Agency; Destiny; Self-Knowledge and Self-Remaking; Character Formation (<i>Iwa Pele</i>); Being Thoughtful and Measured in All Things	July 19	12:00-3:00pm
3. Roles, Realities and Relations of Men and Women; Women and Men as Partners in Building and Sustaining the World; The Oshun Question; The Moral Imperative of Male/Female Equality; <i>Asuwa</i> (Gathering Together in Harmony)	July 26	12:00-3:00pm
4. Achieving A Good Life and Good World (<i>Aye Rere</i>). Conditions: Knowledge, Happiness, Peace, Harmony, Well-Being; Requirements: Wisdom, Sacrifice, Character, Love of Doing Good; Eagerness and Struggle	August 2	12:00-300pm



“If one’s destiny is unfortunate, perhaps one’s internal wisdom is not sufficient. There is water in the house of the owner of the ocean.

There is wisdom within the Ifa teachings of Orunmila. He who makes the world right, The repairer who repairs the unfortunate destiny.

The ancestors said that those who do not know what to do and do not know what to be, if they study Ifa, their destinies, in the end, will be good.”

Odu Ifa 255:1

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Program Overview

4 Weeks

July 12, 19, 26, August 2, 2026

Sundays, 12:00pm-3:00pm PST

Online / Virtual

Fee: \$ 125

***** At the end of this Kawaída Master Class in Odu Ethics,
a Shahada, a certificate of completion
will be awarded.**

African American Cultural Center (Us)

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**“I ask what is truth?
Orunmila says ‘truth is the
word that cannot fail...
Ifa is truth.**

**Truth is the word that
cannot be ruined. A great
power superior to all,
an everlasting good.**

**Speak truth; do justice.
Speak truth and
do justice constantly.”**

Odu Ifa 219:1