2014

352-01 552 -01 African Literature

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ENGL 352/552  AFRICAN LITERATURE  FALL 2014

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TR 4:00-5:00  
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Objectives
A survey of the literature produced by Africans, this course will focus on historical, cultural, thematic, and generic connections, while also paying close attention to factors which influence African authors both as individuals and part of literary movements. The course also aims to improve the ability to interpret and evaluate the merit of texts, both as works of art and documents of social commentary, through class discussions and writing assignments.

Texts
These will be addressed in the order presented below:

Achebe --- Things Fall Apart  
Camara --- The Dark Child  
Ba --- So Long a Letter  
Adichie --- Half of a Yellow Sun  
Larson --- Under African Skies

Grades
Final grades for the course will be based on the following:

2 Short Essays (20 points each) --- 40  
Discussion Leading/Summary --- 20  
Annotated Bibliography/Quizes --- 20  
Final Exam --- 10  
Attendance/Participation --- 10

The grading scale will be as follows: 97-100=A+, 93-96=A, 90-92=A-, 87-89=B+, 83-86=B, 80-82=B-, 77-79=C+, 73-76=C, 70-72=C-, 67-69=D+, 63-66=D, 60-62=D-, 59 and below =F

Assignments
Writing assignments for this course will include two short essays (3-5 pages long) on assigned topics, and quizzes or an annotated bibliography which will be presented in class and submitted in written form to the instructor at the end of the class on the day assigned. Students will also be grouped as discussion leaders for an assigned short story and will be expected to submit a summary (two pages long) of their analysis of that story. Discussion leaders should also raise/address questions they feel are important for the full comprehension of the work in question.
• All out-of-class writing must be typed using double spacing, except for block quotes,
• Margins must be at least an inch wide all around.
• All points made in essays must be supported with textual evidence.
• All sources used in essays must be documented using the MLA format.
• All written work must be submitted in hard copy form by the end of class on the due date.
• Students must keep copies of all graded assignments until the end of the course.
• Do not email essays to the instructor.

Attendance
The success of this course depends greatly on the punctuality, presence, and full participation of every class member. Attendance will, therefore, be monitored closely. Each student must ensure that he/she signs the attendance register at the beginning of each class. Students who are more than fifteen minutes late, or leave before the end of class will be considered absent. Four or more absences will result a failing grade for the course.

Participation and Preparation
Preparation for each class should entail a careful reading of the assigned texts and be manifested by a readiness to participate in class discussions of the material. Failure to demonstrate such preparation will negatively affect points awarded for participation as will the use of mobile phones during class.

Academic Dishonesty
The unacknowledged use of someone else’s words or ideas in a student’s written work is a serious offence. Penalties for this or other forms of academic dishonesty include a failing grade for the assignment in question and/or course. In addition, the University’s policy includes the possibility of expulsion for this offence. All sources used in written work for this course must be documented using the MLA format.

SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<td>What is African Literature?</td>
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<td>The Significance and Scope of Af. Lit.</td>
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<td>History and Geography as Context</td>
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<td>2-3</td>
<td>Nigeria and British Colonialism</td>
<td>TFA</td>
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<td>Achebe – Named for Victoria</td>
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<td>Literary Analysis of Things Fall Apart</td>
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<td>Realism and Reality</td>
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<td>Fiction as History</td>
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<td>Language</td>
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TFA as a protest novel

4-5  The Soul of Africa in Guinea and Camara Laye
Historical and Cultural Contexts
Literary analysis of TDC

Autobiography or novel?  TBA
Is TDC Too Sweet?
Negritude and Islam
Comparison and Contrast of TDC and TFA
Anglophone and Francophone African novels

6  Senegal
Mariama Ba
Literary Analysis of SLAL
Feminism, Womanism, and Social Realism
Religion and the African Woman
The Epistolary Technique in African Lit.

7-10  Adichie-Achebe’s successor?  HOAYS
The Biafra War in Nigerian Literature
Ethnicity, Culture, and National Identity
Literary analysis of HOAYS
Gender Roles in Africa
Love and War as Context
The Child Soldier as Protagonist
HOAYS as an epic

11-14  The African Short Story  UAS
The Complete Gentleman
Sarzan

Black Girl
A Meeting in the Dark

Mrs. Plum
Tekayo

Girls at War
Africa Kills Her Sun

A Prayer from the Living
Give Me a Chance
BIBLIOGRAPHY


Innes, Catherine and Lindfors, Bernth. 1978. **Perspectives on Chinua Achebe.** Three Continents.

James, Adeola. 1990. **In Their Own Voices.** Heinemann, London.


