

Fall/Winter 2019-2020

AP/EN 3420 6.0A (Y)

African Literature

Course Director:

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Delivery Format:

Seminar

Time:

Mondays 11:30am-2:30pm

Description:

This course surveys the literature from Africa, with a focus on works written in English and some influential translations. The texts are chosen to show the regional particularities, as well as the social, historical, and aesthetic contexts that shape the literature and its reception. These contexts include colonialism, anti-colonial struggles, globalization, population dispersals, the emergence of Afropolitanism, and contemporary articulations of identity. Poetry, fiction and drama are analyzed to reveal the consequences of the writers' choices of form, style and theme. The course sensitizes students to the extrinsic and intrinsic dimensions of literature that inform critical response.

The class format is a combination of lectures and discussion. Sixty- to ninety-minute lectures introduce and demonstrate the contextual, critical, formal and interpretive frameworks that are applied to the course material. Students have an opportunity to test their ideas through written and oral responses to the various texts.

Category:

C

Historical Requirement:

N/A

Requirements:

Reading responses - 2 (10%)
Analytical Essay (15%)
Test 1 - fall term (20%)
Research Paper (20%)
Test 2 - winter term (20%)
Participation and attendance (10%)

Reading List:

***Please note the required editions—in bold and brackets.**

Wole Soyinka (ed.), *Poems of Black Africa* (**Heinemann; alternatively, York University Bookstore Course Kit**)

Niyi Osundare, "Hole in the Sky," a choreo-poem (**online, <https://www.worldliteraturetoday.org/2014/may-august/two-poems-niyi-osundare>**)

Chinua Achebe, *Things Fall Apart* (**Norton**)

Taiye Selasie, *Ghana Must Go* (**Penguin**)

Ama Ata Aidoo (ed): *African Love Stories: An Anthology* —**selections:** stories by Leila Aboulela, Chimamanda Adichie, Sefi Ata, Sindiwe Magona (**Ayebia**)

David Graver (ed), **Plays for a New South Africa—selections:** Reza de Wet, *Crossing*; Ismail Mahomed, *Purdah* (**Indiana University Press**)

Biodun Jeyifo (ed), *Modern African Drama* —**selection:** Femi Osofisan, *Esu and the Vaaabond Minstrels* (**Norton**)

Open To:

Years 3, 4