

**HUM 2424 / AFS 4935: AFRICAN CULTURES AND LITERATURES
(FALL 2020)**

Instructor: Rose Sau Lugano
Office Location: 361 Pugh Hall
Office Hours: 2-3 pm (M, W or by appointment)
Phone: (352) 846-2433

Period: 3rd (9:35-10:25) MWF
Venue: ONLINE/Zoom
Credit: 3.
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COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

This course provides an overview of images of Africa found in the continent's literary creative expressions. The first part of the course will look at the complexity of African continent, its problems, social organizations, pre-colonial political system, thoughts and religious belief systems, art, and popular culture. The larger part of the course will however be devoted to the various forms of literature on the continent. This section of the course will discuss the importance of the spoken word in Africa, the nature of African unwritten literature, the training of African oral artistes, and the place of the artistes in that society. We will also discuss the socio-political and cultural relevance of specific genres of African literatures such as the folktales, riddles, proverbs, praise poetry/panegyric, religious songs and poetry, topical and political songs, oratory and formal speaking, etc. The course will conclude with an assessment of the changing role of literature in contemporary Africa by examining selected works of contemporary African writers.

Minor in African Studies

Please note that this course, in combination with others, can count towards a Minor in African studies, an ideal complement to your disciplinary major. For more information contact Dr. Todd Leedy: tleedy@africa.ufl.edu

REQUIRED TEXTS: The following 5 books are ***required*** for this course:

1. Martin, Phyllis M. and O'Meara, Patrick (eds.) *Africa*. (3rd or 4th edition) Bloomington and Indianapolis / London: Indiana University Press and James Currey, 1995 / 2014.
2. Isidore Okpewho (1992) *African Oral Literature: Background, Character, and Continuity*. Bloomington and Indianapolis: Indiana University Press.
3. Mariama Ba (1980) *So Long a Letter*. Long Grove: Waveland Press Inc. (2012 edition)
4. Diop Boubacar Boris (2006) *Murambi: The Book of Bones* (trans. Fiona McLaughlin) Bloomington & Indianapolis: Indiana University Press.
5. Chinua Achebe (1959) *Things Fall Apart* New York: Anchor Books (1994 edition).

SUPPLEMENTARY READING: In addition, the following works are relevant to the course and students are expected to be familiar with them during the semester:

Bayo Ogunjimi & Abdul-Rasheed Na'Allah (2005) *Introduction to African Oral Literature and Performance* Trenton: Africa World Press. Russell H. Kaschula Ed. (1998) *African Oral Literature: Functions in Contemporary Contexts*. Claremont: New Africa Books. Ruth Finnegan (1970) *Oral Literature in Africa* Oxford: Clarendon Press.

ATTENDANCE POLICY AND EXPECTATIONS

Students are encouraged to attend classes regularly and participate actively in class discussion. You can only do this if you complete all assigned readings before class. You are, however, allowed 2 unexcused absences. Beyond that, each additional absence will require a written excuse verifying illness or family emergency in accordance with UF policy, failing which, your final grade will be lowered by a one letter grade. Assignments are to be emailed (as word document) by the designated date. Mark due dates on your calendars now so that you can plan ahead. Late papers will be assessed a penalty of one-half letter grade out of fairness to those who hand in their work on time.

COURSE EVALUATION

Your final grade in this course will be based on the following grading rubrics:

<i>Class attendance and participation</i>	15%
<i>Tests and quizzes (2)</i>	20%
<i>Assignments and homework (3)</i>	20%
<i>Oral presentation on African country (in-class)</i>	20%
<i>Final written examination (to be on the required texts 3, 4, and 5)</i>	25%
Total:	100%

Assignments (3)

These are to be emailed as word documents on their due dates. Each student will select samples to share with others during class discussion

Oral Presentation on African country: Every Friday from October 23 and December 4, a group of three students will make oral presentation on African country of their choice. Each student is free to select any African country and search the library, surf the web, read newspapers, or consult electronic media for information about the ongoing events in the country. This is an opportunity for you to gain in-depth knowledge of a particular African country. Each student will have 15 minutes for presentation to be followed by a 5-minute discussion by others. **Presentations are scheduled to begin Friday October 23, students will sign up for the day of presentation.**

Final Individual 5-page paper on African literature: Students will be given some questions addressing issues emanating from the 3 literary texts discussed in class and expected to respond to one of the questions. The paper should be typed-written on font 12 and should be 5 full pages long and double-spaced with 1-inch margin. Stylistic requirement for this paper is APA or MLA. Typographical mistakes/errors, poor spellings, and grammatical faults will be penalized. **(Submission is as an email attachment on Monday, December 12, 2020).**

GRADE CORRESPONDENCE

93-100=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-	Below 60 =E			

General

Feel free to ask question in the class so that you will not be left behind. However, if there are issues that we cannot resolve in class, you are encouraged to use my office hours or send me an email. I look forward to a rewarding semester with you all.

Academic Honesty

The University of Florida’s honor code requires all students to be honest in their academic work. University policies on cheating, plagiarism, and related issues are available at:

<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/procedures/academicguide.html>

Students with disabilities

Students with disabilities will be accommodated accordingly. Those requesting such accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office which will provide them with documentation.

WEEKLY BREAKDOWN OF COURSE

Week I (August 31-September 4)

Days	Topic	Reading
W	Course Introduction. An overview of facts and figures of the continent	Phyllis M. Martin and Patrick O’Meara’s <i>Africa</i> 3rd Edition Chapter 2: The Contemporary Map of Arica
F	Africa’s problems and prospects Distribute oral presentation schedule to students	Phyllis M. Martin and Patrick O’Meara’s <i>Africa</i> 3 rd Edition Chapter 1: Africa Problems and Perspectives

Week II (September 7-11)

Days	Topic	Reading
M	No class on Monday, 9/7	Labor Day
W	Watch the documentary “Africa: Who is to Blame”	“Africa: Who is to Blame” (DVD 2335)
F	Discuss the documentary “Africa: Who is to Blame”	

Week III (September 14-18)

Days	Topic	Reading
M	Political systems & governance	Phyllis M. Martin and Patrick O'Meara's <i>Africa</i> 3 rd Edition Chapter 4: Aspects of Early African History
W	Religion and systems of thoughts	Phyllis M. Martin and Patrick O'Meara's <i>Africa</i> 3 rd Edition Chapter 11: African Systems of Thought
F	*Test 1: Master African countries their capitals, colonizers & independence days.	Test given in class

Week IV (September 21-25)

Days	Topic	Reading
M	African Literature: An Overview of its classification	Phyllis M. Martin and Patrick O'Meara's <i>Africa</i> 3 rd Edition Chapter 13: African Music Performed Chapter 15: African Literature
W F	African literary artistes and their society	Isidore Okpewho's <i>African Oral Literature</i> Chapter 2: The Oral Artist Chapter 5: Social Relevance

Week VI (September 28--October 2)

Days	Topic	Reading
M	Narratives (Myths, Legends, & folktales)	Isidore Okpewho's <i>African Oral Literature</i> Chapter 7: Oral Narratives
W	Analysis of samples of myths, legends & folktales	Assignment 1: Each student to have 2 samples of African folktale, myth, and legend ready for class discussion.
F	Continue analysis of myths, legends & folklore	

Week VI (October 5-9)

Days	Topic	Reading
M	Proverbs	Isidore Okpewho's <i>African Oral Literature</i> Chapter 8: Witticisms
W	Analysis of representative samples	Assignment 2: Each student to have a list of 20 proverbs from across African ethnic groups ready for class discussion
F	Continue analysis of proverbs	Cultural values through proverbs: examples from the "Kanga: The Cloth that Speaks"

Week VII (October 12-16)

Days	Topic	Reading
M	Riddles	Isidore Okpewho's <i>African Oral Literature</i> Chapter 8: Witticisms
W	Riddles	Isidore Okpewho's <i>African Oral Literature</i> Chapter 8: Witticisms
F	Test 2 on facts and figures about Africa	Test 2 on facts and figures about Africa

Week VIII (October 19-23)

Days	Topic	Reading
M	Analysis of representative samples	Assignment 3: Each student to have a list of 20 riddles from a particular African ethnic group ready for class discussion
W	Continue analysis of riddles	Continue analysis of sample riddles in class
F	Oral presentation 1	

Week IX (October 26-30)

Days	Topic	Reading
M	Salutation or praise poetry: categories and functions	Isidore Okpewho's <i>African Oral Literature</i> Chapter 6: Songs and Chants
W	Analysis of samples	Material for discussion will be supplied in class –Taarab music
F	Oral presentation 2	

Week X (November 2-6)

Days	Topic	Reading
M	Religious or ritual poetry	Isidore Okpewho's <i>African Oral Literature</i> Chapter 9: Musical and Dramatic Forms
W	Analysis of representative samples	Material for discussion will be supplied in class—The Poem of Mwana Kupona
F	Oral presentation 3	

Week XI (November 9-13)

Days	Topic	
M	Oral presentation-Nigeria Indigenous cultural practices in <i>Things Fall Apart</i>	Chinua Achebe's <i>Things Fall Apart</i>
W	No class, Wed. , Nov 11	Veterans Day
F	Cultural Practices after the contact with the West: <i>Things Fall Apart</i> as case study	Chinua Achebe's <i>Things Fall Apart</i>

Week XII (November 16-20)

Days	Topic	Reading
M	Oral presentation-Rwanda: Historical background	<i>Murambi: The Book of Bones</i>
W	The Rwanda genocide	The film <i>Hotel Rwanda</i> (DVD 1044)
F	Ethnic violence, war, and peace in Africa: Examples from <i>Murambi: The Book of Bones</i>	<i>Murambi: The Book of Bones</i>

Week XIII (November 23-27)

Days	Topic	Reading
M	Oral presentation—Senegal. Cultural elements in <i>So Long a Letter</i>	Mariama Ba's <i>So Long a Letters</i> Take-home final exam distribution
W	No Class	Thanksgiving
F	No Class	Thanksgiving

Week XIV (November 30-December 4)

Days	Topic	Reading
M	Cultural elements in <i>So Long a Letter</i>	Mariama Ba's <i>So Long a Letters</i>
W	Oral presentation 4	
F	Oral presentation 5	

Week XV (December 7-9)

Days	Topic	Reading
MW	<i>Course Conclusion</i>	
F	Study Days Dec. 10-11	No classes

Week XVI (December 12-18)

Days	Topic	
M	Final paper –emailed as word document to rslugano@ufl.edu	By e-mail before 5 pm
W & F	Exams	