

Carleton University

Institute of African Studies Course Outline

TERM:

Fall 2016

**PREREQUISIT
E:**

[AFRI 1001](#) or [AFRI 1002](#) or [FYSM 1901](#) or permission of IAS

CLASS:

Day & Time: Mondays 11:35am-2:25pm

Room: Southam Hall 502

**INSTRUCTOR
:**

Prof. Nduka Otiono

CONTACT:

Office: 436 Paterson Hall

Office Hrs: Mondays 2:30-3:30 (or by appointment)

Telephone: 613-520-2600 extension 2410

Email nduka_otiono@carleton.ca

T.A.: Emma Bider: EmmaBider@email.carleton.ca Office Hour: 1:30-2:30 on
Tuesdays in Room B740 in the Loeb building or by appointment via email.

Course Description: The Undergraduate Calendar describes this course as covering “The economic, social and political challenges facing countries of West Africa, including domestic issues and regional relations.” The countries that may be discussed include: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Cote d’Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Togo. This term, the course specifically explores the geographical and historical background of the region, then examines conflicts and emerging terrorist activities; migration and displacement; brain drain, brain gain and remittances; youth and cultural renaissance (the example of Nollywood and emerging forms of popular cultural production). Largely interdisciplinary in approach, the course seeks to acquaint students with fundamental knowledge of the West African region. The readings include historical, political, literary and cultural texts drawn from traditional and electronic formats to underline both the common and distinctive sociopolitical and economic relations between the peoples and countries of the region.

Expected outcomes

- Students to acquire better knowledge of the physical and cultural geography of the West African region.
- Enable students to rethink the narrow conception of Africa as a monolithic country imagined in the Western media



- Expose students to some of the region's exciting literary, visual, musical production, and youth culture and activism
- Hone students' skills at critical reading, critical thinking, and critical writing.

Course Format

This course is designed as a three-hour weekly lecture. Weekly lectures may be divided into two parts—the first part will be traditional lecture style delivered by the instructor, while the second part will be discursive, requiring students to participate in group discussions and presentations. At the discussion sessions, students are required to engage in deeper critical conversations with the texts and the main themes of the course. To do so, students must be prepared to participate fully in an informed way. The assigned readings for the week will be critically discussed in order to develop students' understanding of the subject or theme of the week. The group discussions will play an essential part in developing students' critical thinking skills and deepening their knowledge of the topics. Students are strongly encouraged to bring questions concerning the texts and themes for discussion.

Texts: Ifeoma Chinwuba, *Merchants of Flesh*, Abuja: Grower Literature. *available at **Octopus Books**, 116 Third Ave. in the Glebe (613-233-2589) [[Await confirmation of availability at book store before going there](#)]

NB: Other required readings can be found in the "Course Calendar" section below. While some of the texts are available online at no costs, students are advised to access the readings when they are on campus or signed into the Library and can freely access the university library databases. Otherwise, students may be charged for the same texts if off-campus and not logged in. Also, students must access and study all texts, including YouTube videos, before the class, and familiarize themselves with the texts for their exam as they will not be allowed to access the texts during the exam.

To successfully complete this course, students must:

- Have access to the university e-mail account and library databases. All communication for the course must be written from your valid CARLETON email address. Email etiquette: Please ensure that there is a clear subject line to which your message pertains. Do not be sloppy and casual in your messages to me. I consider all emails to be documents, so please be cautious as to what you write in them. Before sending urgent emails remember that it may take about two business days for me to reply to emails.
- Attend both lectures regularly and on time to avoid disrupting the instructor/TA and fellow students. Participation in classes is vital for fostering your understanding of the course materials. More than **THREE** absences from classes without tenable excuses approved by the professor prior to the class (except under documented emergency situations) may be penalized by the deduction of a third of a letter grade from the student's grade (for example, A- to B+, B- to C+, C- to D+).
- Submit all papers on time as late papers will not be tolerated and may be penalized by the deduction of a third of a letter grade from the student's grade (for example, A- to B+, B- to C+, C- to D+). If a late submission of a paper or an assignment is unavoidable (e.g., personal or medical reasons), please inform me before the due date and have written documentation available. All late essays must be handed to the Professor/TA in-person either in class, office hours, or by appointment. Hand-in notes, cards, and oral remarks given with your handed-in paper are unacceptable. 24-Hour Rule: Marked papers will be returned at the end of the class. Once the papers have been handed back, students are required to leave the room immediately. The instructor will not discuss the



paper or its grade, until at least 24 hours later. At the expiration of the 24 hours please feel free to meet with the TA to discuss the paper and the grade. If you are not satisfied, you may turn to me, and then if not satisfied as well, you may apply the formal appeal structure.

- Come to class with the necessary books / article(s). You are expected to read the texts before you come to class to benefit from the class activities. You are strongly encouraged to read ahead of class meetings on scheduled texts for the course. If necessary, changes may be made to the schedule. When absent, you will be responsible for finding out about any changes made to the schedule or any assignments which were announced in class. I will not provide notes to students who miss class.
- Ensure that all pagers and cellular phones are turned off before class. And if you must use laptops in the class be sure that the sound of your keypads does not distract your colleagues. Also ensure that your laptop use is limited to course-related activity. Students engaged in other activities with their laptops may be asked to leave the class.
- Avoid sexist, racist, and homophobic remarks as these will not be tolerated in class. You must speak respectfully at all times. Talking in class while others are speaking will not be tolerated. Any behaviour considered disruptive to the professor, the teaching assistant and/or other students is not acceptable. Students engaging in such behaviour will be dealt with according to university regulations.

Course Calendar:

September 12 – Introduction: Preview of Course Outline, Expectations, and Outcomes.

Locating West Africa geographically. West Africa in History (especially slavery, the scramble and partition of Africa, and colonial legacy), Culture, Literature, Art, Media, and Popular culture.

September 19 – Background articles:

Charles K Rowley, "Political culture and economic performance in sub-Saharan Africa," *European Journal of Political Economy*, Volume 16, Issue 1, March 2000, Pages 133–158.

<http://www.sciencedirect.com.proxy.library.carleton.ca/science/article/pii/S0176268099000518#>

Ogbonnaya, Ufiem Maurice. "Regional Integration, Political Crisis and the Transformation of ECOWAS Crisis Management Mechanisms." *Turkish Journal of Politics* 4.2 (2013): 49-63. *ProQuest*. Web. 4 Sep. 2015.

<http://search.proquest.com.proxy.library.carleton.ca/politicalscience/docview/1552716961/fulltext/1D4CFBA472B641CDPQ/13?accountid=9894>

Bazilian, Morgan, et al. "Oil, Energy Poverty and Resource Dependence in West Africa." *Journal of Energy & Natural Resources Law* 31.1 (2013): 33.

[https://gspp.berkeley.edu/assets/uploads/research/pdf/Journal_of_Energy_Natural_Bazilian_et_al_\(2013\)_Resources_Law_Bazilian-2013.pdf](https://gspp.berkeley.edu/assets/uploads/research/pdf/Journal_of_Energy_Natural_Bazilian_et_al_(2013)_Resources_Law_Bazilian-2013.pdf)

September 26 – Wars, Conflicts, Terrorism, and the region (I):

Bird, S. Elizabeth, and Fraser Ottanelli. "The History and Legacy of the Asaba, Nigeria, Massacres." *African Studies Review* 54.3 (2011): 1-26. Web. 3 Sep. 2015.

<http://search.proquest.com.proxy.library.carleton.ca/docview/1017916598/fulltextPDF?accountid=9894>

Vigh, Henrik. "Conflictual Motion and Political Inertia: On Rebellions and Revolutions in Bissau and Beyond." *African Studies Review* 52.2 (2009): 143-64. Web. 3 Sep. 2015.
<http://search.proquest.com.proxy.library.carleton.ca/docview/211680447/fulltextPDF?accountid=9894>

Filmic representation of Biafra War: *Half of a Yellow Sun* Directed by Biyi Bandele, 2013.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d2dMy6V0UNE> (1hr 25 mins long)

October 3 – Wars, Conflicts, Trans-border Terrorism, and the region (II): Jihadism and terrorism in West Africa

Maiangwa, Benjamin. "Jihadism in West Africa: Adopting a Three-Dimensional Approach to Counterterrorism." *Journal of Peacebuilding & Development* 9.3 (2014): 17-32. Web. 3 Sep. 2015.
http://journals2.scholarsportal.info.proxy.library.carleton.ca/pdf/15423166/v09i0003/17_jiwaatatc.xml

Fiore, Giuseppe. "Why Boko Haram should be on the European Union List of Designated Terror Groups." *African Security Review* 23.1 (2014): 78-83. Web. 3 Sep. 2015
http://journals1.scholarsportal.info.proxy.library.carleton.ca/pdf/10246029/v23i0001/78_wbhsboulodtg.xml

Special class exercise: Free writing (To count towards class participation grade)

October 10: No class. *Happy Thanksgiving*

October 17 – – (Quiz)

(Assign Mid Term Essay/Project) Writing the Research Essay in African Studies

Writing workshop. Class visit and guest lecture/workshop by the Library Subject Specialist for African Studies, Aleksandra Blake.

October 24 –Fall break, no classes.

October 31 – Modernity, Art and Life in West Africa: The example of El-Anatsui

Feature Film: *Fold Crumple Crush: The Art of El Anatsui*. Dir. Vogel, Susan Mullin, El Anatsui, Prince Street Pictures, et al. Icarus Films, 2011.

November 7 – (Mid Term Essay due) Globalization, Diasporas, and the consequences

"Patterns and Trends of Remittances in West Africa," Special Report by West African Institute for Financial and Economic Management (WAIFEM), <http://waifem-cbp.org/v2/dloads/Patterns%20and%20Trends%20of%20Remittances.pdf>

Otiono, Nduka. "Tracking Skilled Diasporas: Globalization, Brain Drain, and the Postcolonial Condition in Nigeria." *Transfers* 1.3 (2011): 5-23.
file:///C:/Users/Nduka/Downloads/Tracking_skilled_diasporas_gl.PDF



Assignment: View the film *Europe by Road*, a Nollywood film available on *YouTube*, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J3ChG6Ya06s> [2hrs 3min long]

November 14 – Trafficking Subjects: Migrations, Gender and the Sex trade

Introduction: Ifeoma Chinwuba, *Merchants of Flesh*, Abuja: Grower Literature. [possible Skype conversation with the author—to be confirmed]

November 21 – Ifeoma Chinwuba, *Merchants of Flesh*, Abuja: Grower Literature. Group presentations.

November 28 – TBA (Catch up class) **[Submit Portfolios]**

[800-word Individual report on contribution to Group presentation due]

December 5: Youth, Media, and Culture in West Africa

Gueye, Maramé. "Modern Media and Culture in Senegal: Speaking Truth to Power." *African Studies Review* 54.3 (2011): 27-43. Web. 3 Sep. 2015.
<http://search.proquest.com.proxy.library.carleton.ca/docview/1017916417/fulltextPDF?accountid=9894>

Diop, Fatou, and Dwight Merunka. "African Tradition and Global Consumer Culture: Understanding Attachment to Traditional Dress Style in West Africa." *International Business Research* 6.11 (2013): 1-14.
<http://search.proquest.com.proxy.library.carleton.ca/docview/1466381389/fulltextPDF?accountid=9894>

December 9: Reviews: General Review, Exam Preview (Wrap-up)

Evaluation:

Pop quiz: **10 points** (in class **October 17**)*

Midterm Essay/Project: **20 points**. Due date: **November 7**. *The requirements for the essay will be defined in-class by the time the essay is assigned*

Reading response: 1000 words: **10 points** (*Students will be required to write a formal response to either a class reading to be announced or to an African Studies event on campus. The events that might be focused on include the October 15 Second Carleton University Institute of African Studies Undergraduate conference on campus. The critical response paper will require students to demonstrate the significance of their topic to the overall objectives of the course.*)

Exam: **40 points** (Date to be announced)+

Participation: **20 points**: attendance and active participation in class will be rewarded as follows: 10 points for attendance, 5 points for portfolio (contents, professional presentation of materials); 5 points for group presentations)

TOTAL **100 points (100%)**

***Quiz**

This quiz will be held in the class on **October 17**. In order to excel, you are expected to have researched and mastered the following facts:

- a) countries & capital cities on a map; b) official languages of all West African countries; c) names of heads of state/presidents; d) year of independence of formerly colonized countries

+The **final exam** will cover the entire course. The exam will be THREE hours long. Students would be required to write at least one short essay, and answer a combination of various question types. The Instructor will provide further information about the structure and content of the exam during the review classes.

COPIES OF WRITTEN WORK SUBMITTED

Always retain for yourself a copy of all essays, term papers, written assignments or take-home tests submitted in your courses.

GRADING SYSTEM

Letter grades assigned in this course will have the following percentage equivalents:

| | | |
|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| A+ = 90-100 (12) | B = 73-76 (8) | C - = 60-62 (4) |
| A = 85-89 (11) | B - = 70-72 (7) | D+ = 57-59 (3) |
| A - = 80-84 (10) | C+ = 67-69 (6) | D = 53-56 (2) |
| B+ = 77-79 (9) | C = 63-66 (5) | D - = 50-52 (1) |

F Failure. No academic credit WDN Withdrawn from the course

ABS Absent from the final examination

DEF Official deferral (see "Petitions to Defer")

FND Failure with no deferred exam allowed -- assigned only when the student has failed the course on the basis of inadequate term work as specified in the course outline.

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

PLAGIARISM

The University Senate defines plagiarism as "*presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one's own.*" This can include:

- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else's published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one's own without proper citation or reference to the original source;



- submitting a take home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another's data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another's works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in "substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs."

Plagiarism is a serious offence which cannot be resolved directly with the course's instructor. The Associate Dean of the Faculty conducts a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They can include a final grade of "F" for the course.

COURSE SHARING WEBSITES and COPYRIGHT

Classroom teaching and learning activities, including lectures, discussions, presentations, etc., by both instructors and students, are copy protected and remain the intellectual property of their respective author(s). All course materials, including PowerPoint presentations, outlines, and other materials, are also protected by copyright and remain the intellectual property of their respective author(s).

Students registered in the course may take notes and make copies of course materials for their own educational use only. Students are not permitted to reproduce or distribute lecture notes and course materials publicly for commercial or non-commercial purposes without express written consent from the copyright holder(s).

STATEMENT ON CLASS CONDUCT

The Carleton University Human Rights Policies and Procedures affirm that all members of the University community share a responsibility to:

- promote equity and fairness,
- respect and value diversity,
- prevent discrimination and harassment, and
- preserve the freedom of its members to carry out responsibly their scholarly work without threat of interference.

Carleton University Equity Services states that "every member of the University community has a right to study, work and live in a safe environment free of discrimination or harassment". [In May of 2001 Carleton University's Senate and Board of Governors approved the Carleton University Human Rights Policies and Procedures. The establishment of these policies and procedures was the culmination of the efforts of the Presidential Advisory Committee on Human Rights and a Human Rights Implementation Committee.]

WITHDRAWAL WITHOUT ACADEMIC PENALTY

The last date to withdraw from Fall term courses is **December 9th**.

REQUESTS FOR ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term because of disability, pregnancy or religious obligations. Please review the course outline promptly and write to the instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist.

Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Documented disabilities could include but are not limited to mobility/physical impairments, specific Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/psychological disabilities, sensory disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), and chronic medical conditions. Registered PMC students are required to contact the PMC, 613-520-6608, every term to ensure that your Instructor receives your Letter of Accommodation, no later than two weeks before the first assignment is due or the first in-class test/midterm requiring accommodations. If you only require accommodations for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodations to PMC by **November 11, 2016** for the **Fall** term. You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at <http://carleton.ca/equity/accommodation>

PETITIONS TO DEFER

Students unable to complete a final term paper or write a final examination because of illness or other circumstances beyond their control or whose performance on an examination has been impaired by such circumstances may apply within five working days to the Registrar's Office for permission to extend a term paper deadline or to write a deferred examination. The request must be fully and specifically supported by a medical certificate or other relevant documentation. Only deferral petitions submitted to the Registrar's Office will be considered.

ADDRESSES (613-520-2600, phone ext.)

- Institute of African Studies (x2220) 439 Paterson Hall (PA)
- Registrar's Office (x3500) 300 Tory
- Student Academic Success Centre (x7850) 302 Tory
- Paul Menton Centre (x6608) 500 Unicentre
- Learning Support Services – Study Skills, Writing Tutorial Service (x1125) 4th flr. Library

Application for Graduation Deadlines

- Spring Graduation (June): March 1
- Fall Graduation (November): September 1
- Winter Graduation (February): December 1