

Carleton University

Institute of African Studies Course Outline

TERM: Fall 2016 **COURSE:** The African City

PREREQUISITE: Prerequisite(s): third year standing and at least 1.0 credit in AFRI or
E: permission of the Institute of African Studies.

CLASS: **Day & Time:** Thursdays 11:35am-2:25pm
 Room: Southam Hall 303

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

Course Description: This course examines the historical emergence and contemporary issues of the African city. Largely interdisciplinary in approach, the course seeks to acquaint students with a composite knowledge of the African city and life worlds by focusing on a few representative cities across the regions of the continent. The course emphasizes the contemporary African city with its rapid urbanization, growing youth population, cultural developments, and the socio-economic challenges of everyday urban life. The readings include historical, political, literary and cultural texts drawn from traditional and electronic formats to underline the common and distinctive sociopolitical and economic features of the African city.

Expected outcomes

- a) Students to acquire better knowledge of the physical and cultural geography of the West African region.
- b) Enable students to rethink the narrow conception of Africa as a monolithic country imagined in the Western media
- c) Expose students to some of the region’s exciting literary, visual, musical production, and youth culture and activism
- d) Hone students’ skills at critical reading, critical thinking, and critical writing.
- e) **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.

Required Text: Bill Freund, *The African City: A History*. Cambridge University Press, 2007
*available at **Octopus Books**, 116 Third Ave. in the Glebe (613-233-2589)

NB: The texts for this course are basically online and on Ares (to be confirmed) and are listed in the "Course Calendar" section below. 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 – 8 Introductions I : Review of course outline; backgrounds to the course; Free writing
I: What do you understand by the idea of “the city”?

September – 15 Introductions II : The Evolution of Cities in Africa: From Tradition to Modernity –
A survey

September 22 – Modernity and the emergence of the African City

Reading -- Chapter One: Bill Freund, *The African City: A History*. Cambridge University Press, 2007. 1-36

September – 29 Colonialism, Urbanization and the African City

Chapters Two and Three: Bill Freund, *The African City: A History*. Cambridge University Press, 2007. 37- 106.

Film screening: *Ancient Africa: A History Denied* By Ali Mazrui (1:35 hr)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-xOSHL_LYIM (1:35 hrs)

October – 6: No class. Happy Thanksgiving

October 13 – Representing the City / 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. **[Please bring your laptops to class]**

➤ **Quiz**

King, Anthony D. "Introduction: Cities, Texts and Paradigms," *Representing the City: Ethnicity, Capital and Culture in the 21st-century Metropolis*. Ed. Anthony D. King. New York: New York University Press, 1996. 1-19.

Introduction / Francesca Locatelli, Paul Nugent in Francesca Locatelli,, and Paul Nugent. Eds. *African Cities: Competing Claims and Urban Spaces*. Leiden: Brill. 2009. 1-13.
 (Available on Ares and on the Reserve Library)

Ato Quayson, "Street Life in an African City: Oxford Street in Accra," *Africa is a Country* blog, May 16, 2014. <http://africasacountry.com/2014/05/street-life-in-an-african-city-oxford-street-in-accra/>

Ato Quayson, Introduction, Urban Theory and Performative Streetscapes, *Oxford Street, Accra: City Life and the Itineraries of Transnationalism*, Duke University Press, 2014. 1-33.
 (Available on Ares and on the Reserve Library)

➤ **Assign Mid Term Essay/Project**

October 20 – The Postcolonial African City

Chapters 5 and 6: "The Postcolonial African City" and "Globalization and the African City: Touba, Abidjan, Durban." In Bill Freund, *The African City: A History*. Cambridge University Press, 2007. 142-169 and 170-36.

Khanna, Parag. "Beyond City Limits: The Age of Nations is Over. The New Urban Era has Begun," *Foreign Policy*, September/October 2010. 119-128.

Enwezor, Okwui, Introduction. In Enwezor, Okwui, Carlos Basualdo, Ute Meta Bauer, Susanne Ghez, Sarat Maharaj, Mark Nash, and Octavio Zaya. Eds. *Under Siege: Four African Cities, Freetown, Johannesburg, Kinshasa, Lagos: Documenta 11, Platform 4*. Ostfildern-Ruit: Hatje Cantz Publishers, 2002. 3-8. <https://lirias.kuleuven.be/bitstream/123456789/135325/1/under%2Bsiege.pdf>

October 27 – Fall break, no classes.

November 3 – Re-imagining African urbanism

UN-HABITAT (2016), *The State of African Cities 2014: Re-Imagining Sustainable Urban Transitions*, UN-HABITAT.

<http://www.oecd-ilibrary.org.proxy.library.carleton.ca/docserver/download/1889166b-en.pdf?expires=1475005058&id=id&accname=ocid57005379&checksum=499BC0001F2D43AF4403FE66E0589184> Read pp. 3; 7-27; Statistical Annexe 262-273

➤ **Mid Term Essay due**

Assignment: The African City and the Future – Students are required to research two major African cities as case study reflecting contemporary issues in the evolution of the African City as studied in the course. The research findings will serve as the basis of Group work and presentations in the next two classes. Students are free to create Facebook Groups for organizing workshops and group presentations.

November 10 – The African City and the Future (1): Workshop in groups

Chapter 22: “Cities of Youth.” In *Cities of Youth, Cities of Prosperity* [electronic resource]. Nairobi : United Nations Human Settlements Programme, 2013. pp.1-2; 14-28.
<http://catalogue.library.carleton.ca/record=b3617494>

November 17 – The African City and the Future (2) – Group presentations

November 24 – Youth, Popular Culture, and the African City

Rapoo, Connie. “Urbanised soundtracks: youth popular culture in the African city,” *Social dynamics*. (39)2. p.368 - 383.
<http://www.tandfonline.com.proxy.library.carleton.ca/doi/full/10.1080/02533952.2013.798143?scroll=top&needAccess=true>

Mose, Caroline. Swag' and 'cred': representing hip-hop in the African city. *Journal of Pan African Studies*. 6.3 (Sept. 2013): 106+. Academic OneFile OneFile. Web 11 Sept. 2016
https://proxy.library.carleton.ca/login?url=http://go.galegroup.com.proxy.library.carleton.ca/ps/i.do?p=AONE&sw=w&u=ocul_carleton&v=2.1&it=r&id=GALE%7CA347293085&sid=summon&asid=9b376669d73c9f94b70ca3c1e10a6213

Suriano, Maria. “Popular Music, Identity and Politics in a Colonial Urban Space: The Case of Mwanza, Tanzania” (1945-1961).” In Francesca Locatelli, Paul Nugent, Francesca Locatelli, and Paul Nugent, Eds. *African Cities: Competing Claims and Urban Spaces*. Leiden: Brill. 2009.

- **1000-word individual report on case study and contribution to Group presentation due!**
- **Submit Portfolios**

December 1: Postscript: Insights – Imagining African Cities

Other Desires: The African City, Introduction and Panel 1: Deep Histories of Modernity.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z7ifTewV FE&feature=youtu.be> (1:46 hrs)

Other Desires: The African City, Panel 2: Imagining African Cities (New Directions).
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cNyTsEM2EVs> (1:20 hrs)



Other Desires: The African City, Panel 3: Mobility. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vhph8fWYnN4>
(1:31 hrs)

December 8: Reviews: General Review, Exam Preview (Wrap-up)

Evaluation:

Pop quiz: **10 points** (in class **October 13**)*

Midterm Essay/Project: **20 points**. Due date: **November 3**. *The requirements for the essay will be defined in-class by the time the essay is assigned*)

Special case study/Group work: *1000 words*: **10 points** Due Date: **November 24** (*Students will be required to write a 1000-word research report on a case study of two African cities and their contribution to Group presentation*).

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 free writings; *5 points* for portfolio (contents, professional presentation of materials)

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) Major capital cities on the map of Africa; **b)** population and demographics; **c)** major mode of public transportation in different cities –local names where applicable; **d)** definition of key terms encountered so far in the course.

+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 B = 73-76 (8) C - = 60-62 (4)
(12)



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