

AFRI 3609/FILM 3609-African Cinema

Preamble

The project of this course is to introduce students to African cinema through its history, some of its major filmmakers, films and institutions, its key debates and challenges as well as its potential futures.

Please Note: Students taking this course will have hands-on experience organizing the **first-ever African Union Film Festival** held on campus in partnership with the **African Embassies and High Commissions** in Canada and the **Canadian Film Institute**.

Course Description

This course will explore the history of cinema in Africa, from its beginnings to the present. It will explore among other things the work of the Lumiere brothers in Africa, the colonial cinema, the multiple ways in which Africans have used the cinema since the advent of independence starting in the late 1950s and early 1960s and the recent boom in film production on the continent. The works of such masters as Ousmane Sembene, Souleymane Cisse, Idrissa Ouedraogo, Abderrahmane Sissako, Med Hondo, Faouzi Bensaidi, Fanta Nacro, Jean-Pierre Bekolo, John Akomfrah, will be explored. Such major concerns in African cinema as the problem of auteurism, spectatorship, realism, third cinema, the national, feminism, the popular, cinephilia, Nollywood, the postcolonial, race, Afro-futurism, genre and the challenge of the digital will also be examined.

Students will participate in organizing on the campus of Carleton University, the very first African Union Film Festival, held in collaboration with the African Embassies and High Commissions in Canada and the Canadian Film Institute. This will include writing entries about the various films being shown in view of their presentation to the general public through both print and online media as well as participating in the promotion and actual logistics of the operation of the festival.

Evaluation: Take home exam, research paper, final exam, blog entries.