AFRI 1001: Introduction to African Studies 1  
Spring/Summer 2010

Instructor: Tokunbo B. Ojo  
Time: Mondays & Wednesdays, 11:35am – 2:25pm  
Class Location: Tory Building 447  
Office Hours: 9:30am to 10:30am on Wednesdays or by Appointment  
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Course Descriptions
This course provides entry-points to understand the diverse facets of African studies. It covers historical and contemporary issues and events that define 21st century African realities. In doing these, socio-cultural and political functions of literature, sports, theaters and media in the day-to-day struggles and realities of the continent are examined, especially in the contexts of nation building, cultural identities, traditions and moral obligations.

The first part examines the image, myth and stereotypes of Africa in the western media and popular culture in general. Given the fact that Africa is more or less synonymous with political instability, poverty, diseases, famines and wars in the global media discourse, this part of the course is aimed to do some ‘peeling away’ by showing the rich, vibrant and bustling aspects of Africa that are often missing in the global media.

To facilitate students’ awareness and understanding of why the continent is as it is today, the second part of the course briefly examines the historical, economic and political backgrounds of the continent. Then the third part of the course familiarizes students with the daily realities and challenges of the continent of Africa in the present dispensation. In this section, the course also touches on ‘concept of African renaissance,’ impacts and effects of the multi-dimensional globalization on the continent in the 21st century.

Format of the Course
This class will operate as a combination of lectures and seminars. Each week will begin with a lecture by the lecturer and will be followed by seminar discussion in which each student is expected to participate fully in an informed way. In the seminars, the assigned readings for the week will be critically discussed as a way to foster students’ understanding of the subject/theme of the week. It will be another means of encouraging and developing the critical thinking skills of the students. To make the seminars more interactive and engaging, students must have read the assigned readings before coming to class. They are also encouraged to come to the seminars with questions for the seminar discussions.

To also enhance learning, videos and multimedia presentations might also be used as part of teaching materials in both lectures and seminars when there is need for such

NOTE: In order to successfully complete this course, students must dedicate between 6-8 hours per week outside of class to meet the workload – reading, writing, research and analysis.
Schedules

Part 1: Africa and ‘Us’

Lecture 1, May 10: Introduction & Overview

Lecture 2, May 12: Africa in the Popular Culture and Imagination
Readings:

Optional Readings:

Lecture 3 - May 17: Saving Africa: Foreign Aids, Missionary Zeal of NGOs and Celebrities
Readings:
- Firoze Manji & Carl O’Coill “NGOs: A Tainted History” New Africa Magazine August/Sept 2005, pp. 16-20

Lecture 4, May 19: Beauty of Africa We Hardly See
Readings:
- Carol Pineau. “Africa's booming side: A troubled continent is also a land of high-rises and stock markets” The Ottawa Citizen, May 9, 2005. pg. A.15.

Lecture 5, May 24: NO CLASS….Happy Victoria Day!!
Part 2: Africa’s Past and Present-The Colonial Legacies and Burden of Postcolonial Era

Lecture 6, May 26: Colonial Legacies and Africa Today
Readings:

Optional Readings:

Lecture 7, May 31: Burden of Postcolonial Era: The Political Economy of Conflicts and Wars in Africa
Readings:

Lecture 8, June 2: Mid-term exams

Part 3: African Canonic Spaces of Cultural Expressions, Politics & Identities

Lecture 9 (June 7): Contemporary African Literature
Readings:

Lecture 10 (June 9): African theater, movies and social messages
Readings:
Lecture 11 (June 14): Football (Soccer) in Africa: Politics, Culture & Identity
Readings:

Optional Readings:
- Tokunbo Ojo “Safe 2010 World Cup: The debate goes on” Inside Soccer Magazine online, 2009. URL: http://www.insidesoccer.net/safe-2010-world-cup-the-debate-goes-on/

Lecture 12 (June 16): Renaissance and Africa in the 21st century
Readings:
- TBA

Lecture 13 (June 21): Review and Wrap up

Required Readings (available on WebCT)
- Required readings for the course are available in the PDF format on WebCT.

Assessment & Evaluations

- Mid-term Exam – 30 % of the final grade

It will be held in class on June 02, 2010. It will be an essay-format examination. The examination questions will focus on the readings and the class lectures cover in the first half of the course. Students will not be allowed to bring in textbooks, notes, and other course materials to the exam room. Please note, there will no supplemental mid-term examination if you miss the exam.
• **Pop-up Quizzes (2 best out of 3) – 10% of the final grade**

The pop-up quizzes will be held in class unannounced. It is extremely important for you to be in class and stay till end of all lectures and discussion sessions because these pop-up quizzes will be done anytime during the normal class hours. If you miss any (or all) of the quizzes, there is no opportunity for “second chance.” For each quiz, the questions will be drawn from the assigned readings of the week (and probably from the lectures as well). **Hence, it is your responsibilities to:**

- have completed the assigned readings for each class session before attending the lecture;
- be prepared for quiz each week, and
- be actively engaged in the class discussions and lecture on a regular basis.

Be rest assured, you will do well on these quizzes if you stay on top of “the business.” Of the three pop-up quizzes that will be done, the best two will count towards your grade. Each quiz = 5% of the final grade.

• **Profile/Assessment Review of an Ottawa-based African Restaurant/African Grocery Store/African Store – 20% of the final grade**

  - Details will be made available to you on May 12, 2010
  - Assignment due date: May 19, 2010

• **Nation’s Profile/Basic Fact Quiz (10% of the final grade):** You will have a ‘basic fact’ quiz in lecture 6 (May 26, 2010). This quiz will be strictly on the official languages, and names of capital cities and heads of state/presidents of African countries. **In order to do extremely well in the quiz, you are expected to have researched and mastered the following facts before the quiz:**

  - (a) names of all African countries and their capital cities,
  - (b) official languages of all African countries,
  - (c) names of the presidents/heads of state of all the African countries, and
  - (d) years when all the formerly colonialized African countries got independence.

• **Final Research Project/Paper – 30% of the final grade**

**Other course administrative stuff**

• All written assignments, with the exception of in-class works, must follow APA style in terms of citations and references.

• You must strictly adhere to the page limit/font size/margins specified for the written submissions/assignments. Failure to follow the given instructions on the assignment means 10% deduction on the total marks for the assignment in question.

• For your own protection, you should always keep a copy of the written assignments. In case of loss, theft or any “unexpected incident”, it will be your responsibility to provide a copy of such written assignment.
• E-mail submission of assignment is not allowed. It is your responsibility to submit only hard copy of the assignment in class.

• Late assignments will not be accepted, except there is death in the family or sickness. In such case, official notes from the doctor[s] or official death certificate must be submitted to the instructor.

• With regards to grade problems or dispute, please do note that I will not discuss such during class time. You are encouraged to see me by appointment on such issue. Before coming to see me on the grade dispute or problem, you must indicate in writing where and why you believe your work should get a higher or lower grade. Your written submission on grade dispute or problem should be between 500 words (minimum) and 1000 words (maximum).

PLAGIARISM

The University Senate defines plagiarism as “presenting, whether intentional 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 Deans of the Faculty conduct 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 include a mark of zero for the plagiarized work or a final grade of "F" for the course.
ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION FOR STUDENTS

Persons with Disabilities: Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Registered PMC students are required to contact the centre, 613-520-6608, every term to ensure that I receive your letter of accommodation, no later than two weeks before the first assignment is due or the first in-class test/midterm requiring accommodations.

For Religious observance: to be worked out on individual basis with the professor. Please consult Equity Services Website or an Equity Advisor (ext. 5622) for Policy and list of Holy Days (www.carleton.ca/equity).

For Pregnancy: Pregnant students requiring academic accommodations should contact Equity Services to obtain a letter of accommodation (ext. 5622). The student must then make an appointment to discuss her needs with the instructor at least two weeks prior to the first academic event in which it is anticipated the accommodation will be required.