



Institute of
African Studies
CARLETON UNIVERSITY

COURSE: Introduction to African Studies
AFRI 1001A

TERM: Fall 2018

CLASS: **Day & Time:** Thursdays 8:35am - 10:25am.
Room: LA C164

INSTRUCTOR: Prof. Nduka Otiono

CONTACT: **Office:** 435 Paterson Hall
Office Hours: Mondays 11:00am - 1:00pm (or by appointment)
Telephone: 613-520-2600 extension 2410
Email : nduka.otiono@carleton.ca

Tutorial Assistants: TBA

Welcome!

“The *way* we approach the challenge of learning will shape us as much as *what* we seek to learn.” – Taiiaike Alfred 2005: 199 (italics in original)

Course Description:

As described in The Undergraduate Calendar, this course is designed as an “Introduction to African studies, including history, geography, literature, and the arts.” Accordingly, the course aims to introduce students to major currents in African Studies through an interdisciplinary lens. The course begins with Chinua Achebe’s challenge of popular representations of Africa in history and literature, and seeks to provide students with critical tools for dissecting the continent’s complex socio-cultural experience. The course combines literary and cultural texts drawn from traditional and electronic formats to challenge the stereotyped image of Africa especially in North America and Europe (or “the West”) as “the Dark Continent”. The course embraces a broad generation of cultural producers in the Motherland and its Diasporas to reflect the depth and breadth of the African experience across space and time.

Class Format:

This course is designed as a 110-minute weekly lecture with a one-hour weekly tutorial. The lectures set the tone and highlight the broad thematic engagements of the course while the tutorials offer platforms for close analysis of the texts and ideas. At the tutorials, 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 tutorials will play an essential part in developing students’ critical thinking skills. Students are strongly encouraged to bring questions concerning the texts and the lectures to tutorials for discussion.

Expected Outcomes:

- Students to acquire better knowledge of the physical and cultural geography of the continent and its Diaspora linkages
- Enable students to rethink the dominant image of Africa as a continent of conflict, disease, and exotica
- Expose students to some of the continent's exciting literary, visual, musical production, and youth culture and activism
- Provide students a basic understanding of the interesting scope of the field of African Studies not as a fossilized discipline, but one that is vibrant and related to their contemporary experience
- Hone students' skills at critical reading, critical thinking, and critical writing.

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. Please note: Before sending urgent emails remember that it may take about two *business days* for the Instructor/TAs to reply to emails—this means the Instructor/TAs may not reply emails during weekends.
- Attend lectures regularly and on time to avoid disrupting the instructor and fellow students. Participation in class is vital for fostering your understanding of the course materials. More than THREE absences from the lectures without tenable excuses approved by the professor prior to the lecture (except under documented emergency situations) may be penalized by the deduction of a third of a letter grade from the student's participation grade (for example, A- to B+, B- to C+, C- to D+).
- Submit all papers on time electronically and in hardcopy as **late papers will not be tolerated** and may be penalized as follows:
 - the deduction of a third of a letter grade from the student's grade for the first three days (for example, A- to B+, B- to C+, C- to D+),
 - **2 marks** deduction for any additional day the assignment is overdue until the assignment reaches 0% (F).

If a late submission of a paper or an assignment is unavoidable (e.g., personal or medical reasons), please inform the Instructor/TA *before* the due date and have written documentation available. Submissions on due dates **MUST** be in-class at tutorials. *All late assignments must be handed in-person either in class, office hours, or by appointment, but not through the dropbox unless specifically approved by the TA on a case by case basis.* Please note: Once the papers submitted on time are graded and returned, *no further papers will be accepted except for very compelling reasons. There will be no make-up assignments or extensions unless there is a documented medical certificate or other proof of a legitimate reason for lateness.*

- 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 tutorial classes. 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 first with the TA to discuss the paper and the grade. If you are not satisfied, you may meet the Professor, and then apply the formal appeal structure if you are still not satisfied.
- 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 or slides to students who miss class. Students must also be attentive to CuLearn as post updates, supplemental texts, and important information about the course will be posted there. Students are encouraged to share any resources related to the course that they encounter in their personal research for the benefit the whole 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. Any behaviour considered disruptive to the professor and/or other students is not acceptable. Students engaging in such behaviour will be dealt with according to university regulations.

Required Texts:

1. Chinua Achebe, *Things Fall Apart*.*
2. Fatou Diome, *The Belly of the Atlantic*, Serpent's Tail.*
*available at **Octopus Books**, 116 Third Ave. in the Glebe (613-233-2589)

NB: Other required readings can be found in the “Class Reading and Schedule” 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.

NB: All assignments must be completed to pass the course.

Course Calendar / Required Readings

Class Readings and Schedules

September 6: Introduction: Preview of Course Outline, Expectations, and Outcomes.
What is African Studies? Locating Africa geographically. Representations of Africa in Literature, Art, Media, and Popular culture.

Part One: Representations of the “Dark Continent”

September 13:

First assignment: 7-minute Free Writing on a topic to be announced in the lecture theatre

- Chinua Achebe, “An Image of Africa,” in *Research in African Literatures*, Vol. 9, No. 1, Special Issue on Literary Criticism (Spring, 1978), 1-15. Available at: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/3818468>
- Binyavanga Wainana, “How to Write about Africa” (<http://www.granta.com/Archive/92/How-to-Write-about-Africa/Page-1> or <http://textandcommunity.gmu.edu/2009/resources/how-write.pdf>). It is also available on YouTube (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c-jSQD5FVxE>)
- Chimamanda Adichie, “The Danger of a Single Story” (http://www.ted.com/talks/chimamanda_adichie_the_danger_of_a_single_story.html)

September 20: Paul Zeleza, “The Inventions of African Identities and Languages: The Discursive and Developmental Implications.” See <http://www.lingref.com/cpp/acal/36/paper1402.pdf> pp 1-26.

September 27:

Chinua Achebe, *Things Fall Apart*: Introduction

(Critical response to be assigned. Due **Nov 8**)

October 4: (Quiz in Tutorial) – Chinua Achebe, *Things Fall Apart*;
Chinua Achebe in Conversation: “Voice and Memory in the Poetic Imagination” videos...

Part Two: Of migrations, Diasporas, and cultural production

October 11: The African Diasporas: From the precolonial to the postcolonial
Dreaming the Homeland

Poetry: Langston Hughes, “The Negro Speaks of Rivers” (<http://www.poets.org/poetsorg/poem/negro-speaks-rivers>); Derek Walcott, “A Far Cry from Africa” (<http://www.poets.org/poetsorg/poem/far-cry-africa>); and Maya Angelou, “Africa” (<http://www.afropoets.net/mayaangelou21.html>).

October 18:

(Assign Mid Term Essay/Project)

Special focus: Writing the research essay. Class visit and guest lecture/workshop by the Library Subject Specialist for African Studies, Aleksandra Blake (To be confirmed).

Singing the Homeland

Music, Politics, and Africa’s liberation: **Bob Marley**, “Africa Unite” (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FpfxD0yY6f8>); **Fela Anikulapo Kuti**, “Beast of No Nation” (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E0BhNPiq78k>; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DDPChDbZqs0>); From *Broadway to Finding Fela* (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yyqhh3QEfm8>); **Huge Masekela**, “Bring Him Back Home” (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XKCK8o5xzaM&list=RDXKCK8o5xzaM#t=51>); **Miriam Makeba** with **Hugh Masekela**, “South African freedom song” (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oJiqvPMQXAc&list=RDXKCK8o5xzaM&index=5>)

October 25– Fall break, no class.

November 1: (Deadline: Mid-term essay/Project due for submission in Tutorial classes)

Mwenda Ntarangwi, “African Hip Hop and Politics of Change in an Era of Rapid Globalization,” *History Compass*, **Volume 8, Issue 12**, pp 1316–1327, December 2010

Fighting for Democracy: Visual Narratives and Media (Arab Spring and Street Art in Tunisia). Yasmine Ryan, “Art challenges Tunisian revolutionaries” in <http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/2011/03/201132223217876176.html>
<http://kalamu.posthaven.com/video-photo-essay-revolutionary-street-art-in>

Spoken Word and Art in Africa and the Diaspora: The works of Komi Olafimihan and other African-Canadian spoken word artists (<http://komiolaf.com/about/>)

Part Three: Gender and African Studies

November 8: Introduction -- Fatou Diome, *The Belly of the Atlantic*, Serpent’s Tail, 2003.

(Critical response paper due)

November 15: Fatou Diome, *The Belly of the Atlantic*

- **Group presentations** on the novel in the tutorial groups.

November 22: (Due -- Written contributions to the group presentations)

- **Portfolio due in Tutorial classes (include report on group presentations)**

Introduction I: Film screening -- Sembene Ousmane, *Molaade*

November 29: Film screening -- Sembene Ousmane, *Molaade*

- **Group discussions** on the film and on Richard A. Shweder, "What about 'Female Genital Mutilation'? And Why Understanding Culture Matters in the First Place," *Daedalus*, Vol. 129, No. 4, (Fall, 2000), pp. 209-232. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/20027671>

December 6: Wrap-up. Reviews: General Review, Exam Preview

Evaluation:

Free writing: 5%

Quiz: 10% (in Tutorial **October 4**)*

Midterm Essay/Project: 20% (submitted in Tutorial **November 1**. *The requirements for the essay will be defined in-class by the time the essay is assigned*)

Critical response paper: 10%. To be assigned on **Sept 27**. Due in Tutorials **November 8**. (*Students will be required to write a short 800-word paper in 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 those advertised on the events page of the Institute of African Studies (<http://carleton.ca/africanstudies/cu-events/>) or the **Saturday, October 13 IAS Undergraduate Students International Research conference at the Discovery Centre**. Please consult your Tutorial Assistant (TA) for approval prior to choosing an event for your critical response paper. The critical response paper will require students to critically demonstrate the significance of their topic to the overall objectives of the course.*)

700-word report on contributions to the group presentation--**5%** (**Due in tutorial on November 22**)

Portfolio 5% (a bound neat collection of notes and graded/ungraded assignments for the course due in tutorials **November 22**)

Participation: 10% (Includes attendance and contribution to class discussions)

Exam: 35% (Date to be announced)

TOTAL: 100%

***Quiz**

This quiz will be held in the Tutorial class on **October 4**. Please note that each tutorial time slot will have its own version of the quiz. 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 African countries; c) names of heads of state/presidents; d) year of independence of formerly colonized countries, etc.

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

REGULATIONS COMMON TO ALL AFRICAN STUDIES COURSES

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.

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.]

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.

WITHDRAWAL WITHOUT ACADEMIC PENALTY

September 30, 2018: Last day for a full fee adjustment when withdrawing from **fall** and **fall/winter (full year)** courses (financial withdrawal). Withdrawals after this date will result in a permanent notation of WDN on the official transcript.

December 7, 2018: Last day for academic withdrawal from **fall** courses.

April 9, 2019: Last day for academic withdrawal from **fall/winter (full year)** courses.

REQUESTS FOR ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

Pregnancy obligation: write to me 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. For more details see the Student Guide: <https://carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf>

Religious obligation: write to me 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. For more details see the Student Guide: <https://carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf>

Accommodation for Student Activities: write to the professor 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. For more details see <https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf>

Survivors of sexual violence: As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and its survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: <https://carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support/wp-content/uploads/Sexual-Violence-Policy-December-1-2016.pdf>

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the [PMC website](#) for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (if applicable).

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 floor—Library.

Application for Graduation Deadlines

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