AFRI 1001A
Introduction to African Studies I
Fall 2011

Lecture: Mondays 2:30-4:30
Room: Azrieli 101
Instructor: Christine Duff
Office Hours: Thursday 11:30-1:30 (or by appointment)
E-mail: WebCT*
Office: 1606 Dunton Tower (Dept. of French)
Tel: (613) 520-2600 ext. 2170 (during office hours only)
Teaching Assistants: Hector Addison, Matthew Morris, Salah Jama
TA office hours: by appointment

*Please note that WebCT e-mail is the preferred means of communication for this course. Please allow 24hrs for a reply and a little longer on weekends.

Tutorials 1,3: Monday 1:30-2:30
Tutorials 2,4,5,6: Monday 4:30-5:30
N.B. Tutorials will begin September 19th

Required texts
1. Pius Adesanmi, You’re Not a Country, Africa.*
2. Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, Purple Hibiscus.*
3. Koffi Kwahulé, Bintou. Translation by Chantal Bilodeau on WebCT (used by permission)
   N.B. The original French version of the play is on Reserve at the Library.
   N.B. The original French version and the English translation of the novella are on Reserve at the Library.

*available at Octopus Books, 116 Third Ave. in the Glebe (613-233-2589)

Other readings (articles, book chapters) will be available on Reserve in electronic format or hard copy. Please see the Tentative Schedule & Readings for items marked with (R).

Course Description
The 2011-2012 Undergraduate Calendar describes this course as “Introduction to African studies, including history, geography, literature, and the arts.” Cultural production, with special emphasis on the literary imagination, will be our focus in AFRI 1001A. Popular representations of Africa in North America and Europe are marked by a reductionist and stereotyped image of African creativity, if not by the absence of creative expression altogether. Our first task, then, will be to critically assess the all-too-common framing of Africa as continent of conflict, disasters and poverty. How do African writers and artists represent themselves, their continent -- its beauty and its challenges -- and their experience? This course seeks to provide students with points of entry for answering this important question by examining some of the forces at play in the various ways Africa has been
constructed by “the West”. Literary works from Nigeria, Ivory Coast and Senegal will be featured, while visual art and film will also be considered. Some historical and sociological texts will be essential background reading. We will also look, in broad terms, at the evolution of the field of African Studies.

**Course Objectives**

- For students to acquire basic knowledge of the physical and cultural geography of the continent
- To familiarize students with theoretical constructions of the African continent and their impact
- To introduce students to some of the many literatures of the continent
- To expose students to some of the continent’s most prominent visual artists
- To exercise and develop students’ skills of critical inquiry
- For students to gain a basic understanding of how the field of African Studies has developed
- To foster the development of students’ ability to present and defend an argument
- To help students improve their writing skills

**Course Format**

This course is designed as a two-hour weekly lecture with a one-hour weekly tutorial. In the tutorials, students are expected to have prepared and 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 about the readings to tutorials for discussion.

**To successfully complete this course, you must:**

1. Have access to WebCT. This requires a university e-mail account. All online communication for the course will be done via WebCT.
2. Attend both lectures and tutorials regularly and on time to avoid disrupting the instructor/TA and fellow students. Participation in tutorials is vital for fostering your understanding of course material. Students who miss more than 5 tutorials will receive a participation mark of zero.
3. Dedicate between 6-8 hours per week outside of class to meet the workload — reading, writing, research and analysis.
4. Submit all assignments and complete the quiz.

**Class Conduct**

The following applies to both lectures and tutorials:

1. Cell phones must be turned OFF during class and should remain in students’ bags, purses, etc. There are few things in life that can be guaranteed but I can guarantee that it will not kill you to be unable to send or receive text messages for a couple of hours.
2. Laptop use is limited to course related activity. Students engaged in other activities with their laptops will be asked to leave the class.
3. Any behaviour considered disruptive to the professor, the teaching assistants and/or other students is not acceptable. Students engaging in such behaviour will be dealt with according to university regulations.

**Evaluation:**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fact quiz</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>(in Tutorial Sept. 26)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essay 1</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>(submitted in Tutorial &amp; on WebCT Oct. 31)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essay 2</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>(submitted in Tutorial &amp; on WebCT Dec. 5)</td>
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<td>Tutorial</td>
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**Fact Quiz**

This quiz will be held in Tutorial **Sept. 26**. Please note that each Tutorial time slot will have its own version of the quiz. In order to do extremely well, you are expected to have researched and mastered the following facts:

- countries & capital cities on a map
- official languages of all African countries
- names of heads of state/presidents
- year of independence of formerly colonized countries

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

It is very important to work with integrity and to never pass off someone else’s ideas as your own. Plagiarism is a serious offence at Carleton University. In the University Calendar, regulations concerning plagiarism are outlined and it is a good idea to read them. Note in particular the following passage:

“**Plagiarism:** to pass off as one’s own idea or product, work of another without expressly giving credit to another. **Please note** that any student who is found to be plagiarizing may be:

- expelled
- suspended from all studies at the University
- suspended from full-time studies
- awarded a reprimand
- refused permission to continue or to register in a specific degree program but subject to having met all academic requirements shall be permitted to register and continue in some other program
- placed on Academic Warning
- awarded an F or ABS in a course or examination”

**STUDENT SERVICES**

- Student Academic Success Centre (302 Tory)  
  [http://www2.carleton.ca/sasc/](http://www2.carleton.ca/sasc/)

- Learning Support Services (4th floor of the MacOdrum Library)  
  [http://www2.carleton.ca/sasc/learning-support-services/](http://www2.carleton.ca/sasc/learning-support-services/)
  Offer very useful study skills workshops
ACCOMODATIONS
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 visit the Equity Services website http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/

**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 visit the Equity Services website http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/

**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. 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 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. If you only require accommodations for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodations to PMC by the deadlines published on the PMC website: http://www2.carleton.ca PMC/new-and-current-students/dates-and-deadlines/
TENTATIVE SCHEDULE & READINGS

Week 1 (Sept.12)
Course introduction & Overview

Week 2 (Sept.19)
Tutorials start!
Show Me the “Real” Africa: Representations in Media & Pop Culture

Required Reading:

Week 3 (Sept.26)
Fact Quiz in Tutorial
Chronological Markers in African History

Required Reading:
- Thomas O’Toole, “The Historical Context,” Understanding Contemporary Africa. 23-56. (R)

Week 4 (Oct.3)
Writing African Experience I

Required Reading:
- Ousmane Sembène, The Money Order (R)

Week 5 (Oct.10)
NO CLASS… HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

Week 6 (Oct.17)
Writing African Experience II

Required Reading:
- Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, Purple Hibiscus
Week 7 (Oct.24)
The European Gaze
Guest lecture by Matt Rushton, Ph.D. candidate in Cultural Mediations
Michel Leiris and L’Afrique fantôme: The Case of the “Cochon de lait”

Required Reading:
- Jean and John Comaroff, “Africa Observed: Discourses of the Imperial Imagination,” *Perspectives on Africa*. 31-43. (R)

Week 8 (Oct.31)
Essay 1 due
The Artist’s Eye
Screening of *Fold, Crumple, Crush: The Art of El Anatsui*

Required Reading:
None!

Week 9 (Nov.7)
Writing African Experience III
Guest lecture by Pius Adesanmi, author of *You’re Not a Country, Africa.*

Required Reading:
- Selected essays from *You’re Not a Country, Africa.*

Week 10 (Nov.14)
Writing African Experience IV

Required Reading:
- Koffi Kwahulé, *Bintou*

Week 11 (Nov.21)
Moving Beyond the Sensational
Screening of Ousmane Sembène’s Mooladé

Required Reading:
TBA

Week 12 (Nov.28)
African Popular Culture

Required Reading:

Week 13 (Dec.5)
Essay 2 due
Review and Wrap-Up

(R) Articles and book chapters on Reserve.