



Carleton University

Institute of African Studies Course Outline

TERM: Winter 2018 **COURSE:** AFRI 2005A (West Africa)

PREREQUISITE: [AFRI 1001](#) or [AFRI 1002](#) or [FYSM 1901](#) or permission of IAS

CLASS: **Day & Time:** Fridays 8:35am-11:25am
 Room: University Centre 180

INSTRUCTOR: Prof. Nduka Otiono

CONTACT: **Office:** 436 Paterson Hall
 Office Hrs: Fridays 12:00-2:30pm (or by appointment)
 Telephone: 613-520-2600 extension 2410
 Email: nduka_otiono@carleton.ca

Course Description: The Undergraduate Calendar describes this course as covering “The economic, social and political challenges facing countries of West Africa, including domestic issues and regional relations.” The countries that may be discussed include: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Cote d’Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Togo. This term, the course specifically explores the geographical and historical background of the region, then examines conflicts and emerging terrorist activities; migration and displacement; brain drain, brain gain and remittances; youth and cultural renaissance (the example of Nollywood and emerging forms of popular cultural production). Largely interdisciplinary in approach, the course seeks to acquaint students with fundamental knowledge of the West African region. The readings include historical, political, literary and cultural texts drawn from traditional and electronic formats to underline both the common and distinctive sociopolitical and economic relations between the peoples and countries of the region.

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.



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.

Texts: Ifeoma Chinwuba, *Merchants of Flesh*, Abuja: Grower Literature. *available at **Octopus Books**, 116 Third Ave. in the Glebe (613-233-2589)

NB: Other required readings can be found in the “Course Calendar” section below, and occasionally on the Library Ares section of the course CuLearn. 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.

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 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 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. 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 me to discuss the paper and the grade. Please note that **late submissions for an assignment may not be accepted once the marked scripts have been returned to the class.**

- 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 laptops, cellular phones, and other digital devices **do not become a distraction in class.** Be sure that the sound of your keypads do 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:

January 12 – Introduction: Preview of Course Outline, Expectations, and Outcomes.

Locating West Africa geographically. West Africa in History (especially slavery, the scramble and partition of Africa, and colonial legacy), Culture, Literature, Art, Media, and Popular culture.

First assignment: Reading response: 800 words: (10 points) Due: January 26

January 19 – Background articles:

Charles K Rowley, "Political culture and economic performance in sub-Saharan Africa," *European Journal of Political Economy*, Volume 16, Issue 1, March 2000, Pages 133–158.

<http://www.sciencedirect.com.proxy.library.carleton.ca/science/article/pii/S0176268099000518#>

Ogbonnaya, Ufiem Maurice. "Regional Integration, Political Crisis and the Transformation of ECOWAS Crisis Management Mechanisms." *Turkish Journal of Politics* 4.2 (2013): 49-63. *ProQuest*. Web. 4 Sep. 2015.

<http://search.proquest.com.proxy.library.carleton.ca/politicalscience/docview/1552716961/fulltext/1D4CFBA472B641CDPQ/13?accountid=9894>

Bazilian, Morgan, et al. "Oil, Energy Poverty and Resource Dependence in West Africa." *Journal of Energy & Natural Resources Law* 31.1 (2013): 33.

[https://gspp.berkeley.edu/assets/uploads/research/pdf/Journal_of_Energy_Natural_Bazilian_et_al_\(2013\)_Resources_Law_Bazilian-2013.pdf](https://gspp.berkeley.edu/assets/uploads/research/pdf/Journal_of_Energy_Natural_Bazilian_et_al_(2013)_Resources_Law_Bazilian-2013.pdf)

January 26: Wars, Conflicts, Terrorism, and the region (I):

(800-word Reading/Critical response paper due)

Annan, N., (2014). Violent Conflicts and Civil Strife in West Africa: Causes, Challenges and Prospects. *Stability: International Journal of Security and Development*. 3(1), p.Art. 3. DOI: <http://doi.org/10.5334/sta.da>

Bird, S. Elizabeth, and Fraser Ottanelli. "The History and Legacy of the Asaba, Nigeria, Massacres." *African Studies Review* 54.3 (2011): 1-26. Web. 3 Sep. 2015.
<http://search.proquest.com.proxy.library.carleton.ca/docview/1017916598/fulltextPDF?accountid=9894>

Vigh, Henrik. "Conflictual Motion and Political Inertia: On Rebellions and Revolutions in Bissau and Beyond." *African Studies Review* 52.2 (2009): 143-64. Web. 3 Sep. 2015.
<http://search.proquest.com.proxy.library.carleton.ca/docview/211680447/fulltextPDF?accountid=9894>

February 2:

Filmic representation of Biafra War: *Half of a Yellow Sun* Directed by Biyi Bandele, 2013.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d2dMy6V0UNE> (1hr 25 mins long)

February 9: Wars, Conflicts, Trans-border Terrorism, and the region (II): Jihadism and terrorism in West Africa

(Quiz)

Fulgence, Niyonkuru. "War on Terrorism in Africa: A Challenge for Regional Integration and Cooperation Organizations in Eastern and Western Africa." *Journal of Political Sciences & Public Affairs*, 2015, S1.007.
<https://www.omicsonline.org/open-access/war-on-terrorism-in-africa-a-challenge-for-regional-integration-and-cooperation-organizations-in-eastern-and-western-africa-2332-0761-1000S1-007.pdf>

Maiangwa, Benjamin. "Jihadism in West Africa: Adopting a Three-Dimensional Approach to Counterterrorism." *Journal of Peacebuilding & Development* 9.3 (2014): 17-32. Web. 3 Sep. 2015.
http://journals2.scholarsportal.info.proxy.library.carleton.ca/pdf/15423166/v09i0003/17_jiwaatatc.xml

Fiore, Giuseppe. "Why Boko Haram should be on the European Union List of Designated Terror Groups." *African Security Review* 23.1 (2014): 78-83. Web. 3 Sep. 2015
http://journals1.scholarsportal.info.proxy.library.carleton.ca/pdf/10246029/v23i0001/78_wbhsboulodtg.xml

(Assign Mid Term Essay/Project)

February 16: Globalization, Diasporas, and the consequences

Writing workshop: Writing the Research Essay in African Studies. Class visit and guest lecture/workshop by the Library Subject Specialist for African Studies, Aleksandra Blake. (To be confirmed)

"Patterns and Trends of Remittances in West Africa," Special Report by West African Institute for Financial



and Economic Management (WAIFEM), <http://waifem-cbp.org/v2/downloads/Patterns%20and%20Trends%20of%20Remittances.pdf>

Otiono, Nduka. "Tracking Skilled Diasporas: Globalization, Brain Drain, and the Postcolonial Condition in Nigeria." *Transfers* 1.3 (2011): 5-23.
[file:///C:/Users/Nduka/Downloads/Tracking skilled diasporas gl.PDF](file:///C:/Users/Nduka/Downloads/Tracking%20skilled%20diasporas%20gl.PDF)

Hagopian, Amy, Matthew J. Thompson, Meredith Fordyce, Karin E. Johnson and L. Gary Hart. "The migration of physicians from sub-Saharan Africa to the United States of America: measures of the African brain drain." *Human Resources for Health* 2004, 2:17. <https://human-resources-health.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/1478-4491-2-17>

February 23: Winter Break, no class

March 2: Trafficking Subjects: Migrations, Gender and the Sex trade

(Mid Term Essay due)

Introduction: Ifeoma Chinwuba, *Merchants of Flesh*, Abuja: Grower Literature. [possible Skype conversation with the author—to be confirmed]

March 9: Group presentations on Ifeoma Chinwuba's *Merchants of Flesh*, Abuja: Grower Literature
Seven groups of approximately 6 members in each group presenting for 20 mins per group

March 16: Youth, Media, and Culture in West Africa

Gueye, Marame. "Modern Media and Culture in Senegal: Speaking Truth to Power." *African Studies Review* 54.3 (2011): 27-43. Web. 3 Sep. 2015.

<http://search.proquest.com.proxy.library.carleton.ca/docview/1017916417/fulltextPDF?accountid=9894>

Diop, Fatou, and Dwight Merunka. "African Tradition and Global Consumer Culture: Understanding Attachment to Traditional Dress Style in West Africa." *International Business Research* 6.11 (2013): 1-14.
<http://search.proquest.com.proxy.library.carleton.ca/docview/1466381389/fulltextPDF?accountid=9894>

[Due: 800-word Individual report on contributions to Group presentation- 5 points]

March 23: Modernity, Art and Life in West Africa: The example of El-Anatsui

Feature Film: *Fold Crumple Crush: The Art of El Anatsui*. Dir. Vogel, Susan Mullin, El Anatsui, Prince Street Pictures, et al. Icarus Films, 2011. 51 minutes

[Due: Portfolios – 5 points]

March 30: Good Friday, no class

April 6: Rethinking Critical Issues in West Africa: Class groups discussion and workshop

Watson, Vaughn W. M. and Michelle G. Knight-Manuel, Challenging Popularized Narratives of Immigrant Youth from West Africa: Examining Social Processes of Navigating Identities and Engaging Civically. *Review of Research in Education*, Vol 41, Issue 1, 2017. 279 – 310. <https://doi-org.proxy.library.carleton.ca/10.3102/0091732X1>

Bamfo, N. "The Political and Security Challenges Facing 'ECOWAS' in the Twenty-first Century: Testing the Limits of an Organization's Reputation" *International Journal of Humanities and Social Science*, Vol. 3 No. 3; February 2013. https://www.ijhssnet.com/journals/Vol_3_No_3_February_2013/2.pdf

April 11: **General Review & Exam Review** (Wrap-up following a Friday schedule)

Evaluation:

Reading/Critical response: *800 words assigned* January 18: **10 points** (*Students to write a formal critical response paper to the class readings of January 26 – Background articles*). **Due: January 26**

Quiz: **10 points** (in class **February 9**)*

Midterm Essay/Project: **20 points. Due: March 2.** *The requirements for the essay will be defined in the assignment prompt on February 15. Note: There shall be a creative component to the essay to be approved by the professor for students interested in exploring the option. Students to discuss this early with the professor if they are interested in the creative option)*

Individual report on contributions to Group presentation to be included in portfolios - **5 points (Due on March 16)**

Portfolios comprising all class writing exercises, notes, and all graded/ungraded assignments - **5 points (Due on March 23)**

Attendance and active participation: **10 points** (*Students will be required to undertake two unscheduled in-class freewriting exercises which will be assessed as part of the portfolio*)

Exam+: **40 points** (Date to be announced)+

TOTAL 100 points (100%)

***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 West African countries; **c)** names of heads of state/presidents; **d)** year of independence of formerly colonized countries **g)** major mineral resources and exports of West African countries.

+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.

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

The last date to withdraw from Fall/Winter and Winter term courses is April 11, 2018.

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>

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 flr. Library

Application for Graduation Deadlines

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