AFRI 3001-A
Globalization and Popular Culture in Africa (Winter 2015)
Lecture: Tuesdays/Thursdays 10:05am – 11:25pm. Room: Southam Hall 413

Instructor: Prof. Nduka Otiono
Office Hour: Tuesdays 11:40-12:40 (or by appointment)
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Welcome!

Required Texts
   *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. 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.

Course Description
This interdisciplinary course examines new popular life-worlds in Africa. Though potentially "elusive" to conceptualize, this course shows how these forms of popular culture are related to the role of youth culture and social media in an age of globalization and democratization.

Objectives/Expected outcomes
- Expose students to some of the continent’s most exciting cultural production within the context of Youth Culture and Globalization
- Broaden and deepen students’ knowledge of the evolving popular culture of the continent and its Diaspora linkages.
- Enable students to rethink the dominant themes and image of Africa as a continent of conflict, disease, and exotica
- Provide students considerable 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
- Enable students to better understand the value of the technological economy of globalization which drives the circulation of modern culture.
- Hone students’ skills at critical reading, critical thinking, and critical writing.

Course Format:
This course is designed as a twice weekly 80-minute lecture. The lectures set the tone and highlight the broad thematic engagements of the course while the regular group discussions/tutorials offer platforms for closer analysis of the texts and ideas. During the group discussions, 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 deepen students’ understanding of the subject or theme of the week. The tutorial
component will play an essential part in developing students’ critical thinking skills. Students are strongly encouraged to bring questions concerning the texts to the lectures for discussion.

**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 me to reply to emails.
- 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 FIVE 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 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 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. If you are not satisfied, you may apply the formal appeal structure.

- 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 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. 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 and/or other students is not acceptable. Students engaging in such behaviour will be dealt with according to university regulations.

**Evaluation:**

Annotated bibliography for the mid-term essay: **10 points** (Due in class on February 26)

Midterm Essay/Project: **20 points** (Due on March 5. The requirements for the essay will be defined in-class by the time the essay is assigned)

Reading response: **10 points** (The texts to be assigned for critical response will be announced in-class. The critical response paper may not exceed 1000 words. Students will be required to summarize the contents of readings for a specific week – book, essays or electronic media material– and highlight their significance to the overall objectives of the course.)

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

Attendance and active participation: **20 points**
TOTAL  100 points (100%)

*Students are required to maintain a portfolio of all assignments and in-class free-writings and **group presentations.** The portfolio shall be submitted toward the end of the term for assessment. Please note that for the group presentations, students will nominate a lead presenter for their group, and then submit a short paper of no more than 750 words detailing their role/contributions to the group presentations. This paper will be graded over **10 points** toward the class participation mark.

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

**Grading**

In accordance with the Carleton University Undergraduate Calendar (p 39), the letter grades assigned in this course will have the following percentage equivalents:

- A+ = 90-100
- B+ = 77-79
- C+ = 67-69
- D+ = 57-59
- A = 85-89
- B = 73-76
- C = 63-66
- D = 53-56
- A- = 80-84
- B- = 70-72
- C- = 60-62
- D- = 50-52

F = Below 50  WDN = Withdrawn from the course
ABS = Student absent from final exam
DEF = Deferred (See above)
FND = (Failed, no Deferred) = Student could not pass the course even with 100% on final exam

**Academic Regulations, Accommodations, Plagiarism, Etc.**

University rules regarding registration, withdrawal, appealing marks, and most anything else you might need to know can be found on the university’s website, here:
http://www.carleton.ca/calendars/ugrad/current/regulations/acadregsuniv.html

**Requests for Academic Accommodations**

*For Students with Disabilities:*  
Students with disabilities needing academic accommodations are required to contact a coordinator at the Paul Menton Centre to complete the necessary **letters of accommodation.** The student must then make an appointment to discuss their needs with the instructor at least two weeks prior to the first class or ITV test. This is to ensure sufficient time is available to make the necessary accommodation arrangements. Students are responsible for meeting the deadline for contacting the Paul Menton Centre regarding accommodation for final exams.

*For Religious Obligations:*  
Students requesting academic accommodation on the basis of religious obligation should make a formal, written request to their instructors for alternate dates and/or means of satisfying academic requirements. Such requests should be made during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist, but no later than two weeks before the compulsory event. Accommodation is to be worked out directly and on an individual basis between the student and the instructor(s) involved. Instructors will make accommodations in a way that avoids academic disadvantage to the student.

Students or instructors who have questions or want to confirm accommodation eligibility of a religious event or practice may refer to the Equity Services website for a list of holy days and Carleton’s Academic Accommodation policies, or may contact an Equity Services Advisor in the Equity Services Department for assistance.
For Pregnancy:
Pregnant students requiring academic accommodations are encouraged to contact an Equity Advisor in Equity Services to complete a letter of accommodation. 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.

Plagiarism
Plagiarism is the passing off of someone else's work as your own and is a serious academic offence. For the details of what constitutes plagiarism, the potential penalties and the procedures refer to the section on Instructional Offences in the Undergraduate Calendar.

What are the Penalties for Plagiarism?
A student found to have plagiarized an assignment may be subject to one of several penalties including: expulsion; suspension from all studies at Carleton; suspension from full-time studies; and/or a reprimand; a refusal of permission to continue or to register in a specific degree program; academic probation; award of an FNS, Fail, or an ABS.

What are the Procedures?
All allegations of plagiarism are reported to the Dean of FASS and Management. Documentation is prepared by instructors and/or departmental chairs. The Dean writes to the student and the University Ombudsperson about the alleged plagiarism. The Dean reviews the allegation. If it is not resolved at this level then it is referred to a tribunal appointed by the Senate.

Plagiarism and cheating at the graduate level are viewed as being particularly serious and the sanctions imposed are accordingly severe. Students are expected to familiarize themselves with and follow the Carleton University Student Academic Integrity Policy (See http://www2.carleton.ca/sasc/advisingcentre/academic-integrity/). The Policy is strictly enforced and is binding on all students. Plagiarism and cheating – presenting another’s ideas, arguments, words or images as your own, using unauthorized material, misrepresentation, fabricating or misrepresenting research data, unauthorized co-operation or collaboration or completing work for another student – weaken the quality of the graduate degree. Academic dishonesty in any form will not be tolerated. Students who infringe the Policy may be subject to one of several penalties including: expulsion; suspension from all studies at Carleton; suspension from full-time studies; a refusal of permission to continue or to register in a specific degree program; academic probation; or a grade of Failure in the course.

Assistance for Students:
Student Academic Success Centre (SASC): www.carleton.ca/sasc
Writing Tutorial Services: www.carleton.ca/wts
Peer Assisted Study Sessions (PASS): www.carleton.ca/sasc/peer-assisted-study-sessions

Resources for African Studies: http://www.carleton.ca/africanstudies/current-students/resources/

Important Information:
Students must always retain a hard copy of all work that is submitted and graded in a portfolio until the term is over and you have received your official final grade. Accidents do occur; therefore, please ensure that you always have a hard copy of your work. All final grades are subject to the Dean’s approval.
Class Readings and Schedules

January 6, 2015: Course introduction and Overview


January 13: What is Globalization?


January 23: Identity, Popular Music, and the African Youth


http://www.imageandnarrative.be/inarchive/Copy%20of%20worldmusich_advertising/Stroeken.htm
January 27:


February 3: Afropolitanism:


February 5: Will the Revolution be Tweeted or Facebooked: African Youth and Social Activism in the Era of Globalization


February 12: Writing the Research Paper and possible class visit by the special subject librarian for African Studies (Assign mid-term essay and Annotated bibliography)

February 16-20 (Winter Break)

February 26: The African Diaspora and cultural production: Literature and Art
Introduction: Okey Ndibe, *Foreign Gods Inc.* (Annotated bibliography due for submission)

March 3: Group presentations (Groups 1 – 7 with each group having 10 minutes to present)

March 5: Group presentations (Groups 7-10 with each group having 10 minutes to present). Concluding class on *Foreign Gods Inc.* Planned Phone conversation with the author.
(Mid-term essay due for submission)

March 10: **Women in Popular Culture** – Readings: Essays in Section 4 of Barber’s *Readings in African Popular Culture* – Jane Bryce, Bisi Adeleke-Adeyemi, Ngugi was Thiong’o, and Elisabeth Linnebuhr. *(Paper from group presentations due for submission)*

March 12: **Africa and the Gender Question**
http://www.jstor.org/stable/20027671

Film screening – Introduction: Ousmane Sembene, *Molaade*

March 17: *Molaade*
March 19: *Molaade*: Tutorial

March 26: **Little Genres of Everyday & Comedy Central: Youth Culture, Satire, and Social Media in Africa**


http://journals1.scholarsportal.info.proxy.library.carleton.ca/pdf/00019909/v108i0431/241_tuorhacsin.xml

http://go.galegroup.com.proxy.library.carleton.ca/ps/i.do?id=GALE%7CA306754243&v=2.1&u=ocul_carleton&it=r&p=AONE&sw=w&authCount=1

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JbVfw6Ppn1U

- Anne Kansiimi, Ugandan Queen of Comedy: http://kansiimeanne.ug/videos/

**Reviews**

April 7 – General Review & Exam Preview [End of class]