



Institute of African Studies Course Outline

COURSE:	AFRI 3100A <i>Study Abroad: Women's Writing of French-speaking West Africa, in translation</i>
TERM:	Spring 2021
PRECLUSIONS:	N/A
CLASS:	Day & Time: Monday and Wednesday 10:05am-11:25am (synchronous sessions) Website: Brightspace (BSPC)
INSTRUCTOR:	Christine Duff, PhD
CONTACT:	Office Virtual office hours/drop-in Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:00am-11:30am (BSPC) Telephone: n/a Email christine.duff@carleton.ca

Welcome to AFRI 3100!

Course Description:

This virtual course will introduce students to contemporary women's writing of West Africa (Senegal and Ivory Coast, notably). We will first situate the works within the broader context of literature by women in Sub-Saharan Africa and within their respective national contexts. Through the study of a graphic novel about growing up in 1970s Abidjan (the capital of Ivory Coast), a parable woven around the 2013 Ebola outbreak in West Africa, the story of one woman's journey to selfhood, and a cutting critique of neocolonial society and government, we will examine some of the diverse issues West African women writers have been grappling with over the last three decades. While the primary texts were originally published in French, we will be studying them in their English translation. Students have the option of reading the works in the original French. While not a typical Study Abroad course in African Studies, this year's iteration will nonetheless include experiential elements such as virtual visits of geographical sites and interaction with individuals "on the ground". In addition, two of the writers whose work we are studying will join us for a session as a special guest.

All summer courses are more intense than those offered during the regular academic year (12 weeks compressed into 6 weeks). AFRI 3100 in its virtual incarnation is even more so, as one of the objectives is to provide students with a wider sense of the contexts out of which the works being studied emerged. In addition to completing all the assignments, to succeed in this course, note that you will need to:

- attend all synchronous sessions
- be well prepared for the synchronous sessions
- complete all of the asynchronous activities

- finish reading each novel before it is studied in class (the due dates of the Reading Responses will help with this!)

Course Objectives

- to introduce students to writing in French by West African women, using text, images, film, and sound
- to provide students with general background on the geography of West Africa where French is present through virtual means
- to provide students with a rudimentary understanding of the why, when, and how of the presence of the French language in West Africa
- to allow students to interact with some of the creators of the works being studied
- to provide a forum for the exploration of the texts themselves (genre, style, narrative strategies)
- to give opportunities for collaboration with classmates
- to hone critical reading skills
- to improve writing skills
- to improve presentation skills

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

- identify West African countries where French is spoken on a map
- explain, in broad terms, the historical origins of the presence of French in West Africa
- discuss the emergence of writing in French by women in West Africa
- identify the major African languages spoken in Senegal and Ivory Coast and the role(s) they play in the novels studied
- identify several major thematic preoccupations of West African women's writing in French

Required Texts

Marguerite Abouet, *Aya: Life in Yop City* (\$29.95)

Ken Bugul, *The Abandoned Baobab* (\$26.95)

Aminata Sow Fall, *The Beggar's Strike* (details to follow)

Véronique Tadjo, *In the Company of Men* (\$19.99)

All texts (except *The Beggar's Strike*) can be purchased at Octopus Books for pickup or delivery. See

<https://shop.octopusbooks.ca/AFRI3100>

Evaluation

		Due dates
1. Introduction video (1 min.)	1%	May 7
2. Reflection on Ken Bugul documentary	10%	May 14
3. Reading Responses (4 x 5%)	20%	May 18, May 30, June 6, June 13
4. Author questions (2 x 5%)	10%	May 21 & June 7
5. Responses to author visits (2 x 5%)	10 %	May 27 & June 10
6. <i>Aya</i> analysis	10%	June 17
7. Attendance & participation	12%	
8. Feedback on classmate work	2%	TBC
9. Final project	<u>25%</u>	June 25
	100	

Brief description of evaluation components:

1. A short, informal video to introduce yourself to your classmates.
2. A one-page written reflection on the content and form of the documentary, as well as any questions it raises for you.
3. A thoughtful, personal and individual response to each work of fiction under study.
4. Prior to Ken Bugul's and Véronique Tadjo's visit to class, you will submit three questions you would like to ask each author.
5. A written or audio reflection on what you take away from the conversations with each author.
6. A written and visual analysis of a selected number of panels taken from the *Aya* graphic novel series.
7. Being present and ready to engage will be vital to the success of the course and to your ability to get the most out of it!
8. On two or three occasions, you will be asked to comment on a classmate's work.
9. With a partner, you will complete a final project with textual and audiovisual elements in cuPortfolio.

Detailed guidelines and evaluation criteria for all assignments will be available in Brightspace.

Please note:

- This course is hybrid (i.e. there are synchronous and asynchronous activities to be completed).
- We will be using cuPortfolio for assignments.
- There will be prepared content "capsules" for you to complete as asynchronous activities.
- All assignments must be completed in order to pass the course.
- Late assignments will be penalized 3% per day (including weekends) unless prior arrangements have been made for an extension.

Course Calendar (a detailed program with readings and asynchronous activities will be posted in Brightspace)

Module 1:**Introduction and laying the groundwork** (May 6-17)

- Introductory video due May 7
- Response to Ken Bugul documentary due May 14

Module 2:**Writing the (Colonized and Female) Self: Ken Bugul's *The Abandoned Baobab*** (May 18-27)

- Reading Response due May 18
- Questions for Ken Bugul due May 21
- Response to author visit due May 27

Module 3:**Post-independence society: Aminata Sow Fall's *The Beggar's Strike*** (May 30-June 4)

- Reading Response due May 30

Module 4:**When Disaster Strikes: Véronique Tadjo's *In the Company of Men*** (June 6-11)

- Reading Response due June 6
- Questions for Véronique Tadjo due June 7

- Response to author visit due June 10

Module 5:

Portrait of a 1970s Ivory Coast Adolescence: Marguerite Abouet's *Aya Life in Yop City* (June 13-18)

- Reading Response due June 13
- *Aya* analysis due June 17

Final project due **June 25**.

REGULATIONS COMMON TO ALL AFRI 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)	F= 0-49 (0) – Failure: no academic credit
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)	

The following additional final course grades may be assigned by instructors:

DEF	Official deferral of final exam (see "Petitions to Defer")
GNA	Grade not available. This is used when there is an allegation of an academic offence. The notation is replaced with the appropriate grade for the course as soon as it is available.
IP	In Progress – a notation (IP) assigned to a course by a faculty member when: At the undergraduate level, an undergraduate thesis or course has not been completed by the end of the period of registration.
WDN	Withdrawn. No academic credit, no impact on the CGPA. WDN is a permanent notation that appears on the official transcript for students who withdraw after the full fee adjustment date in each term (noted in the Academic Year section of the Calendar each term). Students may withdraw on or before the last day of classes.

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

May 21, 2021: Last day for a full fee adjustment when withdrawing from early summer and full summer courses (financial withdrawal). Withdrawals after this date will result in a permanent notation of WDN on the official transcript.

June 18, 2021: Last day for academic withdrawal from **early summer** 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 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/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf>

Religious obligation: 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/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 is 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 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 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.

CONTACTS

- Institute of African Studies african_studies@carleton.ca
- Registrar's Office (3500) registrar@carleton.ca
- Academic Advising Centre academicadvising@carleton.ca
- Paul Menton Centre (6608) pmc@carleton.ca
- Centre for Student Academic Support – Study Skills, Writing Tutorials, Bounce Back csas@carleton.ca

Application for Graduation Deadlines

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