AFRI 5000: Disciplining Africa: Historical and Current Perspectives on the Study of Africa
Instructor: Prof. Susanne Klausen
Time: Wednesdays, 2:35 to 5:25
Location: Tory 219
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Office Hours: Wednesdays 11:30 to 1:30 or by appointment

This course is intended for graduate students that are enthusiastic about Africa-related issues, ideas and research. It examines the formation of African Studies as a discipline, including the historical and ongoing debates over its boundaries and genealogies and its changing research paradigms. Students will be exposed to foundational texts and arguments in the discipline of African Studies and how these boundaries are pushed and rethought in cross-cutting interdisciplinary research. The students will be exposed to forms of knowledge about Africa developed in numerous disciplines, including cultural studies, history, anthropology, political science, film and economics.

By the end of the course, students will demonstrate an ability to explain African Studies as a coherent discipline, its key analytical and methodological approaches coming from different disciplinary perspectives within African Studies, and possible future directions in the discipline.

**Evaluation**

Seminar participation: 20%
Seminar presentation: 15%
Essay proposal: 15%
Group presentation: 15%
Essay: 35%

**Participation**

Weekly meetings will consist of discussion. A seminar is a forum within which to examine and debate ideas and interpretations of assigned weekly readings. The success of a seminar depends entirely on student preparation and participation. Students should arrive to class having read all assigned texts and prepared to discuss them. The grade will be based upon attendance and the quality (not quantity) of your contribution to class discussion. Note that active listening is a crucial aspect of effective participation.

**Seminar Presentation**

There are six seminars devoted to a major discipline. In the first half of each seminar a member of faculty will give a lecture on her/his discipline from an Africanist perspective and answer questions. In the second half, students working in small groups of two or three will identify and reflect on major themes in the assigned readings and pose discussion questions developed beforehand to the class.

**Essay Proposal**

On February 12 and 26 students will present topics for research essays to the class. Presentations should take about 15 minutes and include the topic, a proposed thesis statement, the major question(s) to be addressed, and sources to be utilized. The object of the presentation is to elicit useful critical comments and questions from your peers and the instructor before completing the essay. The written proposal of 5-7 pages (not including bibliography) is due on March 5 and will be returned the following week.
Group Presentations
Three groups of five students will make a 90-minute presentation on one theme related to African Studies that was not the focus of class discussion during class. Each group will choose the topic, two readings, make a short presentation and facilitate discussion. The grade will be based on presentation, readings and facilitation of questions/discussion.

Research Essay
The major assignment should be a critical examination of a topic that is part of current conversations in the discipline of African Studies. The essay must be between 20-23 pages, demonstrate substantial research, critically assess research sources in a coherent analysis, and be well written and formally referenced. The essay is due on the last day of class, April 2.

Note: Deadlines are firm except in extraordinary circumstances. An assignment submitted after the due date must be accompanied by official documentation of such circumstances to avoid penalties. All written work handed in late will be marked down one grade point per day, i.e. a B+ paper submitted late becomes a B.

Class conduct
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. 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.” It follows, therefore, that students are expected to behave in a civil manner. Within seminar groups, vigorous discussion and conflicting opinions are welcome and encouraged, but personal attacks, disrespectful comments, and gender or racial slurs WILL NOT be tolerated and students can be expelled from seminar groups if their behaviour is deemed to be disruptive.

Academic Accommodation
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://www.carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/student_guide.htm

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://www.carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/student_guide.htm

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/

You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at http://carleton.ca/equity/accommodation

Note: Students must always retain copies of all work that is submitted. All final grades are subject to the Dean’s approval.

Schedule for Winter Term

January 8
Introduction to Course
Discussion of course objectives, readings, evaluation and organization of the course.

January 15     Introduction to the Disciplining of Africa
Readings


Film: Bamako, by Abderrahmane Sissako

January 22     Westocentrism and the Study of Africa
Professor Nduka Otiono
Readings
Available at: http://www.jstor.org/stable/3818468


**January 29  History**
Professor Susanne Klausen
Readings


**February 5 Anthropology**
Professor Bernhard Leistle
Readings


**February 12**
Essay proposals, Group 1

**February 19**
Winter break

**February 26**
Essay proposals, Group 2
March 5    Political Science
Professor Linda Freeman

Readings


Note: Essay proposals due

March 12    Film
Professor Aboubakar Sonogo
Films and Readings TBA

March 19    Economics
Professor Dane Rowlands

Readings


March 26    Group Presentations
Groups 1 and 2
April 2  Group Presentation and Concluding Discussion
Reading

Group 3
Note: Essay due