



Institute of  
**African Studies**  
CARLETON UNIVERSITY

**COURSE CODE:** AFRI 4050 A  
**COURSE TITLE:** African Feminisms  
**CROSS-LISTED AS:** AFRI 5050 A  
**TERM:** Winter 2019  
**PRECLUSIONS:** This course is open to all 4th year students who have completed AFRI 1001 or AFRI 1002  
**CLASS:** **Day & Time:** Monday 8:35am- 11:25am  
**Room:** Room 129 Patterson Hall  
**INSTRUCTOR:** Professor Shireen Hassim  
**CONTACT:** **Office:** PA 3A52  
**Office Hrs:** Tuesdays 10:30am – 11:30am or by appointment  
**Telephone:** 613-520-2600 extension TBA  
**Email** [Shireen.Hassim@carleton.ca](mailto:Shireen.Hassim@carleton.ca)

**I. Course Description:**

This course is an advanced introduction to the ways in which feminism emerged in Africa as a set of theoretical interventions and as political practice. It examines the ways in which gender was understood as a marker of power – status, hierarchy as well as social capability – in different parts of Africa, and the ways in which gender operated as a system of distribution of resources and responsibilities. African theories of gender and sexuality are explored in relation to class, race and colonialism. These intersecting forms of power have resulted in differences in the forms of feminism in different parts of the continent. Although the focus will be on texts from Anglophone Africa, variations across regions will also be explored. The course is historically grounded, and takes the approach that the genealogies of ideas have explanatory capacity.

By the end of the course, students will develop an understanding of the richness and complexity of African feminisms, and will be able to place African feminisms in conversation with feminisms in other parts of the world.



## II. Course Schedule

### **January 7: Introduction to the course**

Discussion of key themes and theoretical directions  
Discussion of objectives and evaluation criteria

### **January 14: Problems in the field**

Nzegwu, Nkiru, "Feminism and Africa: Impact and limits of the metaphysics of gender," <http://www.buala.org/en/to-read/feminism-and-africa-impact-and-limits-of-the-metaphysics-of-gender>

Awumbila, Mariama, "Challenging contexts: Gender studies and geography in Anglophone African countries," *Belgeo* 3, 2007:261-274

Josephine Beoku-Betts, "Western Perceptions of African Women in the 19<sup>th</sup> and Early 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries," in *Readings in Gender in Africa* edited by Andrea Cornwall (Indiana University Press, 2005), pp. 20-25.

Akosua Adomako Ampofo, Josephine Beoku-Betts, Wairimu Ngaruiya Njambi and Mary J. Osirim, "Women's and Gender Studies in English-Speaking Sub-Saharan Africa: A Review of Research in the Social Sciences," 2004

[https://repository.brynmawr.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1006&context=soc\\_pubs](https://repository.brynmawr.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1006&context=soc_pubs)

Azodo, Ada Uzoamaka, "Issues in African feminism: A syllabus," *Women's Studies Quarterly*, Vol.25, No. 3/4, 1997: 201-207

Nancy Rose Hunt, "Placing African Women's History and Locating Gender," *Social History*, Vol. 14, No. 3, pp. 359-379.

### **January 21: Is 'gender' African?**

Oyewumi, Oyeronke. "Conceptualizing Gender: The Eurocentric Foundations of Feminist Concepts and the Challenge of African Epistemologies." *Jenda: A Journal of Culture and African Women Studies*. 2, no. 1 (2002). Accessed March 5, 2015. <http://www.jendajournal.com>.

Bakare-Yusuf, Bibi. "[Yorubas Don't do Gender](#). A critical review of Oyeronke Oyewumi's 'The Invention of Woman: Making an African sense of Western gender discourses'." *African Identities*. 1, No.1 (2003).

Ifi Amadiume 1987: Preface (p 1 - 10) in: I. Amadiume: *Male Daughters, Female Husbands*, Zed Books

Nnaemeka, Obioma "Mapping African Feminisms" in Obioma Nnaemeka (ed) 1998 *Sisterhood, Feminisms and Power: From Africa to the Diaspora*, Trenton, NJ: Africa World Press.

Catherine Cole, Takyiwaa Manuh and Stephen Miescher, "Introduction: When Was Gender?" in *Africa After Gender?*, eds. C. Cole, T. Manuh, and S. Miescher, (2007), pp.1-14.

### **January 21: Colonialism as domestic intimacy**

J. Allman, S. Geiger and N. Musisi, "Women in African Colonial Histories: An Introduction," in *Women in African Colonial Histories* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2002), pp. 1-



18.(19 pages)

Hansen, Karen Transberg, "Introduction: Domesticity in Africa," in *African Encounters with Domesticity*, Karen Transberg Hansen, ed. (Rutgers University Press, 1992), pp. 1-36. (37 pages)

Jean and John L. Comaroff, "Home-Made Hegemony: Modernity, Domesticity, and Colonialism in South Africa" in *African Encounters with Domesticity*, Karen Transberg Hansen, ed. (Rutgers University Press, 1992), pp. 37-74.

Ally, Shireen

### **January 28: Colonial bodies, reproductive control and sexualities**

Stoler, Ann Laura. "Making Empire Respectable: The Politics of Race and Sexual Morality in Twentieth Century Colonial Cultures," *American Ethnologist* 16:4 (November 1989): 634-660. - Lynn M. Thomas, "Introduction," "Imperial Populations and 'Women's Affairs,'" and "Colonial Uplift and Girl-Midwives," in *Politics of the Womb; Women, Reproduction and the State in Kenya*,

(Berkeley: University of California Press, 2003), pp. 1-78.

Marc Epprecht, "Sexuality, History, Africa" *American Historical Review*, Vol 114, No. 5 (Dec-2009), pp. 1258-1272.

Sylvia Tamale, "Introduction" and "Researching and Theorising Sexualities in Africa," in *African Sexualities: A Reader* (Capetown, Dakar, Nairobi and Oxford: Pambazuka Press, 2011), pp. 1-8

### **February 4: Intimate Resistances**

Sylvia Tamale 2005: Eroticism, Sensuality and 'Women's Secrets' among the Baganda: A Critical Analysis, in: *Feminist Africa* 5, Cape Town

Susanne Klausen "Women's Resistance to Eugenic Birth Control in Johannesburg, 1930-39," *South African Historical Journal* 50 (May 2004): 152-69.

Luise White, "Prostitution, Identity and Class Consciousness in Nairobi during World War II," *Signs*, Vol. 11, No. 2, (Winter, 1986), pp. 255-273.

Mark Hunter, "Providing Love: Sex and Exchange in Twentieth Century South Africa" in *Love in Africa*, eds. Jennifer Cole and Lynn Thomas (University of Chicago Press, 2009), pp. 135-156.

### **February 11: Sarah Baartman and the colonial gaze**

View: Zola Maseko documentary

Abrahams, Yvette

Clifton Crais and Pamela Scully, *Hottentot Venus*,

Magubane, Zine, "Which bodies matter? Feminism, poststructuralism, race, and the curious theoretical odyssey of the 'Hottentot Venus'" *Gender and Society*, 2001,15(6): 816-34

Ferrus, Diana (poem)

**February 18- February 22 WINTER BREAK**



**February 25: PRESENTATION OF ESSAY PROPOSALS**

**March 4: The allures and discontents of nation**

McClintock, Anne (1993) *Family Feuds, Gender, Nationalism and the Family*. *Feminist Review* . N 44. Summer 1993. (62-80)

Yuval-Davis, Nira. *Gender and Nation*. London: Sage, 1997. Chapter 1

E. Schmidt, "Emancipate Your Husbands! Women and Nationalism in Guinea, 1953-58," in *Women in African Colonial Histories*, (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2002), pp. 282-298.

**March 11: Anti-colonial movements and the mobilization of gender**

Aili Mari Tripp, "Women's Mobilization in Uganda: Nonracial Ideologies in European-African-Asian Encounters, 1945-1962." *The International Journal of African Historical Studies*, Vol. 34, No. 3 (2001), pp. 543-564.

Geisler, Gisela. 2004. *Women and the Remaking of Politics in Southern Africa, Negotiating Autonomy, Incorporation and Representation*. Uppsala: Nordiska Afrikainstitutet.

Unterhalter, Elaine. 2000. "The Work of the Nation: Heroic Masculinity in South African Autobiographical Writing of the Anti-Apartheid Struggle." *The European Journal of Development Research* 12 (2): 157-178. doi: 10.1080/09578810008426770

[\[Taylor & Francis Online\]](#)

**March 18: Violence: public and private**

Amina Mama, "Sheroes and Villians: Conceptualising Colonial and Contemporary Violence Against Women in Africa", in Alexander and Mohanty (eds). *Feminist Genealogies, Colonial Legacies Democratic Future*. New York: Routledge, 1997.

Das, Veena *Life and words: violence and the descent into the ordinary*, chapters 1 and 2

Gqola, Pumla Dineo, "How the 'cult of femininity' and violent masculinities support endemic gender based violence in contemporary South Africa,"

**March 25: Collective action**

Van Allen, Judith, "Sitting on a man: colonialism and the lost institutions of Igbo women," *Canadian Journal of African Studies*, Vol 6(2): 165-181

Hassim, Shireen, *The ANC Women's League: Sex, Gender, Politics*, Ohio Press

Tripp, Aili Mari, Isabel Casimiro, Joy Kwesiga and Alice Mungwa, *African Women's Movements: Transforming Political Landscapes*, 2011 (Introduction)

Mikell, Gwendolyn, "African feminism towards a new politics of representation," *Feminist Studies* 21(2), 1995: 405-424

A Kemp, N Madlala, A Moodley & E Salo 'The dawn of a new day: redefining South African feminisms' in A Basu (ed) *The Challenge of Local Feminisms: Women's Movements in Comparative* (1995).



**April 1: Rights, equality and the state**

Tamale, Sylvia *When Hens Begin to Crow: Gender and Parliamentary Politics in Uganda*, (Westview Press, 2000).

Hassim, Shireen “Perverse consequences? The impact of quotas for women on democratization in Africa,” in Ian Shapiro, Sisan C. Stokes, Elisabeth Jean Wood and Alexander Kirshner (eds.) *Political Representation*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 2009.

Bauer, Gretchen, “‘A Lot of Head Wraps’: African Contributions to the Third Wave of Electoral Gender Quotas. *Politics, Groups and Identities*, 2016. 4(2): 196-213.

Tripp, Aili, “Women’s mobilisation for legislative political representation in Africa,” *Review of African Political Economy*, 43 (149) 2016: 382-399.

Mama, Amina, “Feminism or femocracy? State feminism and democratization in Nigeria,” *Africa Development* 20(1), 1995: 405-424.

**April 8: New politics of sexuality**

Pumla Dineo Gqola, “Ufanele Uqavile: Blackwomen, Feminisms and Postcoloniality in Africa”, *Agenda*, No. 50, African Feminisms One, 2001, pp11-22

Patricia Mac Fadden, *Contemporary African Feminism: Conceptual Challenges and Transformational Prospects* <http://www.osisa.org/buwa/womens-rights/regional/contemporary-african-feminism-conceptual-challenges-and-transformational>

Hassim, Shireen, “Violent modernity: Gender, race and bodies in contemporary South African politics’ Volume 41, No. 2, 2014: 1-16

Arnfred, Signe, “The power of pleasure: reconceptualizing sexualities,” in Jane Bennett and Sylvia Tamale (eds.) *Research on Gender and Sexuality in African Contexts*, Dakar: CODESRIA, 2017.

**III. Evaluation:**

**Seminar participation 25%**

(Students will be expected to prepare for class. Each student will present 1 short written intervention in advance of the class).

**Book Review 15%**

(Due April 1)

**Presentation of proposal for essay 10%**

(Each student will present an idea for an essay on February 25. This will be a two-three page exposition of the core question that is being addressed and a bibliography)

**Essay 50%**

(Due March 18)



## **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:





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- 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**

**January 31, 2019:** Last day for a full fee adjustment when withdrawing from **winter** courses (financial withdrawal). Withdrawals after this date will result in a permanent notation of WDN on the official transcript.

**April 9, 2019:** Last day for academic withdrawal from **winter** 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](mailto: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.





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**ADDRESSES (613-520-2600, phone ext.)**

- Institute of African Studies (x2220) 439 Paterson Hall (PA)
- Registrar's Office (3500) 300 Tory
- Academic Advising Centre (7850) 302 Tory
- Paul Menton Centre (6608) 500 Unicentre
- Centre for Student Academic Support – Study Skills, Writing Tutorials, Bounce Back (3822) 4th flr. Library

**Application for Graduation Deadlines**

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