



ENG 206 post-colonial African literature

Professor: **Susan N. Kiguli and other Makerere lecturers**

Days and Times: **Follow schedule (Tuesday/ Wednesday/ Friday)**

CELL: 0752842960

Course Description:

This course aims to engage you in a dialogue on the intercultural encounters inevitable in the reading and analysis of African Literature. The course will prove an exciting journey to and through the thinking and life of the African people as you hear and read the novels, plays, poems and the orature of post colonial Sub Saharan Africa. It seeks to show that African Literature is not a homogenous whole; it exists where national and ethnic cultures are in reality enormously varied. You should take into consideration the idea that African Literature includes a host of forms for example story telling, dance, music and mime. It also actively connects with issues that are intimately influenced by the socio-cultural and political conditions of Africa. The course will also develop as consistently as possible a discussion on the question of language in African Literature. You may at times find your own world view challenged or even questioned. It will help greatly if you come with an open mind, ready to give and take.

Literature Course Objectives:

1. Understand problems relating to the term "Postcolonial Literature."
2. Identify the role of literature in developing a national identity in African nations.
3. Encounter African perspectives on European images of Africa.
4. Identify and analyze underlying Western assumptions and disposition about itself and of its vision of the world.
5. Identify primary themes in African literature.
6. Identify the presence of African oral tradition in the language of characters.
7. Identify differences in the African writer's use of characterization, time, and plot.
8. Identify what is different about African literature from the position of cultural specificity.
9. Be able to situate African writing within three contexts: racial reference, emerging discourses of the third world, and its relevance to certain currents of thought in the West on modernity.
10. Recognize the polemical stance of African discourse as a deconstruction of the Western image of native, the black, the African as well as a construct informed by major trends of thinking by major African writers.
11. Evaluate and examine one's own Eurocentric visions of Africa.
12. Develop humility with a new awareness of the radical change in Black Africa's views of itself and the West.
13. Develop a keener sensitivity and desire to engage in global issues of justice and liberation of men and women from every kind of oppression.

Policies and Expectations:

- Attendance:
Class will depend heavily on discussion of reading assignments. It is essential that you attend class regularly, read actively (annotate), listen, and discuss to earn class participation points. Only one absence will be excused without question.



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• Class Preparation:

Reading assignments must be completed BEFORE class on the day they are scheduled. Active reading requires annotating the text for class participation and to be prepared for open book quizzes. Preparation for class and active participation in class discussion is a requirement to earn an “A” in the class. All writing assignments will have specific due dates unless you consult with me ahead of time.

Go ED. Writing Standard:

It is expected that any college level course may contain writing assignments as part of student evaluations. Students are expected to produce written work that is focused, well developed, organized, and relatively free of grammatical, punctuation and spelling errors. Papers that do not meet this standard will be returned to the student for revision within a reasonable time.

Criteria for college level writing requires that an essay:

- has a clear thesis and maintains a focus
- paragraphs are well developed with topic sentence and adequate support
- has smooth transitions and flow of ideas
- is grammatically correct
- borrowed ideas are documented correctly using MLA format

Course Evaluation and Record:

Record your grades below. Divide the total number of points by the total points possible to figure your course grade at any time during the semester.

Things Fall Apart	Quiz 1	100
The River Between	Quiz 2	100
Song of Lawino	Quiz 3	100
Death of a King’s Horseman	Quiz 4	100
So Long a letter	Quiz 5	100
No Longer at Ease	Quiz 6	100
Nervous Conditions	Quiz 7	100
Class Participation		100
Oral Literature Project		200
Total Points		1000

Grading Scale:

95-100	A	92-94	A-	89-91	B+	85-88	B
82-84	B-	79-81	C+	75-78	C	72-74	C-
69-71	D+	65-68	D	62-64	D-	61-	F

Required texts:

Chinua Achebe	<i>Things Fall Apart</i>
Ngugi Wa’ Thiongo	<i>The River Between</i>
Okot p’ Bitek	<i>Song of Lawino</i>
Wole Soyinka	<i>Death and the King's Horseman</i>
Mariama Ba	<i>So Long a Letter</i>
Chinua Achebe	<i>No Longer at Ease</i>
Tsitsi Dangarembga	<i>Nervous Conditions</i>

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Course Outline:

Day	Topic
1	Course Introduction Post Colonial Literature Debate, Identity, Cultural Concerns and the Political Context in African Literature
2	African Oral Literature-forms and functions of oral literature and the Orature Debate
3	Things Fall Apart Quiz #1 (100pts) Discussion
4	The Tension and Passion of the Colonial Encounter Post colonialism and the language question
5	Traditional Gikuyu Aesthetics and Views on Female Circumcision
6	Ngugi Wa Thiongo; <i>The River Between</i> Quiz #2 (100pts) Discussion
7	Nationalism and Form in Modern African Poetry
8	Okot P' Cultural Bitek Song of Lawino Quiz #3 (100 pts) Discussion
9	Socio-Cultural Background and Issues in African Drama and Theatre The Literary Tradition in Nigerian Theatre
10	Wole Soyinka Death and the King's Horseman Quiz #4 (100pts) Discussion
11	Chinua Achebe; No Longer at Ease Quiz #5 (100pts) Discussion
12	Voices of African Women Mariama Ba; So Long a Letter Quiz#6 (100pts) Discussion
13	Choice, Solidarity and the African Woman Experience
14	Tsitsi Dangarembga Nervous Conditions Quiz #7 (100 pts) Discussion