



ENG 206: **post-colonial African literature (3)**

Course Instructor: Olive Nabukeera, M.Ed.

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 develop as consistently as possible a discussion on the theory and issues that inform and affect 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.

Course Learning Objectives:

1. To encourage students to read as much quality African Literature as possible.
2. To guide students to establish a relationship between the texts and African contexts and lived realities, thus suggesting a close relationship between literature and experience.
3. To equip students with skills of interpreting and critically analyzing oral and written African Literature
4. To introduce students to major developments in African Literature.
5. To expose students to critical approaches to African Literature.

Expected Learning Outcomes:

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

1. Understand problems relating to the term "Postcolonial Literature."
2. Identify the role of literature in developing a national identity in African nations..
3. Identify and analyze underlying Western assumptions and disposition about itself and of its vision of the world.
4. Identify primary themes in African literature.
5. Appreciate the influence of African oral tradition in written African Literature
6. Identify differences in the African writers' use of characterization, time, and plot.
7. Identify what is different about African literature from the position of cultural specificity.
8. 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.
9. 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.
10. Evaluate and examine one's own Eurocentric visions of Africa.
11. Develop humility with awareness of the radical change in Black Africa's views of itself & the West.
12. Develop a keener sensitivity and desire to engage in global issues of justice and liberation of men and women from every kind of oppression.

Teaching and Learning Methods



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The class will be conducted partly through lectures to give an overview and background to African Literature and attending critical perspectives but the major method of instruction will be through group discussions and presentations. The course has a field work component and the class will be expected to go into the communities to collect oral literature pieces in order to engage with the overall world view of a traditional social structure. During field work students will be expected to meet and mix with people and to develop an interest in their lives and consequently towards the material they are collecting.

Course Evaluation:

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
Disgrace	Quiz 5	100
So Long a letter	Quiz 6	100
Nervous Conditions	Quiz 7	100
Class Participation		100
Oral Literature Project		200
Total Points		1000

The aim of the quizzes is to encourage close reading and critical evaluation of issues and style of the texts. The oral literature project will enable you to collect oral literature in the field and to emphasize that oral literature is a performed art. The project will be comprise a group assignment to encourage peer support and cooperation and an individual project paper requiring you to explain your experiences in acquiring the pieces as well the lessons learnt in the process.

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

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.

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.



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Course Outline:

Day	Topic	Readings	Objective	Assignment
1	Intro to Course Post Colonial Literature Debate, Identity, Cultural Concerns and the Political Context in African Literature	African Literature and the Crisis of Post-Structuralist Theorising. African literature and Development.	1. Course expectations 2. To know the complex nature of African Literature 3. To understand the major debates that have emerged and are emerging in African Literature	
2	African Oral Literature	Oral Literature and Society: A Brief Introduction. African Oral Literature : Functions in Contemporary Contexts	To consider definitions of Oral Literature and begin the process of developing and owning their own perspective. 2To think through the idea of Oral Literature as a crucial tool for community consolidation 3. To help students begin to appreciate other people's way of life as handed down in their oral traditions	Oral Literature Assignment
3	A Discourse of Resistance: Things Fall Apart	Home and Exile: Chinua Achebe. Things Fall Apart (Spotlight on Achebe) How Could Things Fall Apart For Whom They Were Not Together	To Introduce Achebe as the 'Architect' of the Written Literary Tradition in Africa 2 . To Explore the Fundamental Themes in African Literature through Achebe's Work	Things Fall Apart Quiz (100pts)
4	The Tension and Passion of the Colonial Encounter, Postcolonialism and the Language Question	Post-colonialism and Language	To examine the language question and its implications for African Literature 2. To highlight the images generated by history as presented in the African novel	
5	Traditional Gikuyu aesthetics and Views on Female Circumcision	FGM; Rejecting the Razor. Resisting the cut.	To guide students through the circumcision debate and to help them engage with a different culture	
6	Negotiating Difficult Subjects	The River Between	To guide students through close reading of the novel and to 2. To explore the further the issues of cultural conflict. 3. To examine writer's stylistic choices	The River Between Quiz. (100 pts)
7	Nationalism and Form in African Poetry	Myth Maker and Myth Breaker: The Oral Poet as Ear witness, Sample Quotes from African Poets	To engage students in analysis of differences between Poetry from the West and Africa 2.to provide a background on East African Poetry and its importance to Poetic Tradition in Africa	



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8	Cultural Nationalism and Poetic Form	Okot P' Bitek and the cultural Matrix of the Acoli in his Writings Developments in Verse	To explore the attempt by African writers to create memorable symbols of African culture 2. To discuss the themes of impact of neo colonial education. 3 To debate the interface between orality and the written literary forms	Song of Lawino Quiz (100 pts)
9	Social Cultural background and Issues in African drama and Theatre, The Literary Tradition in Nigerian Theatre	Trends in African Theatre	To understand the distinction between Drama and Theatre in the African context 2. To explore social background issues in Nigerian theatre 2.To examine the emergence of Nigerian Literary drama and its impact on Africa Drama	
10	Ritual, Modernisation and Change	Death and the King's Horseman	To understand the importance and complexity of ritual in Africa 2. To explore issues of change and social significance	Death and the King's Horseman Quiz (100pts)
11	Search for a National Idiom	Disgrace	To explore the tensions attending political and social changes in Africa 2 To guide students through a debate on the question of citizenship 3 To think through the impact of apartheid	Disgrace Quiz (100 pts)
12	Voices of African Women	Feminist Criticism and the African Novel	To trace the connection between different voices of women writers	So Long a Letter Quiz (100 pts)
13	Choice , Solidarity and African Women's Experience	New Voices in African Literature	To examine the position of writing by women in Africa 2. To interrogate the question of stereotypes and patriarchy	
14	Changing Trends in the African Literature		To guide students in the discussion of the different trends in African Literature 2 to discuss the probable way forward in African Literature	Nervous Conditions Quiz (100 pts)