

V55.0505 WORLD CULTURES: SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

Mondays and Wednesdays 9.30-10.45 am
Silver 207

Professor Awam Amkpa
(Africana/Drama)
41-51 East 11th Street
Room 739

Preceptors: Chinua Thelwell, Richard Blint and Khary Polk

DESCRIPTION

This course offers a critical study of Africa south of the Sahara through the works of creative artists, cultural theorists and historians. It will use case studies from West, East and Southern African regions to examine how Africans engage their contemporary realities and issues of modernity, globalization, and democracy through cultural practices such as Music, Drama, Novels and Films. This study of contemporary Sub-Saharan Africa will be explored through the three broad themes of: History and Politics, Cultural Practices and Political Engagement, Cities and Citizenships. The following is a more detailed structure of each section:

History and Politics:

Postcolonial Africa –Decolonization and Neocolonial Africa: Nations and the crisis of Nationalisms

Anticolonial Africa--Colonial Africa

Re-imaginings of Old Africa and its overlapping worlds

Screenings: King Leopold's Ghost
 Afrique Je t'ai plummerai
 Who is Afraid of Ngugi?
 Bling: A Planet Rock

Essays: Sedar Senghor Senghor: "Negritude: A Humanism of the Twentieth Century"
 Valentine Mudimbe: "The Invention of Africa"
 Frantz Fanon: "On National Culture"
 Achille Mbembe: "African Modes of Self-Writing"

Cultural Practices and Political Engagement:

Music—Hip-Hop/Fela and Femi Kuti/ Hugh Maskela
Drama—Ama Ata Aidoo's *Anowa*/ Wole Soyinka's *Death and the King's Horseman*/Ngugi and Ngugi's *I'll Marry When I Want*/ Ngema,Mtwa and Simon's *Woza Albert!*

Novels—Ngugi’s *Weep Not Child*/Chinua Achebe’s *Things Fall Apart*/Nurridin Farrah’s *Maps*/Mariama Ba’s *So Long A Letter*

Films— Ousmane Sembene’s *Guelwaar* /Jean Pierre Bekolo’s *Quartier Mozart*/ Gavin Hood’s *Tsotsi*

Essays: Ngugi wa Thiongo: “Gunpoints and Penpoints”

“Decolonizing the Mind”

Wole Soyinka: “Drama and the African World View”

Chinua Achebe: Home and Exile

Cities and Citizenship

Bamako/Seydou Keita

Lagos/Accra/ Bamako/Yaounde/Nairobi/Johanesburg/Kinshasa/Luanda

Screenings: Manthia Diawara’s “Bamako” and Awam Amka’s “Accra”

Essays: Manthia Diawara: “Bamako, Malick Sidibe and James Brown”

Rem Koolhaus: “Lagos”

REQUIREMENTS

1. Attendance is mandatory
2. You will write one-page weekly reports between weeks 4-10
3. You will take 2 short tests
4. You will write a final exam

READINGS

All readings will be posted on BlackBoard as PDF files

SCREENINGS

Tapes will be reserved at the Avery Fisher section of Bobst Library. Group screenings will be arranged though individual viewings are encouraged.

RECITATIONS

Ensure you attend these sessions and in close contact with the Preceptors