CAAS 200  Winter 2011

**INTRODUCTION TO AFRICAN STUDIES**

Prof. O. Adunbi
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Phone: 734-615-4339
**Office Hours:** Wednesdays 1 – 3pm or by appointment,
Office Address: 4757 Haven Hall
T/Th 10:00-11:30 AM  3451 Mason Hall

This course seeks to introduce students to cultural, economic and political life in Africa. The course is designed to equip students with basic and useful knowledge about the peoples and countries of the continent. Since Africa now has over 50 internationally recognized nation-states, the focus of the course shall be on Sub-Saharan Africa. This course is therefore designed to introduce students to the tremendous cultural diversity of sub-Saharan Africa and the major themes and debates that have dominated scholarship on the region. Social organization, religious belief and practice, ethnicity, colonialism and independence movements, economic and political systems, the arts, and popular culture are some of the topics we will explore. We will be approaching these themes from a variety of disciplinary perspectives, including history, anthropology, literature, political science, sociology, and economics.

**Required Texts:** The following books have been ordered and are available for purchase at Ulrich Bookstore. They have also been placed on reserve at the Undergraduate Library. Additional required reading materials will be available in the Ctools class website.

- Ola Rotimi: Our Husband Has Gone Mad Again

**Course requirements:** Students are expected to attend class regularly, read the assigned texts and participate in class discussions. There will be a map quiz during week four of class, midterm exam, and final exam.

**Participation and Attendance:** Students are required to participate in all class discussions. Attendance is mandatory. If for any reason you are not able to come to class, you must get the permission of the relevant authorities.

**Map Quizz**
There will be a Map Quizz during week 4 of class. Students will be provided with a plain African map and asked to answer a few questions based on the map.
Africa Events Report
You will be required to pick an African country and write a report based on any particular event of your interest. List of African countries from which students can pick from will be made available in class. Event to be analyzed could be political, economic, social or religious. This report will be due on March 10, 2011.

Midterm
There will be two sections in the midterm. The first section will be multiple-choice questions while the second section will be essay. The midterm will take place in class on

Final Exam
The Final exam will be a 24 hour take home exam which will be emailed to all students on April 7th 2011 and will be due in my office mail box at 5pm on April 8th 2011.

Performance in the course will be assessed as follows:

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<th>Component</th>
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<tr>
<td>Map quiz</td>
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<td>Africa Events Report</td>
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<td>Class participation</td>
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<td>Attendance</td>
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<td>Midterm Exam</td>
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<td>Final Exam</td>
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COURSE SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNED READINGS

Week 1  Introduction to the course

Week 2  Myths, Facts and Dominant Images of Africa
Jan. 11 - Origin, Ecology and Environment
Jan. 13 - Subsistence Strategies -- discussion of readings
READ: Bohannan & Curtin, Chaps. 1,2 and 3

Week 3  Pre-Colonial Africa and the Rise and Decline of Empires
Jan. 18 - Empires, kingdoms and International Commerce
Jan. 20 - Discussion of readings
READ: Bohannan & Curtin Chaps. 8, 10, 13, 14 and 15

**Week 4**  **Colonialism and The Scramble for Africa**

Jan. 25 - The Technologies of Colonialism and the Impact of Colonialism

Jan. 28 - Video: Wind of Change

READ: Bohannan and Curtin chap. 18, Jeffrey Herbst: States and Power in Africa: Comparative Lessons in Authority and Control, Pp. 58-96

**Week 5**  **Nationalism and Resistance**

Feb. 1 - Colonial Policies and Forms of Resistance
Feb. 3 - Political ideologies and African Independence

READ: Bohannan and Curtin, Chap. 19 and Paul Sigmung, Ideologies of the Developing Nations, articles of Sekou Toure, Kwame Nkrumah and Julius Nyerere

**Week 6**  **Political Independence and International Relations**

Feb. 8 - Winds of change and patterns of alliances
Feb. 10 - Video: Congo: The Heart of Darkness


**Week 7**  **Social Organization -- The Spiritual World**

Feb. 15 - Magic, Science, and Rationality
Feb. 17 - Video: Thunderbolt, Mainframe Productions


**Week 8**  **African Art**

Feb. 22 - Views from a Writer/ Visit to Museum
Feb. 24 – Midterm Exams

READ: Ola Rotimi: Our Husband Has Gone Mad Again
Week 9  
**African Music**

March 8 - The Changing Pattern of African Music  
March 10 - Video: *Welcome to Lagos, A BBC documentary*


Week 10  
**African Economies and the Era of Structural Adjustments**

March 15 - Functional/Dysfunctional Economies  
March 17 - Money, People, and Wealth -- discussion of readings

READ: James Ferguson, Chaps. 2 and 3

Week 11  
**Development -- An Escape from Dependency?**

March 22 - Dependency/Underdevelopment Theory Explained  
March 24 - *Welcome to Lagos, A BBC documentary (Part 3)*

READ: James Ferguson, Chaps.7 and 8

Week 13  
**Resource Extraction and the New Scramble (?) for Africa**

March 29 - Natural Resources and the new scramble for Africa  
March 31 - Video: Diamonds of war: Africa’s blood diamonds


Week 14  
April 5 - Discussion of readings  
April 7 - Course Wrap-Up