

CAAS 200 Winter 2011

INTRODUCTION TO AFRICAN STUDIES

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Office Hours: Wednesdays 1 – 3pm or by appointment,

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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.

Paul Bohannon and Phillip Curtin, *Africa and Africans*, Waveland Press, Prospect Heights, Illinois, 1995

James Ferguson, *Global Shadows: Africa in the Neoliberal World Order*, Duke University Press, 2006

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 Quiz

There will be a Map Quiz 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:

Map quiz	5%
Africa Events Report	15%
Class participation	10%
Attendance	10%
Midterm Exam	30%
Final Exam	30%

COURSE SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNED READINGS

Week 1

Jan.6 **Introduction to the course**

Read: James Ferguson: Chap. 1, Introduction: Global Shadows: Africa in the Neoliberal World Order, Duke University Press, 2006.

Week 2 Myths, Facts and Dominant Images of Africa

Jan. 11 - Origin, Ecology and Environment

Jan. 13 - Subsistence Strategies -- discussion of readings

READ: Bohannon & 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: Bohannon & 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: Bohannon 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: Bohannon 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

READ: Christopher Clapham: Africa and the International System: The Politics of Survival Pp.75-133

Week 7 Social Organization -- The Spiritual World

Feb. 15 - Magic, Science, and Rationality

Feb. 17 - Video: Thunderbolt, Mainframe Productions

READ: Jacob K. Olupona, Engaging Africa: Reflections on the study of religions of Africa and African Diaspora, Religious Studies News, 2006

Jacob K. Olupona, "Orisa Osun: Yoruba Sacred kinship and civil religion in Osogbo, Nigeria" in Osun Across the Waters: A Yoruba Goddess in Africa and the Americas. Joseph M. Murphy and Mei-Mei Sanford (eds) Indiana University Press

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*

Read: Kofi Agwu, "The Invention of "African Rythmn" Journal of the American Musicological Society, Vol. 48, No. 3, Music Anthropologies and Music Histories, (Autumn, 1995), pp. 380-395

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

READ: Margaret C' Lee, "The 21st Century Scramble for Africa" Journal of Contemporary African Studies, Vol. 24, no. 3, September 2006, pp. 303-330.

Week 14

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