

**THE UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY**  
**FACULTY OF ARTS**  
**AFRICAN STUDIES (AFST) 301: LECTURE 01**  
**INTRODUCTION TO AFRICAN STUDIES**  
**FALL 2012**  
**LECTURES: MONDAYS - 14:00 - 16:50; A 103**

**Instructor:** Dr. Apentiik  
**Office Location/Phone Number** SS 252; 403-220-3396  
**E-Mail:** rapentii@ucalgary.ca  
**Office Hours:** Monday 12:00-13:30 or by appointment  
**Web Page:** <http://ucalgary.ca/rapentii/>

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Additional information will be posted on Blackboard.

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course is an interdisciplinary introductory study of the African continent, its people and culture. It will explore the nature of traditional society, the processes of change that have shaped the continent's development and the effects of those processes in historical and contemporary contexts. The course, therefore, offers students a unique opportunity to explore the historic, socio-cultural, economic and political diversity within the continent.

### **OBJECTIVES OF THE COURSE**

This course aims at assisting students to:

- Develop a holistic understanding of the continent and its people, beyond the parochial images found in the media.
- Appreciate the similarities, diversity, challenges, triumphs and possibilities that characterize the continent.
- Understand how historical events and various actors have shaped, and continue to shape, developments on the continent as well as insights into the profound impact of Africa on the rest of the world.

### **TEXTBOOKS AND READINGS**

**Required textbooks (available for purchase at the University Bookstore):**

Chinua Achebe 2005. *Things Fall Apart*

Gordon A. and D. L. Gordon (Eds). 2007. *Understanding Contemporary Africa*.

**Recommended books (available at the University library):**

Kevin Shillington (Ed) 1996. *History of Africa*, London, (Revised edition)

Bohannon P and P. Curtin 2000. *African and Africans*.

**ASSIGNMENTS AND EVALUATION**

Book Review	25%	Oct. 22
Mid-Term Exam	35%	Nov. 5
Final Exam	40%	To be scheduled by Registrar
<b>All assignments must be completed in order to pass the course.</b>		

**SCHEDULE OF LECTURES AND READINGS**

To be made available on Blackboard.

**BOOK REVIEW 25% (Due October 22, to be collected in class.)**

The book review entails writing a critical analysis of the novel *Things Fall Apart*. You must indicate how the issues covered in the book relate to Africa or the themes covered in the course.

**NOTE:**

- The review must not be more than **4 PAGES TYPED AND DOUBLED-SPACED** in **12 PT FONT**. Page margins should be **1 INCH (2.5 cm)** wide, and all pages should be numbered. Students are urged to stay within the maximum word and/or page length, or risk a penalty. A bibliography and brief appendix are not included in the length restrictions. Double-sided assignments are encouraged to save paper, but are not mandatory. Information to be included on the title page are: *title of paper, course code, instructor's name, student ID, and date of submission*.
- The level of analysis is suitable for a third-year university course.
- A critical analysis requires an evaluation of the arguments made by the author, and this means you have to read carefully to find out what the author's argument(s) is/are. You may find the argument(s) stated in the book's introduction. The next step is to consider what the author provides in subsequent chapters.
- A well-written book will remind readers of the main arguments as it proceeds. The concluding chapter of the book will summarize the author's own appraisal of the argument(s) and evidence. This does not mean that you can read the introduction and conclusion, and write a good review; you need to demonstrate that you know what each chapter contains, and how it contributes to the main argument(s).
- In addition, a critical assessment requires that you assess the argument(s) and comment on whether you think the book meets the author's stated objective(s). This assessment is not a simple option, but a thoughtful evaluation of how well the author has succeeded in convincing you, the reader, of the value of the argument and the evidence used to support it. Your own conclusions should also say something about what you have learned about the subject, having read the book, and what else you might want to know that was not addressed in the book.

- As you read, it is useful to carry on a “dialogue” with the author, asking yourself if you agree with what is being said, or whether something is missing. You will need to say something about the author’s relationship with the subject, and about his/her methods. In some cases, you will have to be a detective to find out what you want to know.
- Correct spelling is important. Use a dictionary and a computer spelling and grammar checker.
- Create a draft of your review, and then look at it again a day or so later. When you do a second draft, make sure that the ideas follow coherently from one another. Move text around if you need to. Weed out repetitive words and phrases. Vary the length of sentences. Read the review aloud, to see how it “flows.” The final product will reflect the care you have put into its creation.
- If you wish, you may use the first person. Also, use the active voice as much as possible.
- Use a correct bibliographical format (both in-text and the final list of references).
- **Citation guidelines for book review.**
  - In-text citations styles:
    - (Doe 2001:1) when you use direct quote.
    - (Doe 2001) when you reference an idea.
  - Final Bibliography:
    - **Book:** Doe, John. 2001. *This Is My Term Paper*. Calgary: My Own Publications.
    - **Book Chapter:** Doe, Jane 2001. "Time Is Up," in J. Doe and J. Doe (eds), *Our Group Project*, pp. 1-20. Calgary: My Own Publications
    - **Journal Article:** Doe Jane. 2001 "Continuing to Work Hard," *Journal of Hard Work*, vol. 1, no. 1, 2001, pp. 1-20

**NOTE:** Evaluation of your Review paper will be based on the following:

- Coherence of arguments - clear and logical progression of ideas and thoughts throughout the paper.
- Clarity of expression and quality of grammar.
- A critical level of analysis, as opposed to descriptive analysis.
- Understanding and application of lectures, readings and other relevant literature.
- Well-informed review or discussion.
- Well-formatted bibliography with ample in-text references, including:
  - Direct quotes must be cited with page numbers.
  - Substantial marks will be taken off for improper citation and bibliographical formatting.
  - For guidance on proper bibliographic format visit the University of Calgary library website on the topic.

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It is the student's responsibility to keep a copy of each assignment submitted. Students should be prepared to provide a second copy of their assignment if requested. Students who cannot provide a second copy of their essays may risk receiving a zero grade for this portion of the course.

Note: Please hand in your essays directly to your instructor. If it is not possible to do so, a daytime drop box is available in SS 110. A night drop box is also available for after-hours submission.

Assignments will be removed the following morning, stamped with the previous day's date, and placed in the instructor's mailbox.

**MID-TERM EXAM 35% (November 5, in class.)**

This is closed-book exam designed to test your grasp of the material covered in lectures and from course readings up to the date of the exam. This means that you will be expected to have read all the required and recommended readings on all topics covered in the course up to the date of the exam. The best way to prepare for this exercise is to read and reflect on the lectures and course material. Exams will also cover lectures by guest speakers and information from videos/films shown in the class.

**Note:** No alternate dates for the exam will be provided unless the student has been legitimately excused.

**FINAL EXAM 40%**

The final exam follows the same format as the midterm. Details will be discussed in class.

**Registrar-scheduled Final Examination:** Yes.

Please note: If your class is held in the evening, the Registrar's Office will make every attempt to schedule the final exam during the evening; however, there is NO guarantee that the exam will NOT be scheduled during the day.

**USE OF E-MAIL:**

Due to a high volume of e-mail messages received on a daily basis, students are advised to meet me either during my office hours or to make an appointment in the case of an issue that requires urgent attention.

Please note that e-mail messages can be sent to the wrong address, accidentally deleted, buried or may mysteriously disappear into cyberspace. All questions and requests should therefore be made in person, especially if they concern extensions and other serious urgent matters. I will normally reply within 72- hours, during regular business hours.

Questions of general interest will be addressed in class or on the Discussion Board in Blackboard. Students are encouraged and advised to use their **ucalgary** accounts or Blackboard in all the communication with me and with their peers.

*Please feel welcome to discuss with me any aspect of the course requirements you think is unclear.*

**POLICY FOR LATE ASSIGNMENTS:**

Assignments submitted after the deadline may be penalized with the loss of a grade (e.g. A- to B+) for each day late.

Extensions will only be granted under extraordinary circumstances, not including having too much other work to do (REQUEST FOR EXTENSION FORM will be posted on Blackboard).

## **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PROTECTION OF PRIVACY ACT**

This course is conducted in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIP). **As consequence, students should identify themselves on all written work by using their ID number. Also you will be required to provide a piece of picture identification in order to pick up an assignment or look at a final exam.**

For more information see also <http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/privacy>.

## **GRADING SYSTEM**

The following grading system is used in the Faculty of Arts. Where a grade on a particular assignment is expressed as a letter grade, it will normally be converted to a number using the midpoint of the scale. That is, A- would be converted to 87.5 for calculation purposes. An F will be converted to zero.

Grading Scale	
A+	96-100
A	90-95.99
A -	85-89.99
B+	80-84.99
B	75-79.99
B-	70-74.99
C+	65-69.99
C	60-64.99
C-	55-59.99
D+	53-54.99
D	50-52.99
F	0-49

## **PLAGIARISM**

Using any source whatsoever without clearly documenting it is a serious academic offense. Consequences include failure on the assignment, in the course and possibly suspension or expulsion from the university.

You must document not only direct quotations but also paraphrases and ideas where they appear in your text. A reference list at the end is insufficient by itself. Readers must be able to tell exactly where your words and ideas end and other people's words and ideas begin. This includes assignments submitted in non-traditional formats such as web pages or visual media, and material taken from such sources.

Please consult your instructor if you have any questions regarding how to document sources.

## **INTERNET AND ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICE INFORMATION**

The use of cell phones is not allowed during lectures. Students may use computers in class, however, the instructor reserves the right to forbid students from using computers if their use is disruptive to the class. This may include chatting online, playing music or games etc. during class.

## **ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT**

For information on academic misconduct and the consequences thereof please see the current University of Calgary calendar at the following link:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

## **ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION POLICY**

If you are a student with a disability who may require academic accommodation, it is your responsibility to register with the Disability Resource Centre (403-220-8237) and discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of the course. For further information, please see <http://www.ucalgary.ca/drc/node/46>

## **EMERGENCY EVACUATION AND ASSEMBLY POINTS**

Please note the evacuation points for this particular classroom. All classrooms on campus exit to specific places in case of emergency. The emergency assembly points differ depending upon where your classroom is located. For information on the emergency evacuation procedures and the assembly points see <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

## **SAFEWALK PROGRAM - 403-220-5333**

Campus Security will escort individuals day or night -- call 403-220-5333 for assistance. Use any campus phone, emergency phone or the yellow phone located at most parking lot booths.

## **STUDENT REPRESENTATION**

Another source of information that you may wish to use is your student representative. All faculties elect students to represent them on the Students Union. Please see

<http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/home/contact.html>

For your student ombudsman, please see:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>

## **Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources**

- Have a question, but not sure where to start? The new Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (PIC) is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS102, call us at 403-220-3580 or email us at [artsads@ucalgary.ca](mailto:artsads@ucalgary.ca). You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> which has detailed information on common academic concerns.
- For program planning and advice, contact the Student Success Centre (formerly the Undergraduate programs Office) at (403) 220-5881 or visit them on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library

- For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Library Block.