

**THE UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY**  
**FACULTY OF ARTS**  
**AFRICAN STUDIES (AFST 301, L 01): FALL 2018**  
**INTRODUCTION TO AFRICAN STUDIES**  
**LECTURES: THURSDAYS, 14:00 - 16:45; ST 132**

Instructor: Dr. Apentiik  
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Office Hours: Wednesdays 1:00pm-2:00pm or by appointment  
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TA:  
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Office Hours: TBA

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course is an interdisciplinary introductory study of the African continent and its people and cultures. It will explore the nature of traditional African 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 through an interdisciplinary lens. Emphasis will be on giving the students an overview of geographical, social, and economic conditions from an interdisciplinary perspective.

### **OBJECTIVES OF THE COURSE**

This course aims at assisting students to:

- Develop a holistic understanding of the continent and its people, beyond the parochial dominant images found in the media depicting Africa as a continent of conflict, disease, and exotica;
- 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.

### **OUTCOMES**

At the end the course, students should be able to:

- demonstrate a holistic understanding of the continent and its people, beyond the parochial images found in the media depicting the continent as one characterized by conflict, disease, and exotica;
- demonstrate sound knowledge of the historical, physical, and cultural geography of the continent and how these aspects have shaped and have continued to impact the political, economic, and socio-cultural development of the African continent;

- demonstrate a basic understanding of African Studies not as a fossilized discipline, but one that is vibrant and related to their contemporary experience;
- hone their skills at critical reading, critical thinking, and critical writing on African issues and debates.

### TEXTBOOKS AND READINGS

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

- Chinua Achebe. 2005. *Things Fall Apart*. London: Macmillan.
- Gordon, A., & Gordon, D. L. (Eds). (2013). *Understanding Contemporary Africa*. Boulder: Lynne Rienner Publishers.

The recommended text books are available for use at the University library.

### ASSIGNMENTS AND EVALUATION

|   |     |                              |
|---|-----|------------------------------|
| Book Review   | 20% | Due Oct.11, 2018             |
| Mid-Term Exam   | 40% | Oct. 18, 2018                |
| Final Exam  | 40% | To be scheduled by Registrar |
| All assignments must be completed in order to pass the course. All written assignments (including, although to a lesser extent, written exams) will be assessed at least partly on writing skills. Writing skills include not only surface correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc.) but also general clarity. |     |                              |

### SCHEDULE OF LECTURES AND READINGS

To be made available on D2L.

#### BOOK REVIEW 20% (Due October 11, to be collected in class.)

The book review entails writing a critical analysis of Chinua Achebe's 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 paper must not be more than **3 PAGES. IT MUST BE TYPED AND DOUBLED-SPACED in 12 POINT 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 page length, or risk a penalty of loss of grade (e.g. A- to B+) OR two (2) points, depending on the number of pages over the maximum limit required. A bibliography and brief appendix are not included in the length restrictions. Double-sided printing of assignments are encouraged to save paper, but is not mandatory. The paper must have a title page, which includes the following: *title of paper, course code, instructor's name, student ID, and date of submission.*

#### The level of analysis should be suitable for a second-year University course.

- A critical analysis requires an evaluation of the arguments made by the author. 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 only the introduction and conclusion, and be able to 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, if necessary.
- 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 assignment.**

You must use APA format for both in-text citation and final list of references (see examples below).

- ***Book referencing example:***

Desai, V., & Potter, R.B. (Eds.) (2002). *The Companion to Development*. 3rd Edition. New York: Routledge.

- ***Journal article referencing examples:***

Clever, F. (1999). Paradoxes of participation: questioning participatory approaches to development. *Journal of International Development*, 11(4), 597-612.

Riddell, B. (2003). The Face of Neoliberalism in the Third World: Landscapes of Coping in Trinidad and Tobago. *Canadian Journal of Development Studies*, 24(4), 592-615.

- ***Chapter in a book example:***

Escobar, A. (1997). The Making and Unmaking of the Third World through Development. In M. Rahnema & V. Bawtree (Eds.), *The Post-Development Reader* (pp. xxx-xxx). London: Zed Books.

- ***Online newspaper article example:***

Brody, J. E. (2007, December 11). Mental reserves keep brain agile. *The New York Times*. Retrieved from <http://www.nytimes.com>

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

*Well-informed review or discussion:*

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-formatted bibliography or final list of references.
- Ample in-text citations. Note all direct quotes must have page numbers.
- Note that 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.

It is the student's responsibility to keep a copy of each assignment submitted. A student should be prepared to provide a second copy of his/her assignment if requested. A student who cannot provide a second copy of his/her 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 ES 622. A nighttime drop box is also available for after work 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; 40% (October 18 2018, in class.)**

- This is a 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.
- **Format of exams:** Mixed (combination of multiple choice, short, and long answers).
- Note: No alternate dates for the exam will be provided unless a student has been legitimately excused.

**FINAL EXAM; 40%**

- The final exam follows the same format and structure as the midterm. Details will be discussed in class.
- Final exam is not cumulative.

**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 make an appointment with me on matters that require urgent attention. Please note that e-mail messages can be sent to the wrong email address, can be

accidentally deleted, and can be buried or may mysteriously disappear into cyberspace. All questions and requests should therefore be made in person, especially if they concern extensions and other urgent matters. I will normally reply emails within 72 hours, during regular business hours.

Questions and information of general interest will be addressed in class or posted on Desire2Learn.

Students are encouraged and advised to use their ucalgary email accounts or Desire2Learn in all their communication with me and with peers.

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

### **POLICY FOR LATE ASSIGNMENTS & MISSED EXAMS:**

- Assignments submitted after the deadline may be penalized with 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. A REQUEST FOR EXTENSION FORM will be posted on Blackboard. This form should be filled out and submitted to me two weeks before the due date for the submission of the assignment.
- No alternate dates for exams will be provided unless a student has been legitimately excused or have tangible reasons supported with documentation. The same rule applies to missed exams.

### **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+            | 94.9 – 100  |
| A             | 89.9 – 94.8 |
| A -           | 84.9 – 89.8 |
| B+            | 79.9 – 84.8 |
| B             | 74.9 – 79.8 |
| B-            | 70.9 – 74.8 |
| C+            | 66.9 – 70.8 |
| C             | 62.9 – 66.8 |
| C-            | 58.9 – 62.8 |
| D+            | 54.9 – 58.8 |
| D             | 49.9 – 54.8 |

|   |                |
|---|----------------|
| F | 49.8 and below |
|---|----------------|

## **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 ACCOMMODATIONS**

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy>

Students needing an Accommodation because of a Disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Students needing an Accommodation based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to the instructor of this course, Pascale Sicotte.

## **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

Academic integrity is essential to the pursuit of learning and scholarship in a university, and to ensuring that a degree from the University of Calgary is a strong signal of each student's individual academic achievements. As a result, the University treats cases of cheating and plagiarism very seriously. Non-academic integrity also constitutes an important component of this program.

For detailed information on what constitutes academic and non-academic misconduct, please refer to the following link: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-2-1.html>

All suspected cases of academic and non-academic misconduct will be investigated following procedures outlined in the University Calendar. If you have questions or concerns about what constitutes appropriate academic behavior or appropriate research and citation methods, you are

expected to seek out additional information on academic integrity from your instructor or from other institutional resources.

Where there is a criminal act involved in plagiarism, cheating or other academic misconduct, e.g., theft (taking another student's paper from their possession, or from the possession of a faculty member without permission), breaking and entering (forcibly entering an office to gain access to papers, grades or records), forgery, personation and conspiracy (impersonating another student by agreement and writing their paper) and other such offences under the Criminal Code of Canada, the University may take legal advice on the appropriate response and, where appropriate, refer the matter to the police, in addition to or in substitution for any action taken under these regulations by the University

### **DEFERRED EXAMS/ASSIGNMENTS:**

The format of a deferred examination/assignment will likely vary from the original format on the scheduled exam. .

IE: Essays or short answers rather than multiple choice.

### **TEACHING EVALUATIONS / USRI (Universal Student Ratings of Instruction)**

At the University of Calgary, feedback provided by students through the Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI) survey provides valuable information to help with evaluating instruction, enhancing learning and teaching, and selecting courses. **Your responses make a difference, please participate!** Website: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/usri/>

### **Writing Across the Curriculum**

Writing skills are not exclusive to English courses and, in fact, should cross all disciplines. The University supports the belief that throughout their University careers, students should be taught how to write well so that when they graduate their writing abilities will be far above the minimal standards required at entrance. Consistent with this belief, students are expected to do a substantial amount of writing in their University courses and, where appropriate, members of faculty can and should use writing and the grading thereof as a factor in the evaluation of student work. The services provided by the Writing Support, part of the Student Success Centre, can be utilized by all undergraduate and graduate students who feel they require further assistance

**Emergency Evacuation Assembly Points:** In the event of an emergency that requires evacuation, please refer to the following link to become familiar with the assembly points for the class: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

### **Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act: Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act**

The University of Calgary is committed to protecting the privacy of individuals who work and study at the University or who otherwise interact with the University in accordance with the standards set out in the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. Please refer to the following link for detailed information: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip>

The Department of Anthropology and Archaeology's FOIP (Freedom of Information and Privacy) policy requires all reports/examinations to be returned to students during class time or

the instructor's office hours. Any term work not picked up will be placed in the Anthropology and Archaeology Office (ES620) for distribution. Any student not wishing to have their work placed in the office must make alternative arrangements with the course instructor early in the term.

**Safewalk Information:** Campus Security, in partnership with the Students' Union, provides the Safewalk service, 24 hours a day to any location on Campus including the LRT, parking lots, bus zones and University residences. Contact Campus Security at (403) 220-5333 or use a help phone, and Safewalkers or a Campus Security Officer will accompany you to your campus destination.

**Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources:** Have a question, but not sure where to start? Arts Students' Centre

The Faculty of Arts Students' Centre is the overall headquarters for undergraduate programs in the Faculty of Arts. The key objective of this office is to connect students with whatever academic assistance that they require.

In addition to housing the Associate Dean, Undergraduate Programs and Student Affairs and the Associate Dean for Teaching and Learning, the Arts Students' Centre is the specific home to:

- program advising
- the Faculty's Co-operative Education Program
- the Arts and Science Honours Academy
- the Faculty's Interdisciplinary Programs
- a Student Help Desk

Location: Social Sciences Room 102

Phone: 403.220.3580

Email: [ascarts@ucalgary.ca](mailto:ascarts@ucalgary.ca)

Website: [arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate/](http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate/)

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. Contacts for Students Union Representatives for the Faculty of Arts:

[arts1@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts1@su.ucalgary.ca)

[arts2@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts2@su.ucalgary.ca)

[arts3@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts3@su.ucalgary.ca)

[arts4@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts4@su.ucalgary.ca)

**Ombudsman's office:** <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ombuds/>