

THE UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF ARTS
AFRICAN STUDIES (AFST 301, L 01): FALL 2019
INTRODUCTION TO AFRICAN STUDIES
LECTURES: THURSDAYS, 3:30 - 6:15; ST 131

Instructor: Dr. Apentiik
Office Location/Phone Number ES 844; 403-220-4857
E-Mail: rapentii@ucalgary.ca
Office Hours: Tuesdays 1:00pm-2:00pm or by appointment
Web Page:

TA:
Office Location/Phone Number TBA
E-Mail: TBA
Office Hours: TBA

Prerequisite(s): none

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.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end the course, students should 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 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.10, 2019
Mid-Term Exam	40%	Oct. 17, 2019
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 10, 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:**

Cleaver, 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 17, 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. **Note:** All written assignments (including, although to a lesser extent, written exam

responses) 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 and organization.

FINAL EXAM; 40%

The final exam follows the same format and structure as the midterm (mixed - combination of multiple choice, short, and long answers). Final exam is not cumulative.

Note:

- All written assignments (including, although to a lesser extent, written exam responses) 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 and organization.

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.

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. All missed exams will take the form of long answers only and will be reschedule on a date chosen by the instructor within two weeks.

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

COURSE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES:

1. Information on academic misconduct and the consequences thereof

The University expects Students to conduct Academic Activities with integrity and intellectual honesty and to recognize the importance of pursuing and transmitting knowledge ethically. “Academic Misconduct” includes such things as Cheating, Falsification; Plagiarism, Unauthorized Assistance and failure to comply with exam regulations or an Instructor’s expectations regarding conduct required of Students completing academic assessments. Academic Misconduct is a serious form of intellectual dishonesty with significant consequences. Students who participate in, or encourage the commission of, Academic Misconduct will be subject to disciplinary action which could include Probation, Suspension, or Expulsion from the University. For more information, please refer to the Student Academic Misconduct Policy:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-academic-misconduct-policy.pdf>

2. Information on instructor intellectual property

Lectures, demonstrations, performances, and any other course material provided by an instructor includes copyright protected works under the Copyright Act and all forms of electronic or mechanical recording of lectures, laboratories, tutorials, presentations, performances, electronic (computer) information, the duplication of course material, and to

the translation of recordings or transcriptions of any of these materials to another form by electronic or mechanical means by students is not permitted, except.

- As a formal accommodation as assessed by the Student Accessibility Services and only for individual private study and only at the discretion of the instructor.
- With the permission of the instructor, students without a formal accommodation may audio record lectures, provided that the student and instructor sign a release form available from departmental and faculty offices. A copy of the Release form shall be retained by the instructor and by the department in which the course is offered. Any audio recording by students is permitted only for the purposes of private study by the individual student. Students may not distribute, email or otherwise communicate these materials to any other person.
- For any other use, whether by duplication, transcription, publication, sale or transfer of recordings, written approval must be obtained from the instructor for the specific use proposed.
 - Any use other than that described above (e.g. distributing, emailing or otherwise communicating these materials to any other person, constitutes academic misconduct and may result in suspension or expulsion.
 - Students are encouraged to make notes of classroom discussions, lectures, demonstrations etc.

3. Information on the 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. The Department of Anthropology and Archaeology keeps exams and any term work not picked up for a minimum of one year after which it is destroyed. Please refer to the following link for detailed information: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip>

4. Information about Academic Accommodations

Note: It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations according to the University policies (ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy). Students requesting an Accommodation on the basis of Disability are required to register with Student Accommodation Services (SAS) by submitting a Request for Accommodation in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:

(<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/procedure-for-accommodations-for-students-with-disabilities.pdf>). SAS will issue a Letter of Accommodation which must be presented to either designated contact person within the Department or the appropriate Instructors within 10 days of the beginning of term. Students needing an Accommodation in relation to their coursework or to fulfil requirements for a graduate degree, based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to their Instructor or the Department Head/Dean or to the designated contact person in their Faculty.

5. 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.

6. Internet and electronic communication device information

The use of cell phones and other electronic 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.

7. 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 required to use their ucalgary email accounts or Desire2Learn in all their communication with me and with peers.

8. Copyright Legislation:

All **students** are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright.pdf) and requirements of the copyright act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorized sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.

SUPPORT AND RESOURCES:

For support information. A link to required information that is not course-specific related information can be found on the Office of the Registrar's website:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines>

Deferred Exams:

A student who is absent from a test for legitimate reasons must discuss an alternative course of action with the instructor. Deferral of the final exam requires Registrar approval. The instructor at their discretion may transfer the percentage weight for the test to the final examination, if there is a final examination in the course, set another test, etc. Documentation supporting the reason for missing an exam may be required. Deferred exams may be in a different format than the regularly scheduled exam, e.g. essay style questions instead of multiple choice questions. Students must be aware that they are responsible for payment of any charge associated with the medical assessment and documentation as this service falls outside the realm of services provided by the Provincial Health Care Plan

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Note: information here includes

- Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points
- Wellness and Mental Health Resources
 - Student Success Centre
 - Student Ombuds Office
- Student Union (SU) Information
 - Safewalk

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