

**AFRICAN STUDIES (AFST 501), L01: SEMINAR  
WINTER 2017**

**LECTURES: Thursdays 14:00 - 16:45, KNB 129**

**Instructor:** Dr. Apentiik  
**Office Location/Phone Number:** ES 844; 403-220-4857  
**E-Mail:** rapentii@ucalgary.ca  
**Office Hours:** WEDNESDAY 12:00-13:30 or by appointment  
**Web Page:** <http://ucalgary.ca/rapentii/>

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

*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 feel is unclear.*

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course is an interdisciplinary analysis, in seminar format, of trends and issues dealing with the historical, economic, political, cultural and ecological aspects and processes on the continent. Among the issues we will focus on are: the current processes of democratization and the role of civil society in it; ethnic identities and conflicts; the constitution of gender roles; health issues, indigenous knowledge and institutions; and other socio-economic and political reforms within the context of globalization, and Africa's position in it.

**OBJECTIVES OF THE COURSE**

The objectives of the course are:

1. To provide students with a forum to engage in an interdisciplinary analysis of various topics dealing with contemporary Africa and its position within the global world.
2. To equip students with the tools for designing and carrying out independent scholarly research that establishes their own perspective on particular issues/topics.
3. To offer students the opportunity to study Africa, its people, and its societies from a perspective that provides a holistic understanding of the continent.

**TEXTBOOKS/READINGS**

Links to the reading material for the course will be made available on Blackboard .

Mongo Beti 2005. Poor Christ of Bomba.

<b><u>ASSIGNMENTS AND EVALUATION</u></b>	<b><u>%</u></b>	<b><u>DUE DATE</u></b>
Participation & Attendance	<b>15%</b>	<b>(on-going)</b>
Mid-Term Exam	<b>30%</b>	<b>(March 23, to be collected in class)</b>
Book Review	<b>20%</b>	<b>(March 30, to be collected in class)</b>
Final Research Paper	<b>35%</b>	<b>(April 6, to be collected in class)</b>

Note: All components of the course must be completed in order to pass, and extensions will only be granted under extraordinary circumstances, not including having too much other work to do.

**REQUIREMENT 1: PARTICIPATION & ATTENDANCE (15%)**

For each week, two to three students will lead and facilitate class discussion of the main issues and controversies arising from that week's readings. Marks will be assigned for how well opposing interpretations are expounded and supported with actual evidence, how well they transcend simplistic stereotypes or polemics, how well students identify key issues, and how well they engage the rest of the class in thinking about possible ways forward. You are therefore encouraged to reflect upon the topic of the week as well as to familiarize yourself with current news and opinions relevant to the course.

It is essential that all students complete the reading assignments, as the ability to contribute in seminars will be enhanced by a competent understanding of the assigned readings. If you come to class regularly you will be able to participate; therefore, your participation mark hinges (in part) on your attendance. Participation grades are calculated by factoring in the amount and quality of contributions. Attendance will be taken during seminar. *It is the student's responsibility to make certain that he/she signs the attendance list.*

A schedule will be available at the beginning of the term indicating which students are leading seminars for each particular week.

**REQUIREMENT 2: MID-TERM EXAM (30%)**

The exam is designed to test your grasp of the material covered in lectures and in seminar discussions up to the date of the exam. This means that you will be expected to have read all the required readings on all topics covered in seminars up to the date of the exam. The best way to prepare for this exercise is to read and reflect on the readings and seminar discussions. **No alternate dates for the exam will be provided unless the student has been legitimately excused.**

**REQUIREMENT 3: BOOK REVIEW (20%)**

The book review entails writing a critical analysis of “ Poor Christ of Bomba”.

- Length of review paper should a maximum of **four (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. 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*.
- 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. Use the active voice as much as possible.
- Use a correct bibliographical format.

**REQUIREMENT 4: FINAL PAPER (35%)**

- The final paper can be structured around the major topics covered in the course or individual project. Please consult with me if you are in doubt regarding the choice of topic.
- Length of review paper should a maximum of **fourteen (14) 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. 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.*
- Clear statement of the problem(s) you want to investigate or explore, including:
  - The theoretical lens you use to construct your research question(s) or argument(s).
  - Brief justification of your choice of topic in relation to the existing literature
- Use of sources:
  - Judicious and balanced use of sources.
  - Credible/authoritative and current sources.
  - Well-formatted bibliography including ample in-text references.
  - Please consult me if you have any questions regarding how to document sources.
- Level of Analysis:
  - Critical, as opposed to descriptive, analysis.
  - Clarity and coherence of arguments (note: marks will, in part, be based on the coherence of arguments and clarity of expression).
- A strong conclusion.
- Additional information such as tables, maps, figure, lists of interview questions, etc. can be included.

**NOTE:**

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. Research papers must be properly documented.

**REGISTRAR-SCHEDULED FINAL EXAMINATION : NO****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. This is time sensitive course and extensions will only be granted under extraordinary circumstances, not including having too much other work to do. If late assignments are handed in at the Interdisciplinary Programs' Office (ES 620), please ensure that they are signed and dated.

**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

**SCHEDULE OF LECTURES AND READINGS**

To be made available onD2L.

**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 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 "(Instructor) (Associate Dean) (Department Head) (other designated person)"

**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. For detailed information on what constitutes academic misconduct, please refer to the following link:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-2-1.html>

All suspected cases of academic dishonesty 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.

### **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, instructors can and may use writing and the grading thereof as a factor in the evaluation of student work. The services provided by the Writing Centre in the Effective Writing Office 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:**

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

arts2@su.ucalgary.ca

arts3@su.ucalgary.ca

arts4@su.ucalgary.ca