

**UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY-AFRICA**  
**LIT 1106 : AFRICAN FICTION I: INTRODUCTION TO THE AFRICAN NOVEL**  
**COURSE SYLLABUS**  
**CREDIT: 3 UNITS**  
**TIME/DAYS:**  
**LECTURER:**

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### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

A survey of the development of the African novel from its beginnings to 1970. This is a reading course in the African novel; students are required to read several novels according to course content, as well as read closely and do an oral presentation or term paper on one particular novel during the semester. Class time is devoted to discussions of different novels, and students are expected to have read these novels, or substantial portions thereof, before coming to class.

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

The purpose of this course is to:

- Introduce students to African Literature in general and the African Novel in particular.
- To expose the students to the development of African Literature through the African Novel and the various socio-economic, political moral dimensions that have influenced its evolution. This should cover up till the 1970s!
- To evaluate them read literature closely analysed it from various perspectives and talk about it intelligently.

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

**Attendance in class.** Students are responsible for accessing material covered in class. A student missing more than 5 lectures without official excuse will receive “F”.

**Daily reading and homework assignments.** Homework assignments are due at the beginning of the class period for which they are assigned; late homework will receive half credit.

**Class participation.** This course will be taught by the lecture method and by discussion; students are expected to have read the material under discussion and to take part actively in the discussion.

**Policy on Plagiarism.** If a student uses the words or ideas of another in his writing he must cite the source fully and accurately, including title, author, place and date of publication, publisher, and page number. If he uses the exact words of another he must enclose them in quotation marks; changing a word or two here and there does not absolve you of this responsibility. Plagiarism will not be tolerated; any one found guilty of plagiarism will receive an automatic 'F' for the course.

## COURSE CONTENT

### Week 1 & 2

#### **Introduction**

What is African Literature

Regional surveys on the scope and subjects covered within African Literature.

### Week 3

#### **An overview of colonial mentality of Africanness:**

Reference to Karen Blixen, Elspeth Huxley, Margaret Laurence

### Week 4

The West African scene:

Conflict and adjustment in Chinua Achebe's *Arrow of God*

### Week 4

#### **The Africanisation of the novel.**

Language narrative style in *Arrow of God*

### Week 5

#### **Colonialism and culture: cultural conflict**

Reference: Ngugi wa Thiongo's *The River Between*

### Week 7

**Mid-Term Examination: based upon the content covered.**

### Week 8

#### **The South African Scene:**

Apartheid; What was it?

Racism through the eyes of Peter Abraham's *Mine Boy*

### Week 9

Themes characters in Alex La Gumas' *A Walk in the Night*

### Week 10

Style and language in Alex La Gumas' *A Walk in the Night*

### Week 11

#### **The Crisis in Africa**

Social criticism in Armah's the *Beautiful Ones are Not Yet Born*

## **Week 12**

### **The novel and changing society:**

*Houseboy* by Ferdinand Oyono

## **Week 13**

Revision and oral presentations

## **Week 14**

FINAL EXAMINATION

### **COURSE TEXTS**

Karen Blixen, *Out of Africa* (London: Heinemann, 1972)  
Chinua Achebe, *Arrow of God* (London: Heinemann, 1977)  
Ngugi wa Thiong'o, *The River Between* (London: Heinemann, 1980)  
Peter Abrahams, *Mine Boy* (London: Heinemann, 19)  
Alex la Guma, *A Walk in the Night* (London: Heinemann 19)

Ayi Kweyi Armah, *The Beautiful Ones are Not Yet Born* (London: Heinemann, 1969.)  
Ferdinand Oyono, *Houseboy*

### **COURSE ASSIGNMENTS**

1. Review of an African novel of your choice
2. Critical analysis of a character
3. Term paper / Oral presentation

### **RESEARCH PAPER**

Required of all students

1. Using the library
2. Taking notes
3. Organizing papers and writing drafts
4. Preparing final copy

Choose a topic for research based on any relevant material which is available in USIU library for this course. **It must be approved by instructor.**

Read from at least two sources about the chosen work or the author (preferably the work). Single out a facet of the work that your paper will investigate and prove.

Write an analysis of about 10 typed pages covering as many aspects of the work as possible.

### **Documentation:**

Include quotations from the critical sources and the work in body of your theme. You should have a minimum of five quotations and therefore a minimum of five footnotes.

Include a brief bibliography.

Follow the form of quotation which you have been taught at USIU.

Follow the form of quotations, especially lines of poetry, as you were taught in Research Writing.

### **Format of Paper:**

Title page

Thesis statement

Outline (brief)

Body of paper plus conclusion

Bibliography

### ***PAPER MUST BE TYPED***

An important part of your writing is having personal conferences with your instructor. Before, after or while writing assignment, please feel free to see me (by appointment before or after the class) about any writing problems you may have.

### **TEACHING METHODOLOGIES**

Lecture, discussions, notes taking, oral presentations, written assignments, learners' involved in discussions, research writing etc.

### **COURSE EVALUATION**

|                            |      |
|----------------------------|------|
| Attendance & Participation | 10%  |
| Assignments                | 20%  |
| Term Paper                 | 20%  |
| Mid-Quarter Exam           | 20%  |
| Final exam                 | 30%  |
| Total                      | 100% |

### **FINAL GRADE/GRADING SYSTEM**

The final grade will be determined according to the following scale that is a USIU Grading System/Grading yardstick.

|    |          |
|----|----------|
| A  | 90 - 100 |
| A- | 87 - 89  |
| B+ | 84 - 86  |
| B  | 80 - 83  |

|    |         |
|----|---------|
| B- | 77 - 79 |
| C+ | 74 - 76 |
| C  | 70 - 73 |
| C- | 67 - 69 |
| D+ | 64 - 66 |
| D  | 62 - 63 |
| D- | 60 - 61 |
| F  | 0 - 59  |

A subjective evaluation of the student's application and improvement will be a deciding factor in determining the final grade in borderline cases.

