UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY-AFRICA
LIT. 3003A: POETRY ACROSS CULTURES
DAYS / TIME:
CREDIT: 3 UNITS
LECTURER:
CONSULTATION HOURS:

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Comparative study of representative poetry from the world's cultures, emphasis is on appreciation and interpretation, exploration of historical and cultural significance; consideration of issues of translation.

PURPOSE OF THE COURSE

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES/OBJECTIVES

By the end of the course the students will be able to:
- Appreciate the place of poetry within the academic life of the university
- Develop sensitivity towards the humanities

ALIGNMENT TO USIU MISSION OUTCOMES

The course provides knowledge and skills that meet the following PLOs:
1. Higher order thinking
2. Literacy
3. Global understanding and multicultural perspectives
4. Preparedness for career
5. Community service

EXPECTED RESULTS: Students will be able to:
1. Collect, analyze and evaluate data/information to formulate conclusions (PLO1a)
2. Demonstrate the ability to think critically, analytically and creatively (PLO1b)
3. Demonstrate a holistic integrative and interdisciplinary reasoning (PLO1c)
4. Demonstrate mastery of the field of knowledge and its multicultural and multifunctional applications (PLO4c)
5. Function efficiently in a changing, scientific, qualitative and technological environment (PLO2b)
6. Demonstrate competency in oral and written communication (PLO2a)
7. Demonstrate competency in the use of qualitative skills in relation to individual, societal and environment (PLO2c)
8. Demonstrate and understanding of socio-economic, historical, political, geographic and environmental relationships on a global basis (PLO3a)
9. Demonstrate knowledge, and appreciation of both diversity and commonality of cultures in a global perspective (PLO3b)

10. Show a sense of being part, and of service to the community by demonstrating commitment to social and environmental issues (PLO5b)

At the end of the course students would be able to view poetic expression as a universal and world-wide experience. They should be able to critically examine poetic works from various regions and historical periods with a view of suggesting socio-economic, historical and cultural factors which influence their production.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. **Attendance and participation:**
   Class attendance is compulsory.
   A student missing more than 5 class sessions with no official excuse will receive "F".

2. **Oral presentations:**
   Every student will prepare and make a brief presentation (maximum 5 minutes) based on an aspect of the content of the course.

COURSE CONTENT

Week 1
Introduction
Where there are people is a song: origins and nature of poetry
Poetic expression in traditional African communities

Week 2
The scriptural experience
Song of Songs/Song of Solomon

Week 3
Classical poetry
What is it?

Week 4
Epic poetry of various cultures
Ramayana, Avesta, early Japanese poetry

Week 5
Dreams, hopes and impediments
Modern African poetry

Week 6
Contrasting pictures
European poetry through history
Study of major poets

Week 7
MID-QUARTER EXAMINATION

Week 8
European poetry (continued)

Week 9
A dream differed: Opportunity and oppression
A study of African-American poets

Week 10
Issues in mainstream American poetry
Study of American poets

Week 11
The Asian experience
Classical and medieval Asian poetry

Week 12
The Asian experience (continued)
A study of the issues raised in modern Asian poetry

Week 13
Revision and oral presentations

Week 14
FINAL EXAMINATION

COURSE TEXTS

1. A selected reading for LIT 3003
2. Handouts
3. The Bible, Song of Songs
4. David Cook & David Rubadiri, *Poems from East Africa*
5. Homer: The Odyssey and Iliad

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

COURSE EVALUATION

Attendance	10%
Assignments	10%
Group presentation	10%
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.