

UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY – AFRICA
SEMESTER
TIME/DAYS:
ROOM: LT1
LIT 4815: ORAL LITERATURE
COURSE: SYLLABUS
CREDIT: 3 UNITS
LECTURER:

1. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course offers an in-depth exploration of oral literature as a separate genre of literature, and investigates contemporary and emerging genres such as urban legends and jokes. An intensive examination of oral literature of selected indigenous communities will be the focus of the course.

2. EXPECTED OUTCOMES

By the end of the course students shall be able to do the following:

- a) Identify the various genres of oral literature.
- b) Classify and sub-classify oral literature into its respective genres and sub-genres.
- c) Examine the relevance and functions of oral literature.
- d) Systematically study and analyze the different genres of oral literature.

3. CONTENT

WEEK ONE

A general introduction to oral literature as a genre of literature.

Components of oral literature

Developments in the study of oral literature

WEEK TWO

The nature of oral literature

Oral literature and society

WEEK THREE

Approaches to the study of oral literature: Theoretical approaches

Evolutionism

Diffusionism

Functionalism

Formalism

Structuralism

WEEK FOUR

Genres of oral literature

Oral narratives: Nature and Function

Myths

Legends

Etiological tales

Folktales

WEEK FIVE:

Oral poetry: Nature and Function

Epics

Songs

Chants

WEEK SIX:

The short forms: Nature and Function

Proverbs

Riddles

Popular sayings

Contemporary genres

Jokes

Urban legends

WEEK SEVEN:

Fieldwork and research

Justifications for oral literature research

MID-QUARTER EXAMINATION

WEEK EIGHT

Approaches to oral literature research

Extensive research

Intensive research

WEEK NINE:

Research Method

Research Methodology

WEEK TEN:

Oral literature in the modern society

Oral literature and ICT

WEEK ELEVEN:

Stylistic and structural analysis

Narratives

Oral poems

Short forms

WEEK TWELVE

Oral literature and gender

Group work and research presentations

WEEK THIRTEEN:

- Recap of the course
- Consultation, write up and submission of research paper.

WEEK 14

FINAL EXAMINATION

1. TEACHING APPROACHES

Lecture: class writing tasks, exercises, assignments, and collaborative discussions.

2. COURSE TEXT

1. Miruka, Okumba. Studying Oral Literature. Nairobi: Acacia Santex, 1999.

2. Adagala, Kavetsa & Kabira, Wanjiku.(ed). Kenyan Oral Narratives: Aselection. Nairobi: E.A.E.P.,1994.

3. OTHER READINGS

4. COURSE EVALUATION

Attendance and participation	10%
Essays & Assignments	15%
One research paper	15%
Group presentation & Report	10%
Mid – Quarter Exam	20%
Final Exam	30%

GRADING

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