Cultural Anthropology in Contemporary Africa
ANT 3930-12GG/AFS 4935-139B
Fall 2013

Instructor: Ben Burgen
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Phone: (352) 575-6501
Office: Turlington B329
Office Hours: MW 10:00am – 12:00pm
Classroom: Turlington L005
Course Meeting Time: MWF Period 6 (12:50-1:40pm)

Course Description
Modern Africa is a vibrant and varied place today. The intention of this course is to familiarize students with the variety of life-ways taking place across the continent today, to provide a historical context to frame students’ familiarity with contemporary Africa, and to introduce some recent anthropological thought and ethnography addressing the continent. There are many challenges facing Africa today and in this class we will address the ways that Africans are adapting to changing circumstances and a variety of creative responses. The ethnographic readings for this class explore these complexities by addressing both tradition and modernity. The primary objectives of the course are listed below.

At the end of the class students will be able to:
1. Describe and explain several contemporary cultural realities that exist on the African continent;
2. Identify, summarize, and discuss multiple foci of cultural anthropological inquiry taking place on the African continent and the contemporary African diaspora;
3. Classify and discuss several factors that anthropologists have identified as driving cultural change in Africa today;
4. Build critical thinking, reading, and writing skills.

Required Books:
**Supplemental Materials:**
In addition to the three required texts, additional readings will be made available with the intention of familiarizing students with current scholarly work being performed in Africa by UF anthropology faculty and graduate students. Where possible we will have in-class presentations by UF cultural anthropologists about their work.

All supplemental course materials will be available through the course e-learning website.

**Note:** The instructor reserves the right to modify the course schedule in response to unforeseen circumstances or opportunities. However, no changes will be made to the exam schedule or assignment due dates.

**Course Structure and Requirements**

**Attendance and Participation (20%)**
Not including the first day of class, you will be allowed three unexcused absences. Starting with your fourth absence and upon every subsequent absence 1% will be deducted from your final grade up to a total of 20%. Otherwise you will be expected to show up for class and participate actively in class discussions.

Excusable absences are defined by official UF policy. Excusable absences include religious holidays, illness, family emergency, and UF athletic or extracurricular activities. Further information on this policy can be found online at: [https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx](https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx)

In order to receive excused absences students must make a good faith effort to inform the instructor in advance. Students are responsible for making up course material covered during their absence whether excused or unexcused. Students are advised to visit the instructor during office hours with any questions about material covered during their absence.

In the event that a student regularly attends class, but does not participate, the instructor has the discretion to deduct points from the attendance and participation grade up to 10%.

**Reading Questions (10%)**
You will be expected to submit two questions by email to the instructor before the beginning of class which address the readings for class and provoke either discussion or clarification for 10 class sessions during the semester. Each of these will count for 1% of your grade.
Presentations (20%)

You will be expected to make two presentations during the course of the semester. One presentation (lasting approximately 10 minutes) will be an explanation of an African country which provides current facts and figures as well as current issues of interest which could be the focus of ethnographic inquiry. This presentation will take place on either September 18th or 20th, and is worth 5% of your final grade.

A second presentation worth 15% of your final grade will entail leading class discussion of the readings for one class period related to either Global Shadows or Nostalgia for the Future (between September 23rd and November 20th). You will be expected to present the assigned reading material and facilitate discussion for 30 minutes in order to receive full credit. Students must select a date to present by or before August 30th. Only one student may present on a particular day and selection preference will be given on a first-come, first-served basis.

Exams (25%)

Two exams will be held for the course (a midterm 10% and a final 15%). Each exam will cover materials from class readings, films, and discussions up to the date that they are taken. The final exam will be comprehensive. Exams will be composed of a mix of multiple choice, short answer, and/or essay questions.

Film Response (10%)

You will be required to write 500 word minimum response papers for two of the films viewed in class (each worth 5%). These responses should show that you watched the film attentively and have thought critically about the content.

Book Review (15%)

You are expected to write a book review of either the Ferguson or Piot book. This should reflect a careful and critical reading and may bring in themes from classroom discussions. It should be a minimum of 2000 words and is due by the last day of class.

Extra Credit: Two extra credit assignments will be made available during the course of the semester each worth 2.5% for an available total of 5% extra credit.

Final Grade

This course will use the grading scale below.

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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>A-</th>
<th>B+</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>B-</th>
<th>C+</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>C-</th>
<th>D+</th>
<th>D</th>
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<td>Tot %</td>
<td>93-100</td>
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<td>73-76</td>
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<td>67-69</td>
<td>63-66</td>
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**Academic Honesty**
The importance of academic honesty is paramount. There will be severe penalties for any act of plagiarism, deception, or fraud. University guidelines relating to academic honesty can be found on the undergraduate catalog website as well as at the Dean of Students website. Specific information regarding university expectations of appropriate student conduct are listed in the student honor code at:

**Plagiarism & Cheating**
Plagiarism is the act of using someone else’s ideas and words without acknowledging their authorship. Any act of plagiarism or cheating will result in a zero for the assignment and may be referred to the Dean of Students for further discipline.

**Campus Resources**
Any student experiencing a crisis or other problems which interfere with their ability to pursue academic coursework or affect their general wellbeing is encouraged to make use of the university’s counseling resources. The University Counseling Center and Student Mental Health services both provide confidential counseling to current students for free. Information on the University Counseling Center can be found at www.counsel.ufl.edu and for Student Mental Health at www.hsc.ufl.edu/shcc/smhs.htm

**Assistance for Students with Disabilities**
The office of the Dean of Students is available to coordinate accommodations for students with special needs. This includes the registration of disabilities, accommodations for classroom access, adaptive computer equipment, and interpretation services. Students requesting assistance should first register with the Disability Resource Center. Students should then present appropriate paperwork to the instructor by the drop/add period deadline. More information is available at www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/ or (352) 392-8565.

**Course Outline**

August 21 (W) – Review of Syllabus & Introduction to Course

**Mise-en-scène – Background Knowledge**
August 23 (F) – Africa & Africans p. 1-32

August 26 (M) – Africa & Africans p. 33-61
August 28 (W) – Africa & Africans p. 62-86

August 30 (F) – Africa & Africans p.87-113

September 2 (M) – HOLIDAY

September 4 (W) – Film: Asante Market Women pt. 1

September 6 (F) – Film: Asante Market Women pt. 2 + Africa & Africans p.114-128

September 9 (M) – Africa & Africans p.129-150

September 11 (W) – Africa & Africans p.151-190

September 13 (F) – Africa & Africans p.191-228

September 16 (M) – Africa & Africans p.229-269

September 18 (W) – Student Presentations on African Countries

September 20 (F) – Student Presentations on African Countries

**Africa in the Neoliberal World**
September 23 (M) – Global Shadows p.1-24

September 25 (W) – Guest Lecture – Health, AIDS, & Foreign Assistance

September 27 (F) – Global Shadows p.25-49

September 30 (M) – Global Shadows p.50-68

October 2 (W) – Global Shadows p.69-88

October 4 (F) – Film: When China met Africa, pt. 1

October 7 (M) -- Film: When China met Africa, pt. 2

October 9 (W) — Global Shadows p.89-112
October 11 (F) – Guest Lecture – Community Radio & Empowerment

October 14 (M) – review for midterm

October 16 (W) – MIDTERM EXAM

October 18 (F) – Global Shadows p.113-154

October 21 (M) — Global Shadows p.155-175

October 23 (W) — Global Shadows p.176-193

October 25 (F) — Global Shadows p.194-210

October 28 (M) — Guest Lecture – Environment, Resource Extraction, & Impacts on Local Lives

**Ethnography in Dynamic Times**

October 30 (W) — Film: This is Nollywood

November 1 (F) — Guest Lecture – African Hip Hop Culture

November 4 (M) – Nostalgia for the Future p.1-20

November 6 (W) – Nostalgia for the Future p.21-52

November 8 (F) – HOLIDAY

November 11 (M) – HOLIDAY

November 13 (W) – Nostalgia for the Future p.53-76

November 15 (F) – Nostalgia for the Future p.77-96

November 18 (M) – Nostalgia for the Future p.97-132

November 20 (W) – Nostalgia for the Future p.133-170
November 22 (F) – Film: Taxi to Timbuktu pt. 1

November 25 (M) – Film: Taxi to Timbuktu pt. 2

November 27 (W) – HOLIDAY

November 29 (F) – HOLIDAY

December 2 (M) – Summary Discussion on Views of Contemporary Africa in the United States and Around the World

December 4 (W) – review for final

The final exam will be conducted during scheduled exam time listed in the course catalog.