

Instructor: Dr. Abdoulaye Kane  
Grinter Hall, 439  
Tel 392 6788, E-mail: [akane@anthro.ufl.edu](mailto:akane@anthro.ufl.edu)  
Office Hours: Wednesdays from 10:00AM to 12:00 PM

### **ANG6930/9294 & AFS6905/2376 “Diasporas of Africa”**

**Tuesday, period 7-9 (1:55 PM to 4:55PM), Room: TUR 2341**

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

African Diaspora(s) have attracted recently a lot of interest from various specialists in social sciences and the humanities. But there is a lot of confusion and variation in the way in which scholars define the African Diaspora(s). Some tend to limit the label Diaspora to exclusively the black communities in the Caribbean and in the Americas. The shared experience of a violent dispersal through enslavement is evoked as legitimating the use of Diaspora in their particular case. The use of the Jewish case as a prototype of what a Diaspora is or should be makes the violent dispersal a prerequisite to the formation of a diasporic identity.

The post Second World War migration has brought to Europe and to North America different wave of refugees and economic migrants from the African continent. These Africans are reconstructing their homes far away from Africa. In some of the receiving countries they have created vibrant African communities living in between host and home countries. Some scholars have extended the use of the term Diaspora to these new African communities arguing that they display some of the fundamental characteristics of diasporic identities. This seminar will address both the old and new African Diaspora(s). It will examine a number of dimensions often associated with the formation and the maintenance of a diasporic identity: definition and relation to a homeland, consciousness of belonging, political activism, ambivalent relations with the host society, symbolic or physical return to home, and cultural reconstructions and the role or place of home and host societies in socio-cultural processes.

The seminar will also address the different attempts by the Diaspora(s) and African elites to foster solidarity between peoples of African descent around the globe and the African continent based on the idea of blackness and resistance to racial discrimination and colonization. It will examine the history of the Pan African movement and the different political reasons of its weakening. It will also cover the recent revival of Pan African ideas through the creation of the African union and the considerable expectations that African leaders have towards both the old and new African Diaspora(s).

#### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

##### **Participation: 40 points**

Each student will be expected to participate in class discussion. Students will be evaluated for their familiarity with required readings and their productive contributions to class debate.

**Oral Presentation: 80 points**

Each student will be expected to give 1 oral presentation of the required readings for one class and then lead a discussion on the issues addressed in the reading material. To prepare for these presentations and discussions the student must not only read the assigned text, but also complementary readings pertinent to the questions and themes at study. (It is not a requirement but those who want to talk to me about their presentation or their strategy for stimulating and leading discussion can come to me during my office hours).

**Précis's of Reading: 50 points**

Each student is required to write a précis for seven classes. A précis is a relatively brief (1-2 pages) summary of critical thought that arise during your reading. It should include: (1) the primary argument of the text (s); (2) note on the object of analysis and kinds of evidence; (3) the intellectual, disciplinary, and /or political context of the work. These should be left in my mailbox (Anthropology Office, first floor Turlington) by 12am each Monday morning.

**Questions on readings: 30 points**

Each student will be expected to write 3 questions that he or she found important about the required readings. The questions have to be asked in class and turned in to the instructor at the end of each class.

**Research Paper: 100 points**

Each student will be expected to write a research paper of 15 pages. The paper should be double-spaced, in 12 pt font, with 1" margins on all sides. This paper may review some substantive matter of interest to the student, or directly address a theoretical issue of relevance to African Diaspora(s). Please talk to me about your topic and focus by the end of February. This paper will be due on the last day of class. Place all papers in my mailbox in the Anthropology Office by 4 pm on that day. There will be no extensions.

**REQUIRED BOOKS**

- 1-Kevin K. Gaines (2006). *American Africans in Ghana: Black Expatriates and the Civil Right Era*. University of North Carolina Press: Chapel Hill. 342p.
- 2-Paul Gilroy (1993). *The Black Atlantic: Modernity and Double Consciousness*. Harvard University Press, 261p.
- 3-Michelle Wright (2004). *Becoming Black: Creating Identity in the African Diaspora*. Durham: Duke University Press.
- 4-Kevin A. Yelvington (2006). *Afro-Atlantic Dialogues: Anthropology in the Diaspora*. Santa Fe: School of American Research Press. Part I
- 5-Lorand Matory (2005). *Black Atlantic Religion: Tradition, Transnationalism, and Matriarchy in the Afro Brazilian Candomblé*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. Chap 1 to 4.
- 6-Brent Hayes Edwards (2003). *The Practice of Diaspora. Literature, Translation, and the Rise of Black Internationalism*.

7-Jacqueline Copeland-Carson (2004). *Creating Africa in America: Translocal Identity in an Emerging World City*. Philadelphia. University of Pennsylvania Press.

**These books will be available in the course reserve at the Library West. Some of the books are available for purchase at the University Bookstore. For the rest of the books, I recommend students to purchase them online.**

## **MEETING SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNED READING**

### **Week 1: *Syllabus Presentation***

**Tu. Jan 11**

#### ***Seminar Overview***

### **Week 2**

**Tu. Jan 18: *Defining Diaspora***

Robin Cohen (1997). *Global Diasporas. An Introduction*. Chapter 1: Classical Notions of Diaspora: transcending the Jewish tradition. UCL Press, pp. 1-29. Chapter 2: Victim Diasporas. Africans and Armenians, pp. 31-55.

Kim D. Butler: "Defining Diaspora, Refining a Discourse". In *Diaspora* 10:2 2001, pp. 189-219.

James Clifford (1997). *Routes. Travel and Translation in the Late Twentieth Century*. Harvard University Press. Chapter 10: "Diasporas", pp. 244-277.

### **Week 3: *Theorizing the African Diaspora***

**Tu. Jan 25**

Ruth Simms Hamilton (2007). *Routes of Passage. Rethinking the African Diaspora*. Michigan State University press. Vol. 1 Part 1.

Deborah A. Thomas and Tina M. Campt, Dialogue Participants: Jacqueline Nassy Brown and Bayo Holsey (2006). "Diasporic Hegemonies: Slavery, Memory, and genealogies of Diaspora." *Transforming Anthropology*, Vol. 14, Issue 2, pp. 163-172

Deborah A. Thomas and Tina M. Campt, Dialogue Participants: Maureen Mahon and Lena Sawyer (2007). *Diasporic Hegemonies: Popular Culture and Transnational Blackness*. *Transforming Anthropology*, Vol. 15, Numbers 1, pp. 50-62

Paul Tiyambe Zeleza (2010). Reconceptualizing African Diasporas: Notes from a Historian.” *Transforming Anthropology*, Vol. 18, Number 1, pp. 74–78

**Week 4: *Articulating a Counter Discourse to Western Modernity***

**Tu. Feb 1:**

Michelle Wright (2004). *Becoming Black: Creating Identity in the African Diaspora*. Durham: Duke University Press.

**Week 5: *Black Internationalism: The Role of Translation***

**Tu. Feb 8**

Brent Hayes Edwards (2003). *The Practice of Diaspora: Literature, Translation, and the Rise of Black Internationalism*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.

**Week 6: *Black Atlantic: The Middle Passage as a Starting Point of the African Diaspora***

**Tu. Feb 15**

Paul Gilroy (1993). *The Black Atlantic: Modernity and Double Consciousness*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.

**Week 7:**

Glick, Elisa F. (2003). “Harlem's Queer Dandy: African-American Modernism and the Artifice of Blackness.” *MFS Modern Fiction Studies*, Volume 49, Number 3, Fall 2003, pp. 414-442

Thomas, Deborah A. (2002). “Modern Blackness: “What We Are and What We Hope to Be.” *Small Axe*, Number 12 (Volume 6, Number 2), September 2002, pp. 25-48

Landsman, Ned C. (2004). “Roots, Routes, and Rootedness Diversity, Migration, and Toleration in Mid-Atlantic Pluralism.” *Early American Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal*, Volume 2, Number 2, Fall 2004, pp. 267-309 (Article)

**Week 8: Religion and African Roots**

**Tu. Feb 22**

Lorand Matroy (2005). *Black Atlantic Religion: Tradition, Transnationalism, and Matriarchy in the Afro Brazilian Candomblé*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. Chap 1 to 4.

Andrew Apter (2002). “On African origins: creolization and connaissance in Haitian Vodou.” *American Ethnologist* 29(2):233-260

**Week 9:**

**Tu. Mar 1**

Lorand Matory (2005). *Black Atlantic Religion: Tradition, Transnationalism, and Matriarchy in the Afro Brazilian Candomblé*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. Chap 5 to 7.

**Week 10**

**Tu. Mar 8: Spring Break**

**Week 11: *Bringing Back Africa into the Picture***

**Tu. Mar 15**

Kevin A. Yelvington (2006). *Afro-Atlantic Dialogues: Anthropology in the Diaspora*. Santa Fe: School of American Research Press. Part I

**Week 12:**

**Tu. Mar 22**

Kevin A. Yelvington (2006). *Afro-Atlantic Dialogues: Anthropology in the Diaspora*. Santa Fe: School of American Research Press. Part II.

**Week 13: *Pan Africanism and the Fight against Colonization in Africa and Racial Discrimination in America***

**Tu. Mar 29**

Kevin K. Gaines (2006). *Black Expatriates and the Civil Right Era: American Africans in Ghana*. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press. Chap 1 to 5.

**Week 14: Tu. Apr 5**

Frank Guridy (2009). "Feeling Diaspora in Harlem and Havana." *Social Text* 98, Vol. 27, No. 1, spring 2009, pp. 115-140.

Ricardo L. Ortiz (2008). "On (Our) American Ground: Caribbean-Latino-Diasporic Cultural Production and the Postnational "Guantanamo". " *Social Text* 94, Vol. 26, No. 1, Spring 2008, pp. 3-28

Jemima Pierre (2009). "Beyond Heritage Tourism: Race and the Politics of African-Diasporic Interactions." *Social Text* 98, Vol. 27, No. 1, spring 2009, pp. 59-81.

**Week 15: The New African Diasporas**

**Tu. Apr 12**

Kwado Konadu-Agyemang, Baffour K. Takyi, and John Arthur (2006). *The New African Diaspora in North America. Trends, Community Building, and Adaptation*. Lexington Books. Part III, chap 13, 15 & 16.

**Week 16: Contemporary Forms of reinventing Africa in America**

**Tu. Apr 19**

Jacqueline Copeland-Carson (2004). *Creating Africa in America: Translocal Identity in an Emerging World City*. Philadelphia. University of Pennsylvania Press.