

Instructor : Dr. Abdoulaye Kane
Office Hours: Tuesday: From 9:30 to 11:30
Office location: Grinter Hall, #439.
Tel: 352 392 6788
E-mail: akane@anthro.ufl.edu

ANG 5354/ANT4354/ AFS4935/ AFS6905: “ANTHROPOLOGY OF MODERN AFRICA”
Sections: 8195/ 9531/ 5036/ 8254
Fridays from 9:35AM to 12:30PM.

MAT 51

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Africa is clearly the most culturally diverse continent in the world. Euro-American mega theories have over the past centuries represented Africa as a unit of analysis as if the continent was an homogenous cultural entity. Until the 1940's Africa was imagined in the western anthropological discourse as fundamentally traditional, backward, primitive, and timeless. The focus of anthropological research has been until very recently on small scale rural societies that attracted curious westerners looking for the extreme otherness and exotic life styles. The generalizations that depicted Africa as an object of curiosity and wonders were in many ways a collection of ethnic particularities rather than the result of rigorous comparative analysis of various African realities across geopolitical locations. Of course Africans have many things in common. Africans share the history of encounters with the Arab and European worlds, the experience of slavery and colonization, and now the marginal positioning in the neoliberal World Order.

This course examines through several ethnographies the new representations of Africa and Africans using the prism of modernity. To what extent these new forms of representation using the same Euro-American epistemologies render better African experiences than the old anthropological theories? A central preoccupation of the course is to unveil the extreme flexibility and adaptability of African societies in interacting with other areas of the world. The course examines the various local and global forces of change affecting socio-cultural, economic and political processes across the continent and shaping daily life experiences. It detects the different ways African societies accommodate and some time resist to global forces. The course explores also, the different ways Africans develop alternative forms of modernity through consumption, education and mobility.

READING MATERIAL

Charles Piot (1999). *Remotely Global: Village Modernities in West Africa*. Chicago & London : The University of Chicago Press.

James Ferguson (1999). *Expectations of Modernity. Myths and Meaning of Urban Life on the Zambian Copperbelt*. University of California Press, Berkeley, Los Angeles, London,

James Ferguson (2006). *Global Shadows. Africa in the Neoliberal World Order*. Durham & London: Duke University Press.

Sally Falk Moore (1994). *Anthropology and Africa. Changing Perspectives on a Changing Scene*. Charlottesville: The University Press of Virginia.

Peter Geschiere (1997). *The modernity of Witchcraft*. Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia.

Jan-Georg Deutsch, Peter Probst & Heike Schmidt (ed.) (2002). *African Modernities*. Oxford: James Currey.

Bob W. White (2008). *Rumba Rules. Politics of Dance Music in Mobutu's Zaire*. Durham & London: Duke University Press.

Achille Mbembe & Sarah Nutall (2008). *Johannesburg. The Elusive Metropolis*. Durham & London: Duke University Press.

Paul Stoller (2005). *Gallery Bundu: A Story about an African Past*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press.

Paul Stoller (2002). *Money Has No Smell: The Africanization of New York City*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press.

Janet MacGaffey & Remy-Bazenguissa-Ganga (2000). *Congo-Paris. Transnational Traders on the Margins of the Law*. Bloomington & Indianapolis: Indiana University Press.

Katz Cindi (2004). *Growing up Global: Economic Restructuring and Children's Everyday Lives*. University of Minnesota Press.

These books can be purchased at the UF bookstore. They are also available from the UF Library Home page through Course Reserve (ARES). The material is listed under the Course Number. You may access this from any UF library and other on-campus locations or from home through the VPN/Remote Access Log-in. You will need to enter a UF ID # and a library ID #, which can be activated at any UF Library.

Participation: 40 points

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

Oral Presentation: 80 points

Student of AFS6905 and ANG5354 will be expected to give one 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 questions and themes being covered. (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 (AFS6905 and ANG 5354) and 4 classes (AFS4935 and ANT 4354). A précis is a relatively brief (1-2 pages) summary of critical thoughts 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 4pm each Wednesday afternoon.

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 (AFS 6905, ANG5354) and of 7 pages (AFS4935 and ANT4354). 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 Modernity from an anthropological perspective. 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.

The instructor reserves the right to make minor modifications to the course schedule and reading assignments during the semester.

SCHEDULE OF CLASS MEETINGS

Fr jan. 9: Syllabus and course overview

Fri jan 16: History of Anthropology in Africa

Reading: Sally Falk Moore. Anthropology and Africa.

Reading: Paul Stoller (2005). Gallery Bundu: A Story about an African Past.

Fri jan 23: Defining African modernity

Reading: Charles Piot (1999). Remotely Global. chap 1 to 3

Fri jan 30: Alternative modernity

Reading: Charles Piot (1999). Remotely Global, chap 4 to end.

Fri Feb 6: Alternative Modernity

Reading: Peter Geschiere (1997). The Modernity of Witchcraft. Chap 1 to 6.

Fri Feb 13: Failure of Modernization

Reading: James Ferguson (1999). *Expectation of Modernity*. Chap. 1,2, and 5.

Fri Feb 20: Anthropology of Africa in a globalization era

Reading: James Ferguson (2006). *Global Shadows*. Chap 1 to end.

Fri Feb 27: Reproduction of Structural Inequalities and the Youth

Reading: Cindy Katz (2004). *Growing up Global*. chap 1 to end.

Fri Mar 6: From an Anthropology of the village to the Anthropology of the metropolis

Reading: Achille Mbembe & Sarah Nutall, chap 1 to 7

Fri Mar 20: Manifestations of Modernity in African cities

Reading: Achille Mbembe & Sarah Nutall, chap 7 to end.

Fri Mar 27: Political Anthropology of Popular Culture

Reading: Bob White (2007). *Rumba Rules*. Chap 1 to end.

Fri Apr 3: Anthropology of the African Diaspora

Reading: Paul Stoller (2002). *Money Has No Smell*. Chap 1 to End.

Fri Apr 10: Anthropology of the African Diaspora

Reading: Janet MacGaffey (1999). *Congo-Paris*. Chap 1 to end.

Fri Apr 17: Subjective Incarnations of Modernity

Reading: Jan-Georg Deutsch, Peter Probst, Heike Schmidt (2002). *African Modernities*. Chap. 1 to 4.