

Instructor: Dr. Abdoulaye Kane

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Office Hours: Tuesday from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

ANG6930/062G, ANT4930/062F & AFS6905/0813, AFS4935/0811“Diasporas of Africa”

Wednesday, period 3-5 (9:35 PM to 12:35PM), Room: UST 0105

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.

Academic Honesty: The University places a high premium on academic honesty. Accordingly, severe penalties are imposed for plagiarism and other instances of deception or fraud. The university's policies regarding intellectual honesty are detailed in the Academic Honesty Guidelines, printed in full in the current Undergraduate Catalog.

Campus Helping Resources

Students experiencing crisis or personal problems that interfere with their general wellbeing are encouraged to utilize the university's counseling resources. Both the Counseling Center and Student Mental Health provide confidential counseling services at no cost for currently enrolled students. Resources are available on campus for students having personal or lacking clear career and academic goals, which interfere with their academic performance. The Counseling Center is located at 301 Peabody Hall (next to Criser Hall). Student Mental Health is located on the second floor of the Student Health Services in the Infirmary.

1. *University Counseling Center*, 301 Peabody Hall, 392-1575; personal and career counseling: www.counsel.ufl.edu
2. *Student Mental Health*, Student Health Care Center, 392-1171, personal counseling: www.hsc.ufl.edu/shcc/smhs.htm
3. *Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS)*, Student Health Care Center, 392-1161, sexual assault counseling; and
4. *Career Resource Center*, Reitz Union, 392-1601, career development assistance and counseling.

Students with Disabilities Act

The Dean of Students Office coordinates the needed accommodations of students with disabilities. This includes the registration of disabilities, academic accommodations within the classroom, accessing special adaptive computer equipment, providing interpretation services, and mediating faulty-student disability related issues. *Dean of Students Office*, 202 Peabody Hall, 392-7066, www.dso.ufl.edu.

MEETING SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNED READING

Week 1: Syllabus Presentation

Wed. Jan 9

Seminar Overview

Week 2

Wed. Jan 16: *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*

Wed. Jan 22

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

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*

Wed. Jan 29:

Paul Gilroy (1993). *The Black Atlantic: Modernity and Double Consciousness*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press. Chapter 1 to 3.

Week 5: *The Cultural Dynamics of the Black Atlantic*

Wed. Feb 6

Paul Gilroy (1993). *The Black Atlantic: Modernity and Double Consciousness*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press. Chapter 4 to end.

Week 6: Blackness and Subjectivity

Wed. Feb 13

Michelle Wright (2004). *Becoming Black: Creating Identity in the African Diaspora*. Durham: Duke University Press. Chapter 1 to 3.

Week 7: Dialogical Subjects

Wed. Feb 20

Michelle Wright (2004). *Becoming Black: Creating Identity in the African Diaspora*. Durham: Duke University Press. Chapter 4 to end.

Week 8: Literary Productions and the Creation of Black Internationalism

Wed. Feb 27

Brent Hayes Edwards (2003). *The Practice of Diaspora: Literature, Translation, and the Rise of Black Internationalism*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press. Chapter 1 to 3.

Week 9: Spring Break

Wed. Mar 6: Spring Break

Week 10: Black Paris: Travel and Translation

Wed. Mar 13

Michelle Wright (2004). *Becoming Black: Creating Identity in the African Diaspora*. Durham: Duke University Press. Chapter 4 to end.

Week 11: Religion and African Roots

Wed. Mar 20

Lorand Matory (2005). *Black Atlantic Religion: Tradition, Transnationalism, and Matriarchy in the Afro Brazilian Candomblé*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. Chap 1 to 3.

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

Week 12: Social Production of Matriarchy in the Afro-Brazilian Candomblé

Wed. Mar 27

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

Week 13: Old Debate and New Perspective in the Anthropology of the African Diaspora

Wed. Apr 3

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

Week 14: *Pan Africanism and the Fight against Colonization in Africa and Racial Discrimination in America*

Wed. Apr 10

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 15: The New African Diasporas

Wed. Apr 19

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

Wed. Apr 24

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