

Dr. Abdoulaye Kane
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AFS4935/ANG 4354 'ANTHROPOLOGY OF MODERN AFRICA'

Sections: 08H2/139C

Tuesday: 7 periods. 1:55 to 2:45. Bat. Tur. Room: 2336
Thursday: 7-8 periods 1:55 to 3:50. Bat. Tur. Room: 2336
Office hours: Tuesday from 10:00am to 12:00pm.

Course description

Modern Africa is facing substantial challenges as it enters the 21st century. The responses Africans are elaborating to meet these challenges are drawn from their rich cultures. In this class students will be introduced to modern Africa from an anthropological perspective that focuses on the representation of Africa by Euro-American epistemologies in which the concepts of tradition, modernity and modernization are central. The class will be exploring the ways in which these representations by social scientists affect social, cultural, and economic practices and processes in the continent. The ethnographies we will be using in this class address in different ways the following questions: How Africans are coping with changing circumstances while continuing to express differently their thoughts, beliefs, and values in the historical context of globalization? How are they managing to combine "tradition" and "modernity" through worship, work, celebration of social events, and pop culture?

The course offers students some fundamental principles that are necessary for a proper understanding of the anthropological perspective on actual African societies and cultures. The main objective is to help students to develop a more analytical perspective on Africa and its place in the world.

Required Books

1. James Howard Smith (2008). *Bewitching Development. Witchcraft and the Reinvention of Development in Neoliberal Kenya*. The University of Chicago Press.
2. Sasha Newell (2012). *The Modernity Bluff. Crime, Consumption, and Citizenship in Côte d'Ivoire*. The University of Chicago Press.
3. James Ferguson (2006). *Global shadows*. Duke University Press.
4. Bob W. White (2008). *Rumba Rules. The Politics of Dance Music in Mobutu's Zaire*. Duke University Press.
5. Stephen Ellis (2011). *Season of Rains: Africa in the world*. The University of Chicago Press.

These books can be purchased at the University Bookstore. Some of these books might be available in the course reserve associated with this class at the Library West.

Complementary readings:

Edward Bruner (2005). *Culture on Tour. Ethnographies of Travel*. The University of Chicago Press.

This book and the articles assigned for this class will be available in the course reserve associated with this class at the Library West. Please make copies of relevant chapters ahead of time.

Requirements

1. Attendance and participation (40 points)

After the first day of class I will pass around an attendance sheet for each student to sign. You are allowed 3 absences without penalty. After 3 absences, 10 points will be subtracted from your attendance and participation grade for each additional absence. Exceptions to this rule will only be granted under **extreme circumstances** (as judged by instructor).

2. Quizzes (60 points)

Three Quizzes will be administered throughout the semester. They will be a mix of short answer and multiple choice questions. No make up quizzes will be given unless students have good and documented excuses. The quizzes will be announced one week ahead of time.

3. Midterm Test (100 points)

The midterm exam will be given out in-class on Thursday, February 28. The exam will cover all material from the readings, films and in-class discussions from week one to week 7.

4. Book Review (60 points)

Each student should pick up one book from the four required books and write a 10-page double-spaced review. You are required to notify me in advance of which book you will review. The book review should be organized as follows. Give a summary of all chapter in two pages. Explore the main arguments of the author and his views on relevant debate about African modernity in Anthropology in 6 pages. Use the two remaining pages to critically reflect on the book by pointing out its contribution to scholarship and its weaknesses.

5. Final Test (140 points)

Just like the midterm exam but covering all material from week 8 to week 15. The final will be given out in-class on Thursday, April 18.

The final grade will be assigned according to the table:

Grade	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	E
Tot % of points	93-100	90-92	87-89	83-86	80-82	77-79	73-76	70-72	67-69	63-66	60-62	<60

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**.

Course outline

Tue, Jan 8: **Orientation, course overview.**

Thu, Jan 10: **Anthropology and Africa**

- ❖ Donald L. Donham (2001). "Thinking Temporally or Modernizing Anthropology." *American Anthropologist* 103(1):134-149.

Tue, Jan 15: **Representing Africa: The Illusion of a Shared Identity Based on Race**

- ❖ James Ferguson. 2006. *Global Shadows: Africa in the Neoliberal World Order*. Introduction.
- ❖ Stephen Ellis. 2011. *Season of Rains: Africa in the world*. Introduction

Thu, Jan 17

- ❖ James Ferguson. 2006. *Global Shadows: Africa in the Neoliberal World Order*. Chapters 1 and 2.
- ❖ Stephen Ellis. 2011. *Season of Rains: Africa in the world*. Chapter 1.

Tue, Jan 22

- ❖ James Ferguson. 2006. *Global Shadows: Africa in the Neoliberal World Order*. Chapters 3 and 4.
- ❖ Stephen Ellis. 2011. *Season of Rains: Africa in the world*. Chapter 2

Thu, Jan 24

- ❖ James Ferguson. 2006. *Global Shadows: Africa in the Neoliberal World Order*. Chapters 5 and 6
- ❖ Stephen Ellis. 2011. *Season of Rains: Africa in the world*. Chapters 3 and 4.

Tue, Jan 28

- ❖ James Ferguson. 2006. *Global Shadows: Africa in the Neoliberal World Order*. Chapter 7.
- ❖ Stephen Ellis. 2011. *Season of Rains: Africa in the world*. Chapter 5

Thu, Jan 30

- ❖ James Ferguson. 2006. *Global Shadows: Africa in the Neoliberal World Order*. Chapter 8
- ❖ Stephen Ellis. 2011. *Season of Rains: Africa in the world*. Chapter 6.

Tue, Feb 5: African Modernity and Popular Culture: Modernity Performed

- ❖ Sasha Newell. 2012. *The Modernity Bluff: Crime, Consumption, and Citizenship in Côte d'Ivoire*. Introduction

Thu, Feb 7

- ❖ Sasha Newell. 2012. The Modernity Bluff: Crime, Consumption, and Citizenship in Côte d'Ivoire. Chapters 1 and 2.

Tue, Feb 12

- ❖ Sasha Newell. 2012. The Modernity Bluff: Crime, Consumption, and Citizenship in Côte d'Ivoire. Chapter 3

Thu, Feb 14

- ❖ Sasha Newell. 2012. The Modernity Bluff: Crime, Consumption, and Citizenship in Côte d'Ivoire. Chapters 4 and 5.

Tue, Feb 19

- ❖ Sasha Newell. 2012. The Modernity Bluff: Crime, Consumption, and Citizenship in Côte d'Ivoire. Chapter 6 and conclusion.

Thu, Feb 21: **The Politics of Culture and “Authenticity” in Post-colonial Africa**

- ❖ Bob White. 2008. Rumba Rules. The Politics of Dance Music in Mobutu's Zaire. Chapters 1 and 2.

Tue, Feb 26.

- ❖ Bob White. 2008. Rumba Rules. The Politics of Dance Music in Mobutu's Zaire. Chapter 3.

Thu, Feb 28: **Midterm Test**

Tue, Mar 5: Spring Break

Thu, Mar 7: Spring Break

Tue, Mar 12:

- ❖ Bob White. 2008. Rumba Rules. The Politics of Dance Music in Mobutu's Zaire. Chapter 4

Thu, Mar 14

- ❖ Bob White. 2008. Rumba Rules. The Politics of Dance Music in Mobutu's Zaire. Chapters 5 and 6

Tue, Mar 19

- ❖ Bob White. 2008. Rumba Rules. The Politics of Dance Music in Mobutu's Zaire. Chapters 7

Thu, Mar 21

- ❖ Bob White. 2008. Rumba Rules. The Politics of Dance Music in Mobutu's Zaire. Chapter 8

Tue, Mar 26: **Tourism and the Performance of the Exotic**

- ❖ Edward Bruner (2005). *Culture on Tour. Ethnographies of Travel*. The University of Chicago Press. Chapters 1 and 2.

Thu, Mar 28

- ❖ Edward Bruner (2005). *Culture on Tour. Ethnographies of Travel*. The University of Chicago Press. Chapter 3.
- ❖ Film: The Masai Today

Tue, Apr 2: **African Beliefs and Neoliberalism: The Idea of an Alternative African Modernity.**

- ❖ James Howard Smith (2008). *Bewitching Development*. Chapter 1

Thu, Apr 4

- ❖ James Howard Smith (2008). *Bewitching Development*. Chapters 2 and 3.
- ❖ Todd Sanders (2003). "Reconsidering Witchcraft: Postcolonial Africa and Analytic (Un)Certainties." *American Anthropologist* 105(2):338-352.

Tue, Apr 9

- ❖ James Howard Smith (2008). *Bewitching Development*. Chapter 4.
- ❖ Maia Green Simeon Mesaki "The birth of the "salon:" Poverty, "modernization," and dealing with witchcraft in southern Tanzania. *American Ethnologist*, Vol. 32, No. 3, pp. 371– 388

Thu, Apr 11

- ❖ James Howard Smith (2008). *Bewitching Development*. Chapters 5 and 6.

Tue, Apr 16:

- ❖ James Howard Smith (2008). *Bewitching Development*. Chapter 7 and conclusion.

Thu, Apr 18: **Final Test**

Tue, Apr 23: Concluding Remarks