

Syllabus

Instructor: Abdoulaye Kane

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Office hours: Thursday 2:00pm to 4:00 pm

ANT4930 (136G)/AFS 4935 (13C8) "Global Africa"

Tuesday, Period 4, TUR 2319

Thursday, Period 4-5, TUR 2319

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The literature on globalization has few pages devoted to Africa which is seen largely as a marginal continent in the overall process of the world progressive integration. Even in the few cases where Africa is mentioned in the debates about globalization, it is often presented as a victim rather than an actor of global processes. This course is designed to uncover the different ways in which Africa and Africans are engaged in the global exchanges of goods, ideas, people, and moneys that make them actors in the global arena. The course will explore the life of Africans abroad and the different ways in which African immigrants in Western contexts engage in activities cutting across national boundaries and connecting their home communities to global cities. Through a combination of Essays, Ethnographies, journal articles, and films the course will examine the place and role of Africa and Africans in the worldwide global connections. We will explore in the course the following foci:

- Africa's place in the global world economic order
- African youth and their participation in global culture
- Economic underdevelopment and the performance of modernity
- The Mobile phone revolution in Africa: At home in the World
- African Trade Networks
- African Migrants and their Transnational practices: Communication and Remittances

OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of this course are:

- To expose students to anthropological perspective in the representation of Africa and African societies and cultures by examining the wider historical processes that has set the stage for the transformation of the anthropological views on the African object/subject.
- To help students cultivate a greater command over current trends in social analysis and theorization about modernity, postcolonial subject, and the changing perspective on African realities.
- To enhance students' critical thinking and analytical writing skills.

READING MATERIAL

Required Reading

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

Sasha Newell (2012). *The Modernity Bluff: Crime, Consumption, and Citizenship in Côte d'Ivoire*. 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 and Remy Bazinguissa-Ganga (2000). *Congo-Paris*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press.

Brad Weiss (2009). *Street Dreams and Hip Hop Barbershops: Global Fantasy in Urban Tanzania*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press.

These books are available for purchase at the UF bookstore. Additional reading material is available at Library West in the course reserve section of this class. Please consult them at the library or make copies of relevant chapters ahead of time.

REQUIREMENTS

Readings and Participation (10 points)

Attendance and active discussion of the assigned readings are necessary to create the kind of intellectual engagement required for a collaborative learning milieu. I will circulate an attendance sheet every meeting, please make sure to sign your name before leaving class. Students are expected to read assigned texts before the class meetings and be prepared to contribute to class discussions. **Each meeting students will be required to submit 3 questions based on their reactions to the readings. Please send your questions by e-mail on Mondays for the Tuesday class meeting and on Wednesday for the Thursday class meeting.**

Quizzes (30 points)

In the course of the semester three quizzes will be given to Students to test their overall understanding of the issues covered in class. There will not be any make up unless the absentee presents to the instructor a convincing excuse of why he was absent.

Book Review (20 points)

Each student is expected to write a seven-page book review (double space, 12" font) on one of the books covered in this class. The book reviews should be turned in on December 4.

Midterm Test (20 points)

A midterm test will be given to Students. The midterm test will be over the themes covered in the first seven weeks of the class. It will consist of short answer questions, multiple choices, and a short essay.

Final Test (20 points)

A final Test will be administered at the end of the semester. It will consist of a series of short answer questions, multiple choices, and a short essay. It will cover the reading material from the 8th week to the end of class. The date of the final Test is December 4.

Academic Honesty:

All work submitted by a student for a grade must be completed by that student and free from unauthorized assistance or deliberate misrepresentations. The penalty for plagiarism or cheating is a grade of zero points on the assignment in question; in such cases an incident form will also be sent to the Office of the Dean of Students. If you have questions about what constitutes academic misconduct, please consult the UF Honor Code as well as the UF Policies on Academic Honesty, Student Rights and Responsibilities. These are available online at:

<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/studentguide/studentrights.php-academichonestyguidelines>.

ADA Statement: “Students with disabilities, who need reasonable modifications to complete assignments successfully and otherwise satisfy course criteria, are encouraged to meet with the instructor as early in the course as possible to identify and plan specific accommodations. Students will be asked to supply a letter from the Disability Resource Center to assist in planning accommodations.”

Grading Scale: The following scale will be used for grades on all assignments and exams: 94-100=A; 90-93=A-; 87-89=B+; 83-86=B; 79-82=B-; 76-78=C+; 72-75=C; 69-71=C-; 66-68=D+; 62-65=D; 59-61=D-; 58 and below=E (failing). Regarding university grading policies, be advised that a grade of C- is not valid for major, minor, Gen Ed, Gordon Rule, or for college basic distribution credit. For questions about minus grades, please see <http://www.isis.ufl.edu/minusgrades.html>.

You may consult current UF policy on how grade point averages are calculated at <http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationgrades.html>.

Health and Counseling: The University offers the following health and counseling services for students in the event personal problems threaten to hinder academic performance: University Counseling Center (301 Peabody Hall, 392-1575), Student Mental Health (Student Health Care Center, 392-1171), and Sexual Assault Recovery Services (Student Health Care Center, 392-1161).

Please note: The Instructor may make minor adjustments to class readings or assignments during the course of the semester. Any and all modifications will be announced ahead of time.

Course Schedule (I reserve the right to add films and documentaries in the Schedule)

Week 1: Introduction

Tu Aug 26: Class Overview

Thu Aug 28: Rethinking Globalization

Reading: Frederick Cooper. “What is the Concept of Globalization Good for? An African Historian’s Perspective” *African Affairs*, vol. 100, No 399 (Apr 2001), pp. 189-213.

Week 2: Place of Africa in the Global Economic Order

Reading: 1-Brian Larkin. "Indian Films and Nigerian Lovers: Media and the Creation of Parallel Modernities." *Africa*, 67.3 (Summer 1997). 2-Jo Ellen Fair. "'Me Do Wu' My Val: The Creation of Valentine's Day in Accra, Ghana." *African Studies Review*, Vol. 47, No 3 (Dec 2004). Pp. 23-49

Tu Sep 2. (articles 1 and 2)

Discussion: Economic versus Cultural Globalization

Thu Sep 4

Reading: James Ferguson. *Global Shadow*. Chap. 1 to 3. Lorenzo D'Angelo. "Who Owns the Diamonds? The Occult Economy of Diamond mining in Sierra Leone." *Africa*, 84.2 (May 2014), p.269.

Discussion: Is Africa outside the globalization process?

Film: *Blood Diamonds*

Week 3

Reading: James Ferguson. *Global Shadows*. Chap 4 to end.

Tu Sep 9 (*Global Shadow*. Chap 4)

Thu Sep 11 (*Global Shadow*. Chap 5 to end)

Discussion: Globalization and Modernization

Quiz No 1

Week 4: Migration and African Transnational Networks

Reading: Janet MacGaffey and Remi Bassinguissa-Ganga. *Congo-Paris*. Chap 1 to 3.

Tu Sep 16 (*Congo-Paris*. Chap 1)

Thu Sep 18 (*Congo-Paris*. Chap 2 and 3)

Discussion: How do African transnational networks operate?

Week 5

Reading: Janet MacGaffey and Remi Bassinguissa-Ganga. *Congo-Paris*. Chap 4 to end.

Tu Sep 23 (*Congo-Paris*. Chap 4)

Thu Sep 25 (*Congo-Paris*. Chap 5 to end)

Discussion: Strategies of survival in host countries versus displaying success in home communities.

Week 6: Changing host communities: Africanizing global cities

Reading: Paul Stoller. *Money Has no Smell*. Chap. 1 to 3

Tu Sep 30 (Money Has no Smell. Chap 1)

Thu Oct 2 (Money Has no Smell, Chap 2 and 3)

Film: Dollar Dreams

Week 7

Reading: Paul Stoller. Money Has no Smell. Chap 4 to end.

Tu Oct 7 (Money Has no Smell. Chap 4)

Thu Oct 9 (Money Has no Smell. Chap 5 to end)

Quiz No 2

Discussion: African informal activities in global cities.

Week 8: Midterm Test

Tu Oct 14: Midterm review

Thu Oct 16: **Midterm Test**

Week 9: Youth imaginaries of global participation

Reading: Sasha Newell. Modernity Bluff. Chap 1 to 3

Tu Oct 21 (Modernity Bluff. Chap 1)

Thu Oct 23 (Modernity Bluff. Chap 2 and 3)

Discussion: Youth imaginaries of being modern in Africa: the art of performing modernity.

Week 10:

Reading. Sasha Newell. Modernity Bluff. Chap 5 to end.

Tu Oct 28 (Modernity Bluff. Chap 5)

Thu Oct 30 (Modernity Bluff. Chap 6 to end)

Discussion: Youth Imaginaries of the West and the Culture of Migration

Week 11

Reading: 1-Brad Weiss. Street Dreams and Hip Hop Barbershops. Chap 1 to 3. 2- Brian Larkin. "Indian Film and Nigerian Lovers: Media and the Creation of Parallel Modernities. Africa, 67.3 (Summer 1997).

Tu Nov 3 (Street Dreams and Hip Hop Barbershops. Chap 1)

Thu Nov 5 (Street Dreams and Hip Hop Barbershops. Chap 2 and 3. Indian Film and Nigerian Lovers)

Discussion: African Youth Participation in Global Popular Culture.

Week 12:

Reading: Brad Weiss. Street Dreams and Hip Hop Barbershops. Chap 4 to end.

Tu Nov 11 (Street Dreams and Hip Hop Barbershops. Chap 4)

Thu Nov 13 (Street Dreams and Hip Hop Barbershops. Chap 5 to end)

Discussion: The limits of the re-appropriation of global popular culture by Africans.

Quiz No 3

Week 13: The digital divide versus the mobile phone revolution in Africa

Reading: 1-Sebastian Etza and Guy Collender. "the Mobile phone 'revolution' in Africa: Rhetoric or Reality." African Affairs, vol. 109, No 437 (Oct 2010). 2-Claire Mercer. "Telecentres and Transformations: Modernizing Tanzania through the Internet." African Affairs, vol. 105, No 419 (Apr 2006), pp. 243-264. 3-Julie Archambault. "Traveling while Sitting Down: Mobile Phones, Mobility, and the Communication Landscape in Inhambane, Mozambique." Africa, 82.3 (Aug 2012), p. 393.

Tu Nov 18 (Article 1)

Thu Nov 20 (Articles 2 and 3)

Week 14

Reading: 1-Hans Peter Hahn and Ludovic Kiboru. "The Domestication of the Mobile Phone: Oral Society and New ICT in Burkina Faso. The Journal of Modern African Studies, vol. 46, No1, (Mar 2008). Pp. 87-109. 2-Setargew Kenaw. "Cultural Translation of Mobile Telephones: Mediation of Strained Communication among Ethiopian Married Couples." Journal of Modern African Studies, vol. 50, No 1, (Mar 2012), pp. 131-155.

Tu Nov 25 (Articles 1 and 2)

Thu Nov 27 (Thanksgiving)

Week 15

Tu Dec 2: Review for Final Test

Thu Dec 4:

Final Test

Book review due date