

ANG-2011: AFRICAN LITERATURE

Course Description and Objectives

In this course, students are introduced to Anglophone literature from sub-Saharan African countries such as Nigeria, Ghana, Kenya, Somalia, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Botswana, and South Africa. Despite its title, the course is not designed to define a particularly African aesthetic but rather to familiarize students with a range of novels and critical texts from and about the continent. During class discussions, we will explore how colonialism, anti-colonial struggles for independence, and globalization have influenced and shaped writing in this region. The course will raise questions about stereotypes in representations of “Africa” and about the distinctiveness of each work as well as its relationship to a specific cultural and historical context.

Pedagogical Approach

This class combines lectures, general class discussion, and small group participation with a focus on the interpretation of each individual work within its socio-historical context and its place in the field of postcolonial studies. The study of each novel will combine the close reading of the work with insights gained through theory and criticism. Students are encouraged to put forward ideas and to contribute to the ensuing debates and should be prepared to participate by reading in advance the work(s) that will be discussed each week.

Evaluation

Participation Assignment: 5%

In-class Test: 30%

Research Essay: 35%

Final Exam: 30%

Required Texts

Heart of Darkness, Joseph Conrad

Things Fall Apart, Chinua Achebe

A Grain of Wheat, Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o; introduction by Abdulrazak Gurnah

Nervous Conditions, Tsitsi Dangarembga

Life and Times of Michael K, J.M. Coetzee

Changes: A Love Story, Ama Ata Aidoo

- Required texts will be available at *La Maison Anglaise*, Place de la Cité.
- Plagiat / voir *Règlement des études de l'Université Laval* : <http://www.lit.ulaval.ca/index.php?id=493>
- Centre de prévention et d'intervention en matière de harcèlement : <https://www.ulaval.ca/services-ul/harcelement.html>
- Politique relative au calendrier de publication des résultats : 30 % de la note globale devra avoir été attribuée et communiquée aux étudiants deux jours ouvrables avant la date d'abandon sans échec et sans remboursement. Seuls les cours à formule particulière, ayant été approuvés par les directions d'unité, seront exemptés de cette politique, ce qui devra faire l'objet d'une mention dans le plan de cours.

Échelle de conversion de notes (1^{er} cycle)

Excellent : A+ = 94-100 A = 89-93 A- = 85-88

Très bon : B+ = 82-84 B = 78-81 B- = 75-77

Bon : C+ = 72-74 C = 68-71 C- = 65-67

Passable : D+ = 61-64 D = 55-60

Insuffisant : E = 0-54