FLR 199 (CRN 22535): VOICES OF AFRICA
WINTER 2011, MWF 11:00-11:50, 107 ESL

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Required Texts:
- Additional Readings accessible on Blackboard.

Readings to be completed by the class period for which they are assigned.

Course Description:
This course introduces students to life on the African continent through engagement with a variety of expressive forms used by individuals (“voices”) from a number of countries. Novels, music, dance, dress, paintings, films, and political cartoons will serve as primary sources from which students will learn about the diversity and vivacity of contemporary African peoples.

Attendance
- Class periods are used for discussions, lectures, videos, small group assignments, writings, and other activities. Attendance is therefore mandatory and fundamental to your success in this course.
- If you have to miss class, it is your responsibility to obtain notes and materials. If your absence is due to excusable circumstances, you may meet with me (either during office hours or a scheduled appointment) to review missed materials.
- Excusable circumstances include: death in the family, serious illness, ill children, observance of a religious holiday, and other university recognized conflicts. Be prepared to provide documentation.
- If excusable circumstances prevent your attendance at an exam or your turning in an assignment on time, inform me before or within 24 hours after the exam via e-mail, telephone, or a dated note in my mailbox (this requirement will be lifted in extreme circumstances). STUDENTS CANNOT MAKE-UP EXAMS DUE TO UNEXCUSED ABSENCES. LATE PAPERS (not due to excusable circumstances) WILL DROP ONE LETTER GRADE EACH DAY THEY ARE LATE.

Assignments:
- Attendance and Participation (10% of final grade): students are required to attend class, participate in class activities, and complete regular in-class writings. This portion of your grade will be calculated from in-class assignments as well as your participation and attendance.
- Student Example Presentation (10% of final grade): Students will be divided into 4 groups. On assigned day, each student (individually) in the group brings one example of a “voice” relevant to that week’s topic. Each student shares the example and leads a brief discussion about the voice, considering such things as identity, context, and meanings. (Guidelines to be posted on Blackboard)
- Voice Paper (20% of final grade, due 2/21): Students write a 5-page paper about a specific “voice” addressing its production and reception, including the person/people involved in its production and reception, the context(s) in which it occurs, and its meanings and functions. (Guidelines to be posted on Blackboard).
- Midterm (30% of final grade, 2/4): short-answer/essay midterm covering the first half of class.
- Final Exam (30% of final grade, 3/16, 10:15 am-12:15 pm): short-answer/essay exam over the whole term.

Tests and assignments will be graded on a 100% scale:
- 90-100% A
- 80-89 B
- 70-79 C
- 60-69 D
- 50-59 F
Respect: It is essential that we work together to create a classroom environment where everyone feels free to express their opinions while simultaneously respecting the plurality of experiences and perspectives of others.

Special Needs/Disability: I will do everything possible to assist those with special needs. Please meet with me in the first week of class to discuss how I can accommodate you.

Academic Honesty/Plagiarism
All work submitted in this course must be your own and produced exclusively for this course. I will not tolerate any dishonesty or plagiarism. The use of sources (ideas, quotations, paraphrases from books, articles, websites, archives, interviews etc.) must be properly acknowledged and documented. Violations will be taken seriously and are noted on student disciplinary records. To learn more about plagiarism and how to avoid it, consult the UO library’s guide on plagiarism: [http://libweb.uoregon.edu/guides/plagiarism/students/](http://libweb.uoregon.edu/guides/plagiarism/students/). If you are in doubt regarding any aspect of these issues as they pertain to this course, please consult me before you complete any relevant requirements. To learn about the consequences of academic dishonesty, consult the UO Student Conduct Code: [http://studentlife.uoregon.edu/programs/student_judi_affairs/conduct-code.htm](http://studentlife.uoregon.edu/programs/student_judi_affairs/conduct-code.htm)

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SCHEDULE OF CLASS READINGS, ASSIGNMENTS, AND TESTS

**WEEK 1: INTRODUCTION: VOICES FROM MALAWI**

*Monday, 1/3:* Introduction to course

*Wednesday, 1/5:* Images of Malawi

**Readings** [links on Blackboard]:
- World Factbook: information about Malawi:
- Malawi government website:

*Friday, 1/7:* Music, Dance, and Youth Culture in Malawi

**Readings:**

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**WEEK 2: GENDER AND COLONIALISM IN ZIMBABWE**

*Monday, 1/10:* The history of colonization in Zimbabwe

**Reading:** Dangarembga: *Nervous Conditions,* Chapters 1-2

*Wednesday, 1/12:* The internalization of oppression

**Reading:** Dangarembga: *Nervous Conditions,* Chapters 3-5

*Friday, 1/14:* Individual agency and opportunities within colonialism

**Reading:** Dangarembga: *Nervous Conditions,* Chapters 6-7

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**WEEK 3: GENDER AND COLONIALISM IN ZIMBABWE**

*Monday, 1/17:* Martin Luther King Jr. Day—NO CLASS

*Wednesday, 1/19:* Colonization and the roots of protest

**Reading:** Dangarembga: *Nervous Conditions,* Chapters 8-10

*Friday, 1/21:* Group #1: Student Example Presentations
WEEK 4: MUSIC AND POLITICAL EXPRESSION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

Monday, 1/24: Musical responses to white rule in Zimbabwe and South Africa


Video: Rhythm of Resistance

Wednesday, 1/26: Music and liberation/music and oppression in Malawi

  
  - Ch. 2: “Dance and Nationalism in the Independence Movement”
  - Ch. 3: “Dance and Social Control during Banda’s Presidency.”

Friday, 1/28: Friday, 1/28: Group #2: Student Example Presentations

WEEK 5: WOMEN AND MARKETS

Monday 1/31: Women and markets in Ghana

  
  - Chapter 2: Maama Kesewaa
  - Chapter 3: Madame Ataa
  - Chapter 4: Amma Pokuua

Wednesday, 2/2: Cloth, gender, and commerce in Togo

Video: Mama Benz: An African Market Woman

Friday, 2/4: Midterm

WEEK 6: DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO: POPULAR MUSIC

Monday, 2/7: Music and urban life in Kinshasa

Readings [links on Blackboard]:
  
  - Overview of Congolese music: http://www.afropop.org/explore/style_info/ID/16/Congo%20music/
  - Overview of Papa Wemba: http://afropop.org/explore/artist_info/ID/53/Papa%20Wemba/

Wednesday, 2/9: Music and urban life in Kinshasa

Video: La Vie est Belle (1st half)

Friday, 2/11: Music and urban life in Kinshasa

Video: La Vie est Belle (2nd half)

WEEK 7: CLOTH, FASHION, AND CLOTHING

Monday, 2/14: Fashion in contemporary Africa

Readings:
  

Wednesday, 2/16: High fashion and class in the Democratic Republic of Congo

Readings:
  
  - YouTube: Search “Congo Sapeur” and watch three videos on YouTube of Congolese sapeurs.
Friday, 2/18: Group #3: Student Example Presentations
WEEK 8: VISUAL CULTURE: PAINTINGS AND CARTOONS

Monday, 2/21: Popular Painting in the Democratic Republic of Congo

*****VOICE PAPER DUE*****

Reading:

Wednesday, 2/23: Political cartoons in Cameroon

Friday, 2/25: Group #4: Student Example Presentations

WEEK 9: WAR, ART, AND HEALING

Monday, 2/28: Voices of war
Reading: Clacherty, Glynis, ed. Suitcases, pp. 1-96.

Wednesday, 3/2: Voices of war
Reading: Clacherty, Glynis, ed. Suitcases, pp. 96-184.

Friday, 3/4: Group #5: Student Example Presentations

WEEK 10: NIGERIAN CINEMA

Monday, 3/7: Nollywood
Video: Welcome to Nollywood

Wednesday, 3/9: A Nollywood film
Video: Dream Again

Friday, 3/11: tying-up loose ends

FINAL EXAM
10:15 am-12:15 pm,
Wednesday, March 16