

## **COURSE SYLLABUS AND SCHEDULE**



**SOC 398 (WI): Social Transformations in Contemporary Africa**  
**Department of Sociology, Moravian College**  
**Instructor: Dr. Akbar Keshodkar**  
**Spring 2015**

*Office Hours:* Wednesdays, 10 am – 1 pm, or by appointment

*Office Location:* Comenius Hall, Room 301

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### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course aims to engage students in exploring rapidly changing experiences and social realities of peoples throughout Africa within the post-colonial context and the era of globalization in the twenty-first century. Topics that the course will examine include challenges in global representations of Africa today and its impact on addressing questions of violence and inequalities across the continent. Course topics include gender inequities, religious tensions, ethnic conflicts, and international relations. Students will further explore these topics by engaging with contemporary African literature in order to better understand indigenous perspectives on prevailing conditions underpinning current developments and predicaments facing African societies. As the course is designated as a writing intensive course, students will be involved in different forms of informal and formal writing exercises in and outside the classroom throughout the semester to express their perspectives and analyzed developments in modern Africa

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

By the end of the course, students should have improved their ability in:

- Developing an understanding of the diverse cultural milieu in modern Africa
- Identifying major themes shaping socio-economic and political developments in contemporary Africa and understanding the impact of globalization in African societies
- Making seminar style presentations in class
- Engaging in different forms of writing exercises to adequately express and analyze perspectives on modern Africa
- Critically reading and evaluating stories about Africa in the media
- Developing analytical skills for adequately writing a research paper

### **COURSE MATERIALS:**

#### **Required Texts:**

The following book is available for purchase at the college bookstore:

Adebayo, A.G, O.C. Adesina, R.O. Olaniyi (eds). 2010. *Marginality and Crisis: Globalization and Identity in Contemporary Africa*. Lanham, Maryland: Lexington Books (ISBN: 9780739145562)

Chinua Achebe, C. L. Innes (eds). 1992. *The Heinemann Book of Contemporary African Short Stories*. Longman. (ISBN: 9780435905668)

Additional articles and primary source documents required for the course can be accessed through the college library electronic journal database or will be posted on blackboard.

#### **Supplementary Reading:**

Amoah, Michael. *Nationalism, globalization, and Africa*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2011.

Ensminger, Jean. *Making a market: the institutional transformation of an African society*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1992.

Falola, Toyin. *Key Events in African History: A Reference Guide*. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 2002.

Ferguson, James. *Global Shadows: Africa in the Neoliberal World Order*. Durham, NC: Duke

University Press, 2006

Gordon, April. Transforming capitalism and patriarchy: Gender and development in Africa. Boulder, Col.: Lynne Rienner, 1996.

Moshi, Lioba and Abdulahi A. Osman (eds). Democracy and culture: An African perspective. London: Adonis & Abbey, 2008.

Ndulo, Muna and Margaret Grieco (eds). Power, gender and social change in Africa. Newcastle upon Tyne, U.K.: Cambridge Scholars Pub., 2009.

Newell Stephanie and Onookome Okome (eds). Popular culture in Africa : the episteme of the everyday. New York: Routledge, 2014.

Okome, Mojúbàolú Olúfúnké and Olufemi Vaughan (eds). Transnational Africa and globalization. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2012.

Reid, Richard. A History of Modern Africa: 1800 to the Present. London: Wiley-Blackwell, 2012.

Young, Crawford. The post-colonial state in Africa: Fifty years of independence, 1960-2010. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 2012.

#### Websites:

BBC – The Story of Africa:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/africa/features/storyofafrica/index.shtml>

BBC Africa:

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world/africa/>

Internet African History Sourcebook:

<http://www.fordham.edu/Halsall/africa/africasbook.asp>

Links to online resources for Africa:

<https://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/intrel/africa.htm>

African lives today:

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/inatl/longterm/africanlives/front.htm>

African history archives:

<http://www.hartford-hwp.com/archives/30/index.html>

Annotated resource list from Africa:

[http://www.africa.upenn.edu/Home\\_Page/WWW\\_Links.html](http://www.africa.upenn.edu/Home_Page/WWW_Links.html)

Politics and Governments in Africa:

<http://www.keele.ac.uk/depts/por/afbase.htm>

Africa bibliographical database:

<http://www.africabib.org/>

General information about Africa:

<http://www.africa.com/>

#### Videos:

*Africa: A History Denied:* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z08CP9UJskk&noredirect=1>

*Guns, Germs and Steel-Into the Africa:* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zRLXH8EE5bA>

*Empire: The New Struggle for Africa* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= KM06hTeRSY>

*Stealing Africa: Why Poverty?* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WNYemuiAOfU>

*Africa, Will you Marry Me?* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aKPgX8sHqEM>

*Its Africa's Time* (several episodes) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E-JWYEKTZe8>

## **COURSE EXPECTATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS:**

1. *Attendance and Participation:* Students will be required to *attend* class regularly and *participate* in discussions. Questions, feedback, and student interaction are an integral part of the learning process, and will supplement lectures and films. Students should come prepared, having read the assigned materials prior to coming to class and having the materials accessible during class. Chronic absences, tardiness and leaving early will adversely affect your grade. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of class on random days and tardiness or absences on those occasions will result in a deduction of 5 points per infraction from the class participation grade. Absences due to illness or emergencies must be communicated to the instructor prior to the class.
2. *Basic classroom rules:* While in class, students are expected to use appropriate language with the instructor as well with each other, have their cell phones on silent and not be involved in personal conversations with each other or any activities which would disrupt the classroom environment. Infraction of these rules will result in a deduction of 20 points from the class participation grade and the student being asked to leave the classroom.
3. *Plagiarism:* I take plagiarism, copying someone else's work and representing it as your own, very seriously. This applies to all work submitted for the course. Students will be required to submitted all work done outside of the classroom on Safe Assign, through Blackboard. **Plagiarism, academic dishonesty, or cheating will result in an automatic grade of F for the course.** If a student's work is suspected of plagiarism, the student as well the Dean's office will be notified of the offence and it will be the student's responsibility to demonstrate evidence reflecting the originality of the work, such as all notes and other materials utilized in developing the submitted work. Students should refer to the college's academic handbook for more information about plagiarism.
4. *Blackboard:* All assignments, additional reading materials, announcements and information related to the course will be posted on Blackboard. It is the students' responsibility to check Blackboard and their Moravian College email on a regular basis throughout the semester.
5. *Accommodating disabilities:* Students who wish to request accommodations in this class for a disability should contact Elaine Mara, Assistant Director of Academic and Disability Support, located in the lower level of Monocacy Hall, or by calling [610-861-1401](tel:610-861-1401). Accommodations cannot be provided until authorization is received from the Academic Support Center.
6. *Reflection Papers:* Over the course of the semester, students will submit four reflection papers, which will provide an analysis of and response to materials covered in class the previous week. These reaction papers should critically evaluate the issues discussed in class from the previous week and further incorporate personal opinions on the materials covered in class and should engage course materials. Each reflection paper should be a minimum of three pages in length.
7. *In-Class Writing Assignments:* Students will frequently be given short in class writing assignments in which they will be posed specific questions to respond and analyze. Directions and expectations for these papers are posted on blackboard.

8. *Topic Presentation and Paper:* Given the seminar nature of the course, each student will lead the class presentation and discussion on assigned topics. Students will additionally be required to submit a paper on the assigned topics. Directions and expectations for leading the seminar and writing the papers are posted on blackboard.
9. *Research Paper Outlines:* Four weeks prior to submitting the research papers, students will be required to submit an outline for their papers. Directions for developing the outline are posted on blackboard.
10. *Research Paper and Presentation:* Students will explore issues of gender, ethnicity, religion, international relations or global economy pertaining to modern Africa and write a 10 page research paper (minimum) examining the relevance of particular developments associated with the topic in contemporary African societies within the context of globalization. Instructions for the paper will be posted in the assignment section on blackboard. The paper should be submitted typed, doubled spaced, in Times New Roman font, Type 12, with standard one-inch margins and with proper citations and bibliography. Students may only use academic journals and published books for acquiring materials. Under no circumstances are online sites that are not academic journals, considered acceptable for citation on papers. Students must also ensure to use correct grammar, as that will account for 10% of the grade on each paper. No late papers will be accepted. Students will also be required to make a 15 minutes presentation on their research papers at the conclusion of the semester, which will account for 5% of the overall grade in the course.

11. *Explanation and Breakdown of Grades:*

Attendance and Class Participation	15%
In-class writing assignments	15%
Reflection papers	20%
Topic presentations (10%)and paper (5%)	15%
Research paper outline	7%
Research Paper	23%
Research Paper Presentations	5%

Grade Equivalence		
A	4.0	93 – 100
A-	3.7	90 – 92.9%
B+	3.3	87 – 89.9%
B	3.0	83 – 86.9%
B-	2.7	80 – 82.9%
C+	2.3	77 – 79.9%
C	2.0	73 – 76.9%
C-	1.7	70 – 72.9%
D+	1.3	67 – 69.9%
D	1.0	63 – 66.9%
D-	0.7	60 – 62.9%
F	0	59.9% and below

- A/A-: Excellent; performance was outstanding and surpassed all expectations set forth in the course; consistently displayed superior grasp of course materials in assessments and through participation in class activities
- B+/B: Above average; fulfilled all requirements set forth in the course with a very good grasp of course materials in assessments and through class participation
- B-/C+/C: Average; adequately fulfilled course requirements, average performance on assessments, participation in class activities was satisfactory
- C-/D+/D/D-: Below average: performance minimally acceptable to pass the course, consistently displaying inadequate understanding of course materials on assessments and not sufficiently participating in class activities
- F: Failure to demonstrate basic understanding of course materials, consistently underperforming on assessments and not adequately participating in class activities

12. *Withdrawals/Incompletes*: Under no circumstances will a student receive an academic incomplete if they are failing the course or if they have done little or no work. In circumstances that an Incomplete is given, it will be the responsibility of the student to ensure that the work is submitted on time and meets the requirements of the course. If work is not submitted by the deadline given, the student will automatically receive an “F”.

## COURSE OUTLINE/SCHEDULE

The course will meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10:20 am – 11:30 am. Students are required to come prepared for each class, having completed the reading assignments beforehand. Unless indicated, all the required readings listed below are from the Adebayo, Adesina, Olaniyi (AAO) or Chinua or Innis (CI). Other required reading materials will be posted on Blackboard and can also be accessed through the college library's electronic Journal collection (BB).

### Part I – Africa's Place in the World

#### Week 1:

- 20 Jan 2015 Introduction to the course - Discussion of course expectations and requirements
- 22 Jan 2015 Abdi, Ali. 2010. "Globalization, Culture and Development: Perspectives on Africa," in *Journal of Alternative Perspectives in the Social Sciences* 2(1): 1-26 (BB)

#### Week 2:

- 27 Jan 2015 Documentary: "The Great African Scandal"  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GRIdMpCXCEw>
- 29 Jan 2015 Olaniyi et al. "Introduction," p. 3-12 (AAO)  
Agbu, O. "Globalization: The Politics of "we" and "them""", p. 13-30 (AAO)

#### Week 3:

- 3 Feb 2015 Gordimer, N. "Amnesty," p. 25-32 (CI)  
Mandishona, D. "A wasted land," p. 57-66 (CI)  
Couto, M. "The birds of God," p. 67-71 (CI)
- 5 Feb 2015 Ogundele, S.O. "Origins and Dynamics of Globalization: A Historical Approach," p. 31-42 (AAO)  
Badru, R.O. "Compatriotism v/ Cosmopolitanism: Exploring a New Cosmo-Morality of Human Relations from the Yoruba in the Age of Globalization," p. 43-60 (AAO)

### Part II – Cultural Change in the Era of Globalization

#### Week 4:

- 10 Feb 2015 Dongala, E.B. "The man," p. 81-86 (CI)  
Herzi, "S.H-D. "Government by magic spell," p. 94-99 (CI)  
Mahjoub, J. "Road block," p. 129-133 (CI)  
**Reflection Paper 1 Due**
- 12 Feb 2015 Noordin, M.M. "Kiswahili Language and the Future of East African Integration in the Age of Globalization," p. 61-70 (AAO)  
Mazrui, A. 1993. "Language and the quest for liberation in Africa: The legacy of Frantz Fanon," in *Third World Quarterly* 14(2): 351-363 (BB)

Week 5:

17 Feb 2015

Mollel, T.M. "A night out," p. 100-103 (CI)  
Chigbo, O. "The housegirl," p. 149-164 (CI)

19 Feb 2015

Mokake, F.M. "The Kabba Dress: Identity and Modernity in Contemporary Cameroon," p. 71-80 (AAO)  
Ogunsiji, A. "Beyond Memoir: Echoes of Globalization, Identity and Gender Stuggles in Soyinke's Ake: The Years of Childhood," p. 81-88 (AAO)

Week 6:

24 Feb 2015

Maja-Pearce, A. "The hotel," p. 146-148 (CI)  
Djebar, A. "The foreigner, sister of the foreign woman," p. 121-128 (CI)

26 Feb 2015

Hawkins, S. 2011. "Who Wears Hijab with the President: Constructing a Modern Islam in Tunisia," in *Journal of Religion in Africa* 41: 35-58 (BB)  
Njoh, A.J. and F.A. Akiwumi. 2012. "The Impact of Religion on Women Empowerment as a Millennium Development Goal in Africa," in *Social Indicator Research*, 107: 1-18 (BB)

Week 7:

3 Mar 2015

Mutia, B. "The miracle," p. 165-178 (CI)  
Laing, K. "Vacancy for the post of Jesus Christ," p. 185-197 (CI)  
**Reflection Paper 2 Due**

5 Mar 2015

Nicolette D. Manglos, N.D and A.A. Weinreb. 2013. "Religion and Interest in Politics in Sub-Saharan Africa," in *Social Forces* 92(1): 195-219 (BB)  
Haynes, J. 2007. "Religion, Ethnicity and Civil War in Africa: The Cases of Uganda and Sudan," in *The Round Table* 96(390): 305-317 BB)

Week 8:

10 Mar 2015:

NO CLASS (Spring Break)

12 Mar 2015:

NO CLASS (Spring Break)

Week 9:

17 Mar 2015

No In Class Meeting

19 Mar 2015

Ndebele, N.S. "The Prophetess," p. 8-24 (CI)  
Vassanji, M.G. "Leaving," p. 114-120 (CI)  
**Submission of Research Paper outlines**

Week 10:

24 Mar 2015

Mabuza, L. "Wake...", p. 33-56 (CI)



26 Mar 2015 Danmole, H.O. "From the Global to the Local: The Media and Islam in Nigeria, 1979-2007," p. 89-101 (AAO)  
Iwilade, I. 2013. "Crisis as opportunity: youth, social media and the renegotiation of power in Africa," in *Journal of Youth Studies* 16(8): 1054-1068 (BB)

Week 11:

31 Mar 2015 Gurnah, A. "Cages," p. 87-93 (CI)  
Okri, B. "Converging city," p. 134-145 (CI)

2 Apr 2015 Akanji, O.O. "Globalization, Identity Politics and the Escalation of Ife-Modakeke Crisis," p. 197-208 (AAO)  
Aluaigba, M.T. "The 2001 Tiv-Jukun Ethnic Crisis: The "Indigene-Settler Factor Reconsidered," p. 209-224 (AAO)

Part III – Africa in the Global Economy

Week 12:

7 Apr 2015 Chimombo, S. "The rubbish dump," p. 72-80 (CI)  
Mativo, K. "On the market day," p. 104-113 (CI)  
Sallah, T.M. "Weaverdom," p. 179-184 (CI)  
**Reflection Paper 3 Due**

9 Apr 2015 Obademi, O.E. "Globalization, Poverty and the Failure of States in Africa: Is there a Connection?" p. 167-180 (AAO)  
Harrison, G. 2005. "Economic Faith, Social Project and a Misreading of African Society: the travails of neoliberalism in Africa," in *Third World Quarterly*, 26 (8): 1303 – 1320 (BB)

Week 13:

14 Apr 2015 Documentary: "Stealing Africa"  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WNYemuiAOfU>  
**Research Paper Due**

16 Apr 2015 Okolie, A-M. "Contemporary Trade, Investment Practices, and the Challenges of Regionalism and Poverty Alleviation in Africa," p. 117-132 (AAO)  
Meagher, K. 2005. "Social capital or analytical liability? Social networks and African informal economies," in *Global Networks* 5(3): 217-238 (BB)

Week 14:

21 Apr 2015 Onakuse, S and E. Lenihan. "Community-Based Organizations: Household Food and Livelihood Security in Southern Nigeria," p. 133-148 (AAO)  
Sawyer, A.O. "Oil Conflict in the Niger Delta: Revisiting the Odi Genocide," p. 239-258 (AAO)

23 Apr 2015

Edoho, F.M. 2011. "Globalization and Marginalization of Africa: Contextualization of China–Africa Relations, in *Africa Today* 58(1): 103-124. (BB)

Campbell, H. 2008. "China in Africa: challenging US global hegemony," in *Third World Quarterly* 29(1): 89-105

Week 15:

28 Apr 2015

Research Paper Presentations

30 Apr 2015

Research Paper Presentations

**Reflection Paper 4 Due**