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AFST 303 (LEC01)
Critical Contemporary Issues in Africa

Instructor: Dr Motilola Akinfemisoye-Adejare   **Lecture Location:** SB 148

Phone: 403-220-6688   **Lecture Days/Time:** MoWeFr/
                                                              2:00pm-2:50pm

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Office: ES 602E
Office Hours: Friday 9:30am-10:30am, by email appointment; or via Zoom Tuesday 12:00pm-1:00pm

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Africa, the world's second largest continent, is very diverse. Home to fifty-four countries, this diversity finds expressions in the plurality of cultures, beliefs, arts, political structures and practices, among others. This course explores contemporary issues in Africa and how Africans navigate their everyday lives, cultures and practices on the continent. While images of Africa in the West mostly reveal pessimism, it is very useful to interrogate how various social and cultural context factors shape and constrain Africa's relations with herself and the world. Some of the themes that would be explored in this course include colonial legacies, women politicians, social media and political activism, youth and popular culture, among others.

Prerequisite(s): None

READINGS AND TEXTBOOKS:

Recommended texts
This course has <u>no required textbook</u>, which means you do not have to purchase one specifically for this course. However, the list below, which is by no means exhaustive, has some useful texts that you may consult to enhance and deepen your knowledge of what would be covered in this course. Please note that I have included the link to the resources (where applicable) available from the University library.

Ogola, George (2015) Social media as a heteroglossic discursive space and Kenya's emergent alternative/citizen experiment, African Journalism Studies, 36:4, 66-81, DOI: 10.1080/23743670.2015.1119490 https://www-tandfonline-com.ezproxy.lib.ucalgary.ca/doi/abs/10.1080/23743670.2015.1119490

Ugor, Paul (ed.) (2021) *Youth and Popular Culture in Africa: Media, Music and Politics.* Boydell & Brewer. https://www-cambridge-org.ezproxy.lib.ucalgary.ca/core/books/youth-and-popular-culture-in-africa/0E533F31333CBC19C197C2B98F01ED7C

Wasserman, Herman (ed.)(2011) *Popular Media, Democracy and Development in Africa* London: Routledge https://www-taylorfrancis-com.ezproxy.lib.ucalgary.ca/books/edit/10.4324/9780203843260/popular-media-democracy-development-africa-herman-wasserman

Welz, M. (2021) Africa since Decolonization: The History and Politics of a Diverse Continent. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. doi: 10.1017/9781108599566. https://www-cambridge-org.ezproxy.lib.ucalgary.ca/core/books/africa-since-decolonization/27E2A49DE2B6308449BC2DA73D7C2709

Required readings and useful videos will be posted on D2L

REQUIRED TECHNOLOGY and EQUIPMENT:
To successfully engage in their learning experiences at the University of Calgary, students in this course will need reliable access to the following technology: A computer with a supported operating system; a current and updated web browser; broadband internet connection, a word processor such as Microsoft Word and PowerPoint for assignments and presentations. Learners are expected to know how D2L works, please visit: https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/technology-requirements-for-students/

LEARNING OUTCOMES:
Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

- Demonstrate conversance with African geographies, languages, cultures, histories (pre-colonial, colonial and post-colonial) and post-independence politics
- Critically read and demonstrate a balanced understanding of contemporary Africa and its peoples
- Analyse and debate contemporary issues in Africa through critical engagement with scholarship and peers
- Apply knowledge from interrogating these contemporary themes to develop critical writing and analytical skills
- Interrogate issues about Africa and Africans from a nuanced and contextual lens

COURSE ASSESSMENT

Assessments

Assessment	%	Due Date
Short (reflexive) Essay	20	October 5, 2022
Group Presentation/ Debate	30	See Schedule
Presentation summary and individual reflection (due before or on presentation day)	5	See Schedule
Final Essay	30	December 5, 2022
Participation and Discussion	15	Ongoing throughout course
Total	100	

Department of Anthropology and Archaeology Grading Scheme:

A+	95 – 100%	B	75 – 79.9%	C-	59 – 62.9%
A	90 – 94.9%	B-	71 – 74.9%	D+	55 – 58.9%
A-	85 – 89.9%	C+	67 – 70.9%	D	50 – 54.9%
B+	80– 84.9%	C	63 – 66.9%	F	< 50%

Details on Methods of Assessment

Short (reflexive) Essay (750 words) 20% weighting
For this assignment, students will be required to write a short essay based on what has been taught and discussed in class up to that moment, using Chimamamda Adichie's "Danger of a Single Story" TedTalk as an illustrative anchor. The essay will require students to reflect on what they have learnt so far in the class, and what assumptions they had about Africa before taking this course. Submission via D2L Dropbox on **Wednesday October 5, 2022.**

Group Presentations 30% weighting + written summary and reflections 5%
Depending on the number of students taking the course, I will divide the class into 6 or 7 groups. Each group will make a presentation on topic assigned to them. The essence of the group presentation is to test and improve students' ability to work as a team. Therefore, to get a good grade for group presentations, students should be able to convince the class that their work is truly a product of a collective effort. The presentation could take the form of a debate if the group wishes. The presentation should last for no more than 20 minutes. The decision to have one representative speak on behalf of the group or have each member present is up to the group. There will be a question-and-answer session after each

presentation and students' ability to answer the questions directed at their group will fetch them more marks. While the presentation itself is worth 30 points, students are expected to provide a written summary of their presentation on or before the day of the presentation. This should include individual reflections for each group member, detailing each person's contribution to the presentation. The written summary is worth 5 points. The group presentations will come after we have discussed all topics in the class schedule. Groups and topics will be posted on D2L.

Participation/Discussion 15%weighting
I will choose 10 random classes to mark attendance; each attendance marked will be 0.5 points which makes a total of 5 points for attendance. The remaining 10 points will go into students' individual contributions in class discussions. On the days I am not marking attendance, I will be looking out for students' ability to participate in class discussions and will be awarding 1 point after each class to the students who participate in the discussions. If students are not very comfortable with talking in class, they are welcome to post their contributions on the discussion section of D2L so that I can use that to grade them for participation. Again, as a participatory class, students are expected to have read the assigned readings beforehand. Students are encouraged to jot down their points/thoughts while reading as that will help them to be better discussants in class. Please note that the maximum score for this 100%. As such, once this is reached, students can no longer earn additional points.

Final Essay 1500words 30%weighting
For the final essay, students are free to choose any research topic that broadly fits into the theme of the course. Students can choose, for instance to write about youth political engagements on social media, or how colonial legacies have impacted on the language of instruction in higher education institutions in Africa. While engaging with scholarly texts, such as books and journal articles will be very important, the grading will be based primarily on originality of ideas, clarity of argument and the ability to critically analyze a contemporary African issue. All topics must be approved by the instructor, so please email me with your final essay topic by Monday October 31, 2022, at the latest. **Submission via D2L on Monday December 5, 2022.**

Students may provide supporting documentation for an exemption/special request. This may include, but is not limited to, a prolonged absence from a course where participation is required, a missed course assessment, a deferred examination, or an appeal. Students are encouraged to submit documentation that will support their situation. The decision to provide supporting documentation that best suits the situation is at the discretion of the student. Students are not required to provide specific supporting documentation, such as a medical note. Falsification of any supporting documentation will be taken very seriously and may result in disciplinary action through the Academic Discipline regulations or the Student Non-Academic Misconduct policy.

Missed examinations/tests cannot be made up without the approval of the instructor. Students who miss an assessment have up to **48 hours** to contact the instructor to ask for a makeup assessment. Please note that It is at the instructor's discretion if they will allow a

make-up exam. Students who do not schedule a makeup assessment with the instructor within this **48-hour period** forfeit the right to a makeup assessment. At the instructor's discretion, a makeup assessment may differ significantly (in form and/or content) from a regularly scheduled assessment. For instance, instead of an essay, a student could be a short answer and essay test. Once approved by the instructor a makeup test/exam must be written within **two weeks** of the missed assessment on a day/time scheduled by the instructor.

Reappraisal of Graded Term Work: http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-2.html
Reappraisal of Final Grade: http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-3.html

Please note that no extra credit or 'make up' work is available in this class
You do not need to pass each course component to earn a passing grade in the class

COURSE POLICIES

Respect is very crucial on this course. Viewpoints expressed during presentations should be done in a collegial manner. Harsh or hostile comments or insults are strictly prohibited and will not be tolerated.

Email Policy
I will make every effort to respond to your email within 24-48 hours. Please include your UCID and course code in the subject of your email when you contact me. Please note that formal email netiquettes apply when contacting me: "Dear Dr. Motilola" together with a well signed off greeting such as "Sincerely", "Kind regards" etc, work best. If I have not responded after 48 hours, it might be that I have missed your email. Kindly send a follow-up message, forwarding your initial message. Thank you for your kind understanding.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS
Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit https://live-ucalgary.ucalgary.ca/student-services/access. Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor or the Department Head. The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/accommodation-students-disabilities-procedure.

ACADMIC INTEGRITY POLICY

Academic integrity is the foundation of the development and acquisition of knowledge and is based on values of honesty, trust, responsibility, and respect. We expect members of our community to act with integrity. The University Calendar includes a statement on the principles of conduct expected of all members of the university community (including students, faculty, administrators, any category of staff, practicum supervisors, and volunteers), whether on or off university property. This statement applies in all situations where members of the university community are acting in their university capacities. All members of the university community have a responsibility to familiarize themselves with the principles of conduct statement, which is available at: www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html.

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT
The University of Calgary is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect.

Academic dishonesty is not an acceptable activity at the University of Calgary, and students are **strongly advised** to read the Student Misconduct section in the University Calendar at: www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-3.html. Often, students are unaware of what constitutes academic dishonesty or plagiarism. The most common are (1) presenting another student's work as your own, (2) presenting an author's work or ideas as your own without adequate citation, and (3) using work completed for another course. Such activities will not be tolerated in this course, and students suspected of academic misconduct will be dealt with according to the procedures outlined in the calendar at: https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/student-academic-misconduct-procedure

For students wishing to know more about what constitutes plagiarism and how to properly cite the work of others, the Department of Geography recommends that they attend Academic Integrity workshops offered through the Student Success Centre: https://www.ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/learning/academic-integrity

INSTRUCTOR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY
Course materials created by professor(s) (including course outlines, presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the professor(s). These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the professor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing. Information on Instructor Intellectual Property can be found at https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/intellectual-property-policy

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PROTECTION OF PRIVACY ACT

Student information will be collected in accordance with typical (or usual) classroom practice. Students' assignments will be accessible only by the authorized course faculty. Private information related to the individual student is treated with the utmost regard by the faculty at the University of Calgary.

COPYRIGHT LEGISLATION
All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (https://ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/acceptable-use-material-protected-copyright-policy) and requirements of the copyright act (https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorized sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks, etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.

SUPPORTS FOR STUDENT LEARNING, SUCCESS, AND SAFETY
Please visit the Registrar's website at: https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines for additional important information on the following:
- Wellness and Mental Health Resources
- Student Success Centre
- Student Ombuds Office
- Student Union (SU) Information
- Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points
- Safewalk

CLASS SCHEDULE
Please note that as this course deals with contemporary issues which might come up during this course, this schedule is subject to change to accommodate discussion of such topics or issues.

Week	Date	Topic/Activity/Readings/Due Date
Week 1	W Sep 7- F Sep 09	Introduction Africa is not a country Activity: What five words come to mind when you hear 'Africa'? **Watch**: Adichie, Chimamanda (2009) "The Danger of a Single Story
Week 2	M Sep 12-F Sep 16	Setting the scene Cursory overview: From Pre-colonial Africa to 'the Scramble for Africa'
Week 3	M Sep 19- F Sep 23	Colonial legacies and Africa today: Political and economic landscape **Read:** Welz, Martins "Decolonization's Legacies" **Chapter 3** **https://www-cambridge-org.ezproxy.lib.ucalgary.ca/core/books/africa-since-**

		decolonization/decolonizations-legacies/D807D55B3266A630331400818C8CD514
Week 4	M Sep 26- W Sep 28	Colonialism and Africa's Cultural identity
Week 5	M Oct 3- F Oct 7	Music in Africa: Afrobeats as protest forms **Watch**: BBC Culture "[How Fela Kuti and Tony Allen created a new genre of music](#)" Reflexive Essay due Wednesday October 5, 2022 via D2L
Week 6	W Oct 12- F Oct 14	Youth and popular culture in Africa: Of 'jollof wars', activist politics and online celebrities. **Read**: Ugor, Paul (2021) Introduction :[Youth, Media, and Popular Arts Culture in Contemporary Africa](#), Chapter 1
Week 7	M Oct 17- F Oct 21	Social media and social movements in Africa: Example of #EndSars protests **Read**: Ogola, George (2015) Social media as a heteroglossic discursive space and Kenya's emergent alternative/citizen experiment, *African Journalism Studies*, 36:4, 66-81,
Week 8	M Oct 24- F Oct 28	China in Africa: Is this a 'new scramble' for Africa? **Read**: Calzatti, Stefano (2022) "'Data sovereignty' or 'Data colonialism'? Exploring the Chinese involvement in Africa's ICTs: a document review on Kenya" *Journal of Contemporary African Studies* 40(2) pp 270-285 https://www-tandfonline-com.ezproxy.lib.ucalgary.ca/doi/full/10.1080/02589001.2022.2027351
Week 9	M Oct 31- F Nov 4	Where are the women politicians in Africa? Media representations of Africa's women politicians Readings will be posted on D2L
Week 10	Nov 6- 12	**Term Break No Classes**
Week 11	M Nov 14- F Nov 18	Who owns the land? Land debates and issues in Africa **Read**: Kandel Matt (2022) Customary land disputes and the commoditisation of rural land in Africa: a case study from eastern Uganda, Journal of Contemporary African Studies, DOI: [10.1080/02589001.2022.2082391](#) https://www-tandfonline-com.ezproxy.lib.ucalgary.ca/doi/full/10.1080/02589001.2022.2082391
Week 12	M Nov 21- F Nov 25	Student Presentations, Discussions and Feedback

Week 13	M Nov 28- F Dec 2	Student Presentations, Discussions and Feedback
Week 14	M Dec 5- W Dec 7	Student Presentations, Discussions and Feedback Concluding remarks and thoughts
	Dec 10-21	Fall Final Exam Period

IMPORTANT DATES
 https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/academic-schedule.html#fall2017

Sep 6	First day of Class
Sep15	Last day to drop a class without financial penalty
Sep 16	Last day to add or swap a course
Sep 23	Last day to pay fee for Fall Term full and half courses
Sep 30	University Closed National Day for Truth and Reconciliation
Oct 10	Thanksgiving Day, University closed (except Taylor Family Digital Library, Law, Medical, Gallagher and Business Libraries). No lectures.
Nov 6-12	Term Break
Nov 11	Remembrance Day
Dec 7	Fall Term Lectures End. Last day to withdraw with permission from Fall Term half courses.
Dec 10-21	Fall Final Exam Period