

**AFRICAN STUDIES (AFST 501), L01: SEMINAR
WINTER 2019**

LECTURES: Thursdays 14:00 - 16:45, SCIENCE A 017

Instructor: Dr. Apentiik
Office Location/Phone Number: ES 844; 403-220-4857
E-Mail: rapentii@ucalgary.ca
Office Hours: TUESDAYS 12:30-13:30 or by appointment
Web Page: <http://ucalgary.ca/rapentii/>

Pre-requisites: Afst 301, Anth 317, Htst 401 or Poli-Sci 371

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is an interdisciplinary analysis, in seminar format, of trends and issues dealing with the historical, economic, political, cultural and ecological aspects and processes on the continent. Among the issues we will focus on are: the current processes of democratization and the role of civil society in it; ethnic identities and conflicts; the constitution of gender roles; health issues, indigenous knowledge and institutions; and other socio-economic and political reforms within the context of globalization, and Africa's position in it.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

The objectives of the course are:

1. To provide students with a forum to engage in an interdisciplinary analysis of various topics dealing with contemporary Africa and its position within the global world.
2. To equip students with the tools for designing and carrying out independent scholarly research that establishes their own perspective on particular issues/topics.
3. To offer students the opportunity to study Africa, its people, and its societies from a perspective that provides a holistic understanding of the continent.

TEXTBOOKS/READINGS

Links to the reading material for the course will be made available on D2L
 Mongo Beti 2005. Poor Christ of Bomba.

<u>ASSIGNMENTS AND EVALUATION</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>DUE DATE</u>
Participation & Attendance	15%	(on-going)
Mid-Term Exam	25%	(March 21, to be collected in class)
Book Review	20%	(Feb. 28, to be collected in class)
Final Research Paper	40%	(April 4, to be collected in class)

Note: All components of the course must be completed in order to pass, and extensions will only be granted under extraordinary circumstances, not including having too much other work to do.

REQUIREMENT 1: PARTICIPATION & ATTENDANCE (15%)

For each week, two to three students will lead and facilitate class discussion of the main issues and controversies arising from that week's readings. Marks will be assigned for how well opposing interpretations are expounded and supported with actual evidence, how well they transcend simplistic stereotypes or polemics, how well students identify key issues, and how well they engage the rest of the class in thinking about possible ways forward. You are therefore encouraged to reflect upon the topic of the week as well as to familiarize yourself with current news and opinions relevant to the course.

It is essential that all students complete the reading assignments, as the ability to contribute in seminars will be enhanced by a competent understanding of the assigned readings. If you come to class regularly you will be able to participate; therefore, your participation mark hinges (in part) on your attendance. Participation grades are calculated by factoring in the amount and quality of contributions. Attendance will be taken during seminar. *It is the student's responsibility to make certain that he/she signs the attendance list.*

A schedule will be available at the beginning of the term indicating which students are leading seminars for each particular week.

REQUIREMENT 2: MID-TERM EXAM (25%)

The exam is designed to test your grasp of the material covered in lectures and in seminar discussions up to the date of the exam. This means that you will be expected to have read all the required readings on all topics covered in seminars up to the date of the exam. The best way to prepare for this exercise is to read and reflect on the readings and seminar discussions. **No alternate dates for the exam will be provided unless the student has been legitimately excused.**

REQUIREMENT 3: BOOK REVIEW (20%)

The book review entails writing a critical analysis of "Poor Christ of Bomba".

- Length of review paper should a maximum of **four (4) PAGES TYPED AND DOUBLED-SPACED** in **12 PT FONT**. Page margins should be **1 INCH** (2.5 cm) wide, and all pages should be numbered. Double-sided assignments are encouraged to save paper, but are not mandatory. Information to be included on the title page are: *title of paper, course code, instructor's name, student ID, and date of submission.*
- A critical analysis requires an evaluation of the arguments made by the author, and this means you have to read carefully to find out what the author's argument(s) is/are. You may find the argument(s) stated in the book's introduction. The next step is to consider what the author provides in subsequent chapters.
- A well-written book will remind readers of the main arguments as it proceeds. The concluding chapter of the book will summarize the author's own appraisal of the argument(s) and evidence. This does not mean

that you can read the introduction and conclusion and write a good review; you need to demonstrate that you know what each chapter contains, and how it contributes to the main argument(s).

- In addition, a critical assessment requires that you assess the argument(s) and comment on whether you think the book meets the author's stated objective(s). This assessment is not a simple option, but a thoughtful evaluation of how well the author has succeeded in convincing you, the reader, of the value of the argument and the evidence used to support it. Your own conclusions should also say something about what you have learned about the subject, having read the book, and what else you might want to know that was not addressed in the book.
- As you read, it is useful to carry on a "dialogue" with the author, asking yourself if you agree with what is being said, or whether something is missing. You will need to say something about the author's relationship with the subject, and about his/her methods. In some cases you will have to be a detective to find out what you want to know.
- Correct spelling is important. Use a dictionary and a computer spelling and grammar checker. Create a draft of your review and then look at it again a day or so later. When you do a second draft, make sure that the ideas follow coherently from one another. Move text around if you need to. Weed out repetitive words and phrases. Vary the length of sentences. Read the review aloud, to see how it "flows". The final product will reflect the care you have put into its creation.
- If you wish, you may use the first person. Use the active voice as much as possible.
- Use a correct bibliographical format.

REQUIREMENT 4: FINAL PAPER (40%)

- The final paper can be structured around the major topics covered in the course or individual project. Please consult with me if you are in doubt regarding the choice of topic.
- Length of review paper should be a maximum of **fourteen (14) PAGES TYPED AND DOUBLED-SPACED** in **12 PT FONT**. Page margins should be **1 INCH** (2.5 cm) wide, and all pages should be numbered. Double-sided assignments are encouraged to save paper, but are not mandatory.
- Information to be included on the title page are: *title of paper, course code, instructor's name, student ID, and date of submission*.
- Clear statement of the problem(s) you want to investigate or explore, including:
 - The theoretical lens you use to construct your research question(s) or argument(s).
 - Brief justification of your choice of topic in relation to the existing literature
- Use of sources:
 - Judicious and balanced use of sources.
 - Credible/authoritative and current sources.
 - Well-formatted bibliography including ample in-text references.
 - Please consult me if you have any questions regarding how to document sources.
- Level of Analysis:
 - Critical, as opposed to descriptive, analysis.
 - Clarity and coherence of arguments (note: marks will, in part, be based on the coherence of arguments and clarity of expression).

- A strong conclusion.
- Additional information such as tables, maps, figure, lists of interview questions, etc. can be included.

NOTE:

1. It is the student's responsibility to keep a copy of each assignment submitted. Students should be prepared to provide a second copy of their assignment if requested. Students who cannot provide a second copy of their essays may risk receiving a zero grade for this portion of the course.
2. Please hand in your essays directly to your instructor. If it is not possible to do so, a drop box is available outside of ES620. A night drop box is also available for after-hours submission. Assignments will be removed the following morning, stamped with the previous day's date, and placed in the instructor's mailbox.
3. All written assignments (including, although to a lesser extent, written exam responses) will be assessed at least partly on writing skills. Writing skills include not only surface correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc.) but also general clarity and organization.
4. Research papers must be properly documented.

Use of e-mail:

Due to a high volume of e-mail messages received on a daily basis, students are advised to meet me either during my office hours or to make an appointment in the case of an issue that requires urgent attention.

Please note that e-mail messages can be sent to the wrong address, accidentally deleted, buried or may mysteriously disappear into cyberspace. All questions and requests should therefore be made in person, especially if they concern extensions and other serious urgent matters. I will normally reply within 72- hours, during regular business hours.

Questions of general interest will be addressed in class or on the Discussion Board in Blackboard. Students are encouraged and advised to use their **ucalgary** accounts or Blackboard in all the communication with me and with their peers. *Please feel welcome to discuss with me any aspect of the course requirements you feel is unclear.*

REGISTRAR-SCHEDULED FINAL EXAMINATION : NO**POLICY FOR LATE ASSIGNMENTS:**

Assignments submitted after the deadline may be penalized with the loss of a grade (e.g. A- to B+) for each day late. This is time sensitive course and extensions will only be granted under extraordinary circumstances, not including having too much other work to do. If late assignments are handed in at the Anthropology and Archaeology main office (ES 620), please ensure that they are signed and dated.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PROTECTION OF PRIVACY ACT

This course is conducted in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIP). **As consequence, students should identify themselves on all written work by using their ID number. Also you will be required to provide a piece of picture identification in order to pick up an assignment or look at a final exam.** For more information see also <http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/privacy>.

GRADING SYSTEM

The following grading system is used in the Faculty of Arts. Where a grade on a particular assignment is expressed as a letter grade, it will normally be converted to a number using the midpoint of the scale. That is, A- would be converted to 87.5 for calculation purposes. An F will be converted to zero.

Grading Scale	
A+	96-100
A	90-95.99
A -	85-89.99
B+	80-84.99
B	75-79.99
B-	70-74.99
C+	65-69.99
C	60-64.99
C-	55-59.99
D+	53-54.99
D	50-52.99
F	0-49

SCHEDULE OF LECTURES AND READINGS

To be made available onD2L.

PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING

Plagiarism: “to steal and pass off the ideas or words of another as one’s own” (Webster’s).

Plagiarism will not be tolerated and will automatically result in a failing grade for the submission.

Any student caught plagiarizing will also be subject to additional University sanctions. Students are expected to be familiar with the Department of Anthropology and Archaeology’s policy on intellectual honesty

DEFERRED EXAMS:

A student who is absent from a test for legitimate reasons must discuss an alternative course of action with the instructor. The instructor at their discretion may transfer the percentage weight for the test to the final examination, if there is a final examination in the course, set another test, etc. An instructor will normally make this decision on the basis of verbal information provided by the student. In the event that an instructor feels that they cannot judge the veracity of the information provided, Students must be aware that they are responsible for payment of any charge associated with the medical assessment and documentation as this service falls outside the realm of services provided by the Provincial Health Care Plan. Deferral of the final exam requires Registrar approval.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy>

Students needing an Accommodation because of a Disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Students needing an Accommodation based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to the instructor of this course.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Academic integrity is essential to the pursuit of learning and scholarship in a university, and to ensuring that a degree from the University of Calgary is a strong signal of each student's individual academic achievements. As a result, the University treats cases of cheating and plagiarism very seriously. Non-academic integrity also constitutes an important component of this program.

For detailed information on what constitutes academic and non-academic misconduct, please refer to the following link: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-2-1.html>

All suspected cases of academic and non-academic misconduct will be investigated following procedures outlined in the University Calendar. If you have questions or concerns about what constitutes appropriate academic behavior or appropriate research and citation methods, you are expected to seek out additional information on academic integrity from your instructor or from other institutional resources.

Where there is a criminal act involved in plagiarism, cheating or other academic misconduct, e.g., theft (taking another student's paper from their possession, or from the possession of a faculty member without permission), breaking and entering (forcibly entering an office to gain access to papers, grades or records), forgery, personation and conspiracy (impersonating another student by agreement and writing their paper) and other such offences under the Criminal Code of Canada, the University may take legal advice on the appropriate response and, where appropriate, refer the matter to the police, in addition to or in substitution for any action taken under these regulations by the University

TEACHING EVALUATIONS / USRI (Universal Student Ratings of Instruction)

At the University of Calgary, feedback provided by students through the Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI) survey provides valuable information to help with evaluating instruction, enhancing learning and teaching, and selecting courses. **Your responses make a difference, please participate!** Website: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/usri/>

Writing Across the Curriculum

Writing skills are not exclusive to English courses and, in fact, should cross all disciplines. The University supports the belief that throughout their University careers, students should be taught how to write well so that when they graduate their writing abilities will be far above the minimal standards required at entrance. Consistent with this belief, students are expected to do a substantial amount of writing in their University courses and, where appropriate, members of faculty can and should use writing and the grading thereof as a factor in the evaluation of student work. The services provided by the Writing Support, part of the Student Success Centre, can be utilized by all undergraduate and graduate students who feel they require further assistance

Emergency Evacuation Assembly Points: In the event of an emergency that requires evacuation, please refer to the following link to become familiar with the assembly points for the class: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act: Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act

The University of Calgary is committed to protecting the privacy of individuals who work and study at the University or who otherwise interact with the University in accordance with the standards set out in the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. Please refer to the following link for detailed information: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip>

The Department of Anthropology and Archaeology's FOIP (Freedom of Information and Privacy) policy requires all reports/examinations to be returned to students during class time or the instructor's office hours. Any term work not picked up will be placed in the Anthropology and Archaeology Office (ES620) for distribution. Any student not wishing to have their work placed in the office must make alternative arrangements with the course instructor early in the term.

Safewalk Information: Campus Security, in partnership with the Students' Union, provides the Safewalk service, 24 hours a day to any location on Campus including the LRT, parking lots, bus zones and University residences. Contact Campus Security at (403) 220-5333 or use a help phone, and Safewalkers or a Campus Security Officer will accompany you to your campus destination.

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources: Have a question, but not sure where to start? Arts Students' Centre

The Faculty of Arts Students' Centre is the overall headquarters for undergraduate programs in the Faculty of Arts. The key objective of this office is to connect students with whatever academic assistance that they require.

In addition to housing the Associate Dean, Undergraduate Programs and Student Affairs and the Associate Dean for Teaching and Learning, the Arts Students' Centre is the specific home to:

- program advising
- the Faculty's Co-operative Education Program
- the Arts and Science Honours Academy
- the Faculty's Interdisciplinary Programs
- a Student Help Desk

Location: Social Sciences Room 102

Phone: 403.220.3580

Email: ascarts@ucalgary.ca

Website: arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate/

For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Library Block.

Contacts for Students Union Representatives for the Faculty of Arts:

arts1@su.ucalgary.ca

arts2@su.ucalgary.ca

arts3@su.ucalgary.ca

arts4@su.ucalgary.ca

Ombudsman's office: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ombuds/>