Course Title: Colonialism and the Rise of Modern African Literature
Course Number: V18.9781.001
Instructor: ANYIDOHO, Kofi
Activity Type: Lecture
Credit Hours: 4
Semester: Fall only
Email: k-anyi@ug.edu.gh

NOTE: this course is open to all students for elective credit. Comparative Literature majors in Track II (Literary and Cultural Studies) may count this course toward one of their non-core major requirements.

Course Description:
The emergence and growth of Modern African Literatures are closely linked to the imposition of colonialism and the resulting anti-colonial resistance. The use of European languages as the dominant vehicle of much of this writing is the clearest evidence of this imposition. But how African writers have used these languages of imposition to meet their own needs is also evidence of the resistance tradition in modern African literatures. With the theme of colonialism as a unifying factor, the course explores and compares the works of a number of African writers of the so-called Anglophone, Francophone, and Lusophone traditions. It conceptualizes their works within a counter-European tradition by examining the discursive reaches of their writing.

Primary Texts:
Towards Colonial Freedom
Kwame Nkrumah
A Wreath for Udomo
Peter Abraham
Sacred Hope
Agostinho Neto
Selected Poetry & Prose
Leopold Sedar Senghor
Selected Poetry
Kofi Awoonor
Arrow of God
Chinua Achebe
Death and the King’s Horseman
Wole Soyinka
Gods Bits of Wood
Ousmane Sembene
Anowa
Ama Ata Aidoo
Death and the King’s Horseman
Wole Soyinka
Weep Not, Child
Ngugi wa Thiong’o
Heritage Africa [Film]
Kwaw Ansah
Geulwaar [Film]
Ousmane Sembene

Critical Texts:
Literary Culture in Colonial Ghana
Stephanie Newell
Decolonising the Mind
Ngugi wa Thiong’o

Requirements:
Mandatory class attendance & full participation in discussions
1-page weekly reports, beginning from 3rd week.
1 oral presentation on any of the set texts.
3-4 page paper based on oral presentation [to be done by 12th week]
6-8 page Term Paper [may be based of colloquium presentation]
Schedule

Week 1: Intro: An Overview of African Literatures

Week 2: The Colonial Question & the Nationalist Movement I: 
_Towards Colonial Freedom_—Kwame Nkrumah
-Guest Lecture_ on “British Colonial Rule”
-- Prof. R. Addo-Fening.

Week 3: The Colonial Question & the Nationalist Movement II: 
_A Wreath for Udomo_—Peter Abraham
-Guest Lecture on “British Colonial Rule”
-- Prof. R. Addo-Fening.

Week 4: Intro to Portuguese Colonialism in Africa:
_Sacred Hope_—Agostinho Neto

Week 5: Intro to Ghana Under British Colonialism:
_Heritage Africa [Film]_—Kwaw Ansah
-Field Visit to TV Africa, Accra.

Week 6: Intro to Senegal under French Colonialism I:
_Selected Poetry & Prose_—Leopold Sedar Senghor

Week 7: Senegal and French Colonialism II:
_God’s Bits of Wood_—Ousmane Sembene

Week 8: Ghana and the Legacy of Slavery:
_Anowa_—Ama Ata Aidoo
-Video: _Slave Routes: A Trail So Long Gone_
_Dialogue with Ama Ata Aidoo_ [Tentative]

Week 9: Intro to East Africa & British Colonialism:
_Weep Not, Child_—Ngugi wa Thiong’o

Week 10: British Colonial Rule & Cultural Nationalism in Ghana
_Selected Poetry_ by Kofi Awoonor
“National Identity & the Language of Metaphor”:
_An Intro to FonTomFrom_, by Kofi Anyidoho.
-Weekend Field Visit to Wheta & Keta, Volta Region,
with Readings by Awoonor & Anyidoho
and a Performance by the Nyayito Group of Wheta.
_Weep Not, Child_—Ngugi wa Thiong’o

Week 11: _Guelwaar [Film]_—Ousmane Sembene

Week 12: Nigeria under British Colonial Rule I:
_Arrow of God_—Chinua Achebe

Week 13: Nigeria under British Colonial Rule II:
_Death and the King’s Horseman_—Wole Soyinka

Week 14: Writing of Final Papers

Week 15: Final Papers Due