

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
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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:

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

Critical Texts:

<i>Literary Culture in Colonial Ghana</i>	Stephanie Newell
<i>Decolonising the Mind</i>	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
- 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