

African Literature / Francophone literature
T 9-11
AND 0019
FRW4770 section 14HG
FRW6900 section 14HH

Dr. Alioune Sow
Office: 481 Grinter Hall
Phone: 352-392-2421
Email: sow@ufl.edu
Office hours: T and R period 4-5 or by appointment.

Description du cours

Ce cours est une introduction à la littérature africaine d'expression française. A travers l'étude de plusieurs textes, poèmes et épopées (extraits), nous tenterons de tracer son développement ainsi que ses principales orientations. Plusieurs domaines d'étude et plusieurs axes de réflexion seront privilégiés : les mouvements littéraires, la notion de canon, « l'expérience africaine » et ses représentations, l'enfance, l'adaptation littéraire et ses problématiques, le discours identitaire, le nationalisme, le discours transnational.

Objectifs du cours

- Se familiariser avec la production littéraire africaine
- Examiner le rôle central de l'enfance dans la production littéraire africaine
- Les expériences africaines
- Critique des oeuvres et des adaptations
- Complexité des réalités africaines contemporaines

Travail à faire et modalités

Lecture attentive des textes proposés. Chaque texte (et/ou extrait de texte) doit être lu avant le début de la session. Pour chaque récit, il vous sera demandé un résumé et une brève analyse de 2 pages maximum. Une présentation orale sur, au choix, un des textes proposés ou une question théorique, sera aussi nécessaire. Deux essais (2000 mots chacun) vous seront demandés sur un sujet défini avec l'instructeur. Les essais devront porter sur un ou plusieurs des textes lus en classe. Les essais devront être remis le jour fixé par l'instructeur et au début de la session. Un examen final aura lieu à la fin du semestre.

Notes

Discussion et résumé	15%
Présentation orale	15%
Essai 1	20%
Essai 2	20%
Examen final	30%

Course Requirements

You will be expected to complete assigned reading prior to the class in which the material is discussed. Three assignments are required for this class. They necessitate analysis of one or more texts and films studied in class. In addition to the assignments, presentations on books and films studied are required.

With the exception of the final assignment, all writing assignments will be returned to students with comments before the final week of classes.

Attendance is mandatory for this class.

Class format: lectures and discussions.

Grades

Total points will be calculated, and the final grade will be assigned according to the table:

Grade	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	E
Tot pts.	93-100	90-92	87-89	83-86	80-82	77-79	73-76	70-72	67-69	63-66	60-62	<60

Information on current UF grading policies for assigning grade points can be found at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>.

Presence and participation: attendance is mandatory and will be taken at the start of each class – it is therefore important you arrive in class on time. I will take points off for each class absence, unless appropriate written justification is provided, or the absence is due to one of the “acceptable reasons” as per UF policies. Participation in class discussions is crucial, and you are expected to actively contribute to debates if you want to obtain full score in this component. Un-respectful class demeanor (e.g. talking and texting during the class, using lap-tops for anything else than taking class notes, and studying for other classes) is NOT TOLERATED.

Assignment: combination of short essay questions. Topics will be posted on line.

Context and general knowledge: you should try to regularly follow African news and affairs through media. The Economist (<http://www.economist.com/world/middle-east-africa>); the BBC (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world/africa/>); The New York Times (<http://www.nytimes.com/pages/world/africa/index.html>); The Guardian (<http://www.theguardian.com/world/africa/roundup>) and the blog Africa is a country (<http://africasacountry.com/>) are useful.

Students are expected to provide **feedback** on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>.

Make-up policy: Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>. Excuses for

missing a class test or deadline for assignments will only be accepted for proven and acceptable reasons. You should give me prior notice whenever possible.

Academic Honesty: UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Honor Code (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor.

Campus Helping Resources

Students experiencing crisis or personal problems that interfere with their general wellbeing are encouraged to utilize the university’s counseling resources. The Counseling and Wellness Center provides confidential counseling services at no cost for currently enrolled students. Contact information: <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx>, 392-1575.

Other useful contacts are also the University Police Department: 392-1111.

Students with Disabilities Act

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter, which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

Required texts

Gaël Faye *Petit Pays*
Ahmadou Kourouma *Allah n’est pas obligé*
Camara Laye *L’enfant noir*
Alain Mabanckou *Petit piment*
Alain Mabanckou *Lumières de Pointe Noire*
Léonora Miano *Contours du jour qui vient*
Senghor « Le royaume d’enfance »

Films

Ouedraogo *Yaaba*,
Kouyaté *Keita the heritage of the griot*,
Fukanaga *Beasts of no nation*

All other class reading and material will be made available on Canvas. The course site can be accessed through <http://lss.at.ufl.edu>, by entering your Gatorlink username and password. Through this site you can also: read assignment instructions, post your assignments, and check grades.

NB: Most of the films (and others) can be viewed online from the UF website
<http://guides.uflib.ufl.edu/c.php?g=147512&p=2892040>

CLASS SCHEDULE:

Please note: the instructor reserves the right to make minor changes to the following schedule during the semester

Week 1	August 22	Introduction: syllabus, assignments, texts and films. Childhood in Africa: a central theme “Children and youth in Africa” Binyavanga Wainana “ How to write about Africa ” Comaroff “Réflexions sur la jeunesse”
Week 2	August 29	<i>L’enfant noir</i> G.N. Marete “Absence of conflict in Maturation in the African child”
Week 3	September 5	<i>L’enfant noir</i>
Week 4	September 12	Epopées (extraits <i>Sunjata</i> et <i>Silamaka</i>) Voir film de Kouyaté <i>Keita the heritage</i> : negotiating the past Gugler “Transmitting the Sundjata to the next generation”
Week 5	September 19	<i>Contours du jour qui vient</i> Jewsiewicki and White « Mourning and the imagination of political time in contemporary Africa » Sylvie Laurent « Le tiers espace de Léonora Miano... » Filip de Boeck « Les enfants sorciers »
Week 6	September 26	<i>Contours du jour qui vient</i>
First assignment		
Week 7	October 3	<i>Allah n’est pas obligé</i> Honwana: “Innocent and Guilty: child soldiers as interstitial & tactical agents”
Week 8	October 10	<i>Allah n’est pas obligé</i>
Week 9	October 17	Adaptation théâtre <i>Allah n’est pas obligé</i> (Laurent Maurel)
Week 10	October 24	Autobiographie et biographie Mabanckou <i>Lumieres de Pointe noire</i>

Thomas, Mabanckou « Francophone Sub Saharan African Literature »
Achille Mbembe, « Circulation des mondes : l'expérience africaine »

Week 11 October 31 Mabanckou *Lumières*
Bisanswa Mangeon « La construction du lien social ... »

Second assignment

Week 12 November 7 Mabanckou *Petit piment*
Petit piment

Week 13 November 14 Mabanckou *Petit piment*
Petit piment

Week 14 November 21 Gaël Faye *Petit pays* (chanson)
Gaël Faye *Petit pays* (roman)

Week 15 November 28 *Petit pays* (roman)

Week 16 December 4 Conclusions

Final assignment