COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES
This course provides an overview of the various genres of Yorùbá oral literature. It stresses the importance of the spoken word in Yorùbá culture, the training of Yorùbá verbal artistes and their place in Yorùbá society, problems of transcription and translation of Yorùbá oral genres, etc. We will also examine the following specific genres in details: Folktales, Riddles, Proverbs, Praise poetry, funeral dirge and Ifá divination poetry. English translation of the various genres will be used for the class, but students who are able to work in the original Yorùbá language will be encouraged to do so.

REQUIRED TEXTS

WEEKLY BREAKDOWN OF COURSE
Please find time to read text materials before class for meaningful participation:

**Week I**
Introduction: The oral nature of African unwritten literature (Read chapter 1 of Ruth Finnegan’s African Oral Literature Library Call no 398.0967 F5140)

**Week II**

**Week III**
**Week IV**

**Weeks V**
Folktales and Narratives (Read Chapter 13 of Ruth Finnegan *African Oral Literature* Library Call no 398.0967 F5140)

**Week VI**
Riddles (Read chapter 7 (ii) of O. Olatunji *Features of Yoruba Oral Poetry*. Ibadan: OUP, 1984 Library call no PL 8823.5 Q24 1985). **2nd term paper due by Friday.**

**Week VII**

**Week VIII**

**Week IX**
Yoruba royal poetry (reading materials will be supplied later) **3rd term paper due by Wednesday**

**Week X**
Spring Semester break.

**Week XI**
Religious poetry (Read Badejo *Osun Segeesi* Library call no BL 2480 Y6 B34 1996)

**Week XII**
Yoruba hunters’ poetry (read Babalola’s *The Content and Form of Yoruba Ijala* Library call no 896.4 B112c c.2)

**Week XIII**
Yoruba hunters’ funeral dirge (Read Ajuwon’s *Funeral Dirges of Yoruba Hunters* Library call no PL 8823.5.A38 1982) **4th term paper due by Friday**

**Week XIV**
Week XV

Week XVI
Conclusion. **Independent study due by Wednesday

ATTENDANCE POLICY
You are encouraged to attend classes regularly and participate actively in discussion. You are, however, allowed 2 absences. Beyond that, each additional absence will lower your final grade.

COURSE EVALUATION.
There will not be a final examination in this course. Instead your grade will be based on 4 term papers of 3 pages each (to be submitted by Friday of weeks 3, 6, 9 & 13) and a 5 page report paper based on an independent study to be submitted by last week of class.
Find below a breakdown of workload for this course:

Class attendance and participation: 15%
4 reaction papers of 15% each: 60%
1 report of an independent study: 25%
Total: 100%

Grade Correspondence:
A 93-100
A– 90-92
B+ 87-89
B 83-86
B- 80-82
C+ 77-79
C 73-72
C- 70-72
D+ 67-69
D 63-66
D- 60-62