

SSA 4930 (SECT 0706): AFRICAN FILM / CINEMA (FALL 2016)

Professor: Tunde Akinyemi
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Period: 4th (10:40-11:30) MWF
Venue: LIT 217
Credit: 3
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COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

This course provides an overview of images of Africa in films and documentaries. The first part of the course will look at the concentration of producers of large-budget films on some of the problems of African continent, such as corruption, management of resources, ethnic conflicts, etc. The second part will however be devoted to low-budget films produced by Africans in the homeland or in the diaspora.

RECOMMENDED TEXTS: The following 2 books are only *recommended* for this course:

1. Vincent B. Khapoya. *The African Experience: An Introduction* (Third Edition) New York: Longman 2010.
2. Mahir Saul and Ralph A. Austen *Viewing African Cinema in the Twenty-first Century: Arts Films and the Nollywood Video Revolution*. Athens: Ohio University Press, 2010.

ATTENDANCE POLICY AND EXPECTATIONS

You are encouraged to attend classes regularly and participate actively in class discussion. You can only do this if you complete all assigned readings before class. You are, however, allowed 2 unexcused absences. Beyond that, each additional absence will require a written excuse verifying illness or family emergency in accordance with UF policy, failing which, your final grade will be lowered by a one letter grade. Assignments are to be handed in by the designated date. Mark due dates on your calendars now so that you can plan ahead. Late papers will be assessed a penalty of one-half letter grade out of fairness to those who hand in their work on time.

COURSE EVALUATION

Your final grade in this course will be based on the following:

<i>Class attendance, preparation, and participation</i>	30%
<i>3 In-class written reaction essays</i>	30%
<i>5 page review essay on an African film of your choice</i>	20%
<i>4 graded in-class discussion of films</i>	20%
Total:	100%

5 page review essay on an African film of your choice: The paper should be typed-written on font 12 and should be double-spaced with 1 inch margin. Stylistic requirement for this paper is APA or MLA. Typographical mistakes/errors, poor spellings, and grammatical faults will be penalized. **(To be submitted as email attachment of Friday, 10/7)**

GRADE CORRESPONDENCE

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

General

Feel free to ask question in the class so that you will not be left behind. However, if there are issues that we cannot resolve in class, you are encouraged to use my office hours or send me an email. I look forward to a rewarding semester with you all.

WEEKLY BREAKDOWN OF COURSE**Week I (8/22-8/26)**

Days	Topic	Reading
M	Course introduction	
W	Natural resources on the continent of Africa	Pay particular attention to Sierra Leone and Angola
F	Illicit diamond trade in funding civil war, terrorism and genocide in Sierra Leone and Angola	<i>Blood Diamond</i> documentary (DVD 3522) screening

Week II (8/29-9/2)

Days	Topic	Reading
M	Illicit diamond trade in funding civil war, terrorism and genocide in Sierra Leone and Angola	<i>Blood Diamond</i> documentary (DVD 3522) screening
W	Natural resources: blessing or curse	<i>Blood Diamond</i> feature film (DVD 2385) screening
F		<i>Blood Diamond</i> feature film (DVD 2385) screening

Week III (9/5-9/9)

Days	Topic	Reading
M	No class on Friday, 9/5	Labor Day holiday
W		<i>Blood Diamond</i> feature film (DVD 2385) screening and discussion
F	In-class written reaction	Essay 1

Week IV (9/12-9/16)

Days	Topic	Reading
M	The Rwanda genocide	<i>Hotel Rwanda</i> (DVD 1044) screening
W		<i>Hotel Rwanda</i> (DVD 1044) screening
F		<i>Hotel Rwanda</i> (DVD 1044) screening and

		discussion
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Week V (9/19-9/23)

Days	Topic	Reading
M	The challenges of producing film in Africa	<i>This is Nollywood</i> (DVD 2747) screening
W		<i>Just Do It</i> (private collection) screening and discussion
F	In-class written reaction	Essay 2

Week VI (9/26-9/30)

Days	Topic	Reading
M	Some common themes: wealth, power, love, magic	<i>Price of Peace</i> (private collection) screening
W		<i>Price of Peace</i> (private collection) screening
F		<i>Price of Peace</i> (private collection) screening

Week VII (10/3-10/7)

Days	Topic	Reading
M	No class: I'll be out of town for a conference in Africa	<i>Watch an African film of your choice</i>
W	No class: I'll be out of town for a conference in Africa	<i>Watch an African film of your choice</i>
F	No class: I'll be out of town for a conference in Africa	submit a 5-page reaction paper on African film of your choice watched earlier in the week

Week VIII (10/10-10/14)

Days	Topic	Reading
M	Why do African emigrate	<i>Dollars and Dreams: West Africans in New York</i> (DVD 2970)
W	Graded discussion 1	
F	No class on Friday, 10/14	Homecoming

Week IX (10/17-10/21)

Days	Topic	Reading
M	Challenges facing Africans living in the diaspora: The	<i>Otomo</i> (VHS 5042) screening

	asylum seekers	
W	Film screening	<i>Otomo</i> (VHS 5042) screening and discussion
F	Graded discussion 2	

Week X (10/24-10/28)

Days	Topic	Reading
M	Adjustment in the diaspora: obtaining residency	<i>This America: An Immigrant Story</i>
W		<i>This America: An Immigrant Story</i>
F	Discussion	

Week XI (10/31-11/4)

Days	Topic	Reading
M	Adjustment in the diaspora: Dual identity and culture clash	<i>Missing in America</i> (private collection) screening
W		<i>Missing in America</i> (private collection) screening
F	Graded discussion 3	

Week XII (11/7-11/11)

Days	Topic	Reading
M	Adjustment in the diaspora: so numerous illicit deals	<i>The God Daughter</i> (private collection) screening
W		<i>The God Daughter</i> (private collection) screening
F	No class on Friday, 11/11	Veterans Day

Week XIII (11/14-11/18)

Days	Topic	Reading
M	Adjustment in the diaspora: so numerous illicit deals	<i>The God Daughter</i> (private collection) screening
W	Discussion	
F	In-class written reaction	Paper 3

Week XIV (11/21-11/25)

Days	Topic	Reading
M	The globalization of African films: Cross Border Casts	<i>You or I: The Black man in a white world</i>
W-F	No class Wednesday-Friday 11/23-25	Thanksgiving

Week XV (11/28-12/2)

Days	Topic	Reading
M	Film screening	<i>You or I: The Black man in a white world</i>
W	Film screening	<i>You or I: The Black man in a white world</i>
F	Discussion	

Week XVI (12/5-12/7)

Days	Topic	
M	Africa Black Gold	<i>Nigeria Oil War</i> (DVD 2095) screening and discussion
W	Wrap-up	