

YOT 3500 (SECT 1D90): YORÙBÁ DIASPORA IN THE NEW WORLD (SPRING 2017)

Professor: Tunde Akinyemi
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Period: 10:40-11:30 MWF – period 4
Venue: LIT 203 (Little Hall).
Credit: 3.
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COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

The aim of the course is to introduce students to the scope and importance of Yorùbá culture in the New World, its role and significance in the resilience of African cultures in North America, South America, the Caribbean, and its transformation in contact with other cultures from Africa and the West. Since a study of a Diaspora presupposes some familiarity with its homeland, the first part of the course will be devoted to the study of Yorùbá culture in West Africa.

REQUIRED TEXTS

The only required book for this course is:

Falola, Toyin and Childs, Matt (eds.) *The Yoruba Diaspora in the Atlantic World*. Bloomington/Indianapolis: Indiana University Press, 2004.

SUPPLEMENTARY TEXT

In addition, significant chapters of the following works are relevant to the course and students are expected to be familiar with them during the semester:

1. Bascom, William *The Yoruba of Southwestern Nigeria*. Prospect Heights: Waveland Press Inc, 1969.
2. Falola, Toyin and Genova, Ann (eds.) *Orisa: Yoruba Gods and Spiritual Identity in Africa and the Diaspora*. Trenton: African World Press, 2005.
3. Cohen, R. *Global Diaspora: An Introduction*, (London: UCL Press, 1997).
4. Abimbola, Wande, (ed.) *Proceedings of the First World Conference on Òrìsà Tradition*, (Ile-Ife: University of Ife, 1981)
5. Fadipe, N.A. *The Sociology of the Yoruba*, (Ibadan: Ibadan University Press, 1991)
6. Johnson, S. *The History of the Yorubas*, (Lagos: CSS Bookshop, 1921).
7. Waren-Lewis, M. *Trinidad Yoruba: From Mother Tongue to Memory*, (Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press, 1996).

ATTENDANCE POLICY AND EXPECTATIONS

You are encouraged to attend classes regularly and participate actively in discussion. 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. Two lateness = one absence; more than six absences will result in failure in this course.

COURSE EVALUATION

This course has a 6,000 word Gordon Rule Writing classification. Therefore, there will be no final examination in this course. Instead, your grade will be distributed as follows:

<i>Class attendance and participation</i>	20%
<i>Annotated Bibliography on Yoruba in the Americas/New world</i>	20%
<i>5-page typed-written paper on a topic that deals with Yoruba in the New World</i>	10%
<i>10-page expanded typed-written paper on Yoruba in the New World</i>	50%
Total:	100%

Individual essay on a topic of your choice that deals with Yoruba in the New World or Yoruba in the Americas (you may want to run your topic by me early in the semester): The paper should be typed-written on font 12. The initial draft should be 5 pages while the final submission should not be less than 10 full pages long and 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 and lower your grade. **Submission deadline is Friday, 4/13. *The Annotated Bibliography (due on 3/2) should give you an idea of a good topic for your paper.*** Late papers will be assessed a penalty of one-half letter grade out of fairness to those who hand in their work on time. Remember that this is a 6,000 words writing (Gordon rule) course.

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

Days	Topic	Reading
W: 1/4	Course introduction, location of Yoruba people on the continent of Africa and beyond.	Falola, Toyin and Childs, Matt (eds.) <i>The Yoruba Diaspora in the Atlantic World</i> Chap. 1: "The Yoruba Diaspora in the Atlantic World: Methodology and Research"
F: 1/6	Cultural and religious transfer	Same as above

Week II

Days	Topic	Reading
M: 1/9	Intro. To Yoruba language	Falola, Toyin and Childs, Matt (eds.) <i>The Yoruba Diaspora in the Atlantic World</i> Chapter 2
W: 1/11	More on Yoruba language	
F: 1/13	More on Yoruba language	

Week III

Days	Topic	Reading
M: 1/16	No class: MLK Holiday	
W: 1/25	Yoruba social organization: The family	Falola, Toyin and Childs, Matt (eds.) <i>The Yoruba Diaspora in the Atlantic World</i> Chapter 13: Yoruba Family, Gender, and Kinship Roles in New World Slavery”
F: 1/27	Yoruba social organization: Kinship	Same as above

Week IV

Days	Topic	Reading
M: 1/23	Intro to Yoruba politics	Falola, Toyin and Childs, Matt (eds.) <i>The Yoruba Diaspora in the Atlantic World</i> Chapters 3 & 4
W: 1/25	Intro to Yoruba religion	Same as above
F: 1/27	Yoruba religious poetry	Same as above
Notice	<i>Submission of Annotated Bibliography on Yoruba in the Americas/New world</i>	

Week V

Days	Topic	Reading
M: 1/30	Life cycle: birth, childcare, and childhood education	
W: 2/1	Life cycle: betrothal and marriage, polygamy, death and burial	
F: 2/3	Yoruba morals and social control	

Week VI

Days	Topic	Reading
M: 2/6	Global concept of Diaspora I	Cohen, R. <i>Global Diaspora: An Introduction</i> , London: UCL Press, 1997: 1-30; 197-8;
W: 2/8	Global concept of Diaspora II	Same as above

F: 2/10	African Diaspora	Cohen, R. <i>Global Diaspora: An Introduction</i> , London: UCL Press, 1997: 177-196 and 207-8.
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Week VII

Days	Topic	Reading
M: 2/13	Early European exploration of Africa for slaves	Conniff, M.L. & Davis, T.J. <i>Africans in the Americas: A History of the Black Diaspora</i> , New York: St. Martins Press, 1994: 31-45
W: 2/15	Show part I of the movie <i>Roots</i>	DVD 101
F: 2/17	Discussion of the movie	Same as above

Week VIII

Days	Topic	Reading
M: 2/20	Shipment of African slaves to the Americas	Falola, Toyin and Childs, Matt (eds.) <i>The Yoruba Diaspora in the Atlantic World</i> “The Enslavement of Yoruba”
W: 2/22	Early African experience in the Americas	Conniff, M.L. & Davis, T.J. <i>Africans in the Americas: A History of the Black Diaspora</i> , New York: St. Martins Press, 1994: 46-64
F: 2/24		
Notice:	<i>Submission of 5-page essay</i>	

Week IX

Days	Topic	Reading
M: 2/27	The Yoruba in the trans-Atlantic slavery	Falola, Toyin and Childs, Matt (eds.) <i>The Yoruba Diaspora in the Atlantic World</i> “The Yoruba factor in the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade”
W: 3/1	Early Yoruba speakers in the Diaspora	Falola, Toyin and Childs, Matt (eds.) <i>The Yoruba Diaspora in the Atlantic World</i> “The Diaspora of Yoruba speakers, 1650-1865: Dimensions and Implications”
F: 3/3	Immigrant Yoruba speakers in the Diaspora/status of Yoruba language in Americas today	

Week X March 4-11**Spring Break****Week XI**

Days	Topic	Reading
M: 3/13	Yoruba descendants in Brazil	Falola, Toyin and Childs, Matt (eds.) <i>The Yoruba Diaspora in the Atlantic World</i> “Nago and Mina: The Yoruba Diaspora in Brazil”
W: 3/15	The survival of Yoruba religion in Brazil	
F: 3/17	Watch a documentary on Brazil Candomble	<i>Ile Axe Bahia</i> video BL 2590 .B7 I41 (Latin American Special collections)

Week XII

Days	Topic	Reading
M: 3/20	Comparative study of Brazilian and West African Yoruba religious literature	Falola, Toyin and Childs, Matt (eds.) <i>The Yoruba Diaspora in the Atlantic World</i> “The Nagoization Process in Bahian Candomble”
W: 3/22	Same as above	Same as above
F: 3/24	Representations of <i>orisa</i> Yoruba in contemporary Brazilian literature	

Week XIII

Days	Topic	Reading
M: 3/27	The Yoruba heritage in Trinidad and Haiti	Falola, Toyin and Childs, Matt (eds.) <i>The Yoruba Diaspora in the Atlantic World</i> “The Influential Yoruba past in Haiti”
W: 3/29	The Yoruba heritage in Puerto Rico	Yoruba family, Gender, and Kinship Roles in New World Slavery”
F: 3/31	Vodou songs	

Week XIV

Days	Topic	Reading
M: 4/3	Yoruba religion in Cuba	Falola, Toyin and Childs, Matt (eds.) <i>The Yoruba Diaspora in the Atlantic World</i> “Santeria in Cuba: Tradition and Transformation”
W: 4/5	Watch the documentary on liturgical songs from Cuba	<i>Wemilere</i> Video BL 2532. S3 W41 (Latin American Special collections)
F: 4/7	Discussion of the video	
Notice:	<i>Submit your 10-page paper today</i>	

Week XV

Days	Topic	Reading
M: 4/10	Yoruba in North America	Falola, Toyin and Genova, Ann (eds.) <i>Orisa: Yoruba Gods and Spiritual Identity in Africa and the Diaspora</i> . Trenton “Embodied orisa Worship: The importance of physicality in the Yoruba American socio-religious movement”
W: 4/12	Yoruba arts, religion, and tradition in North America	Falola, Toyin and Childs, Matt (eds.) <i>The Yoruba Diaspora in the Atlantic World</i> “Reclaiming the past: Yoruba Elements in African American Arts”
F: 4/14	Watch documentary on Santeria divination and discuss	<i>Santeria: Afro Cuban Religion</i> video BL 2532.S3 L83 1984 (Latin American Special collections)

Week XVI

Days	Topic	Reading
M: 4/17	Problems confronting Yoruba in North America today (slides 232-7 (Towards a solution: as a foreign language in 30 colleges, immersion programs of GPA, AFLI, and Flagship, back to the source through Orisa congress)	Falola, Toyin and Childs, Matt (eds.) <i>The Yoruba Diaspora in the Atlantic World</i> Chapters 17-19.
W: 4/19	Wrap up	