HUM 315: INTRODUCTION TO AFRICAN STUDIES
SPRING 2012

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Office: 340w McKenzie Hall Office Hours: Tues 8.30-10 am, or appointment

GTF: Laura Massengale
Email: lgm@uoregon.edu, Office: 347 PLC Office Hours: Wed 2-4 pm, or appointment

Description
This course is designed to provide you with an introduction to African Studies and the social, cultural, political and economic diversity of the African continent. You will become familiar with a wide range of disciplinary perspectives and approaches to the study of historical and contemporary Africa. Numerous University of Oregon faculty with expertise on Africa will participate, including faculty from Anthropology; Dance; Folklore; Geography; History; International Studies; Journalism; Law; Linguistics; Romance Languages; and the Office of International Programs. The course is appropriate for anyone interested in international studies, especially those considering the further study of Africa or travel to Africa.

Required Reading
Articles and chapters posted on Blackboard

Course Requirements
Grades will be based on four criteria: Dates Due
Attendance/Participation 15% May 8
Midterm exam 25% May 22
6-7 page essay 30% June 11, 8 am
Final exam 30%

Students will be assessed based on four criteria: class participation, a midterm, an essay, and a final exam. Class participation will be a combination of attendance and preparedness and will be based on a student being present and on time, with readings completed, notes taken, and ready to discuss materials. Students should also be active listeners during guest lectures, which means note taking and participating in discussion by asking or answering questions. Merely being present assures you an attendance grade of “C-.”
Both the midterm and final exam will be based on the information presented during the lectures and on assigned readings. The exams will have a variety of questions types, including: defining relevant vocabulary; identifying African countries and major geographic formations on a blank map; short answer; paragraph-length answer; and an essay-length (5 paragraph) question. We will spend part of a class before the midterm and part of a class before the final generating questions for the exams.

You will have one longer writing assignment during the quarter—a 6-7 page essay. The essay prompts will be distributed by May. The essay will be due in hard copy at the beginning of class; I do not accept emailed papers. Students receiving a grade of “C” or lower may elect to re-write and re-submit. Late essays will lose 10% for each day it is late.

**Attendance**
To each class, you should bring whatever texts we are reading in addition to your notes on that text. You are allowed two absences without penalty. Each additional absence will result in a deduction of a third of letter grade from your final grade. More than five absences will result in a failing grade.

**Technology**
I do not permit the use of laptop computers or other electronic devices (i.e., recording equipment) in the classroom without specific permission from me. Please silence your cell phone or turn it off before you come in. If you need to be reachable during class, or you are physically unable to write and must take notes by laptop, come and see me.

**Plagiarism**
Although you will spend time reading and commenting upon each other’s work in class, your written words should be your own. If you are uncertain about how to avoid plagiarism, please read the information available on the library website: [http://libweb.uoregon.edu/guides/plagiarism/students/](http://libweb.uoregon.edu/guides/plagiarism/students/). I will be report all cases of plagiarism to the Dean’s Office.

**Writing Assistance**
This is a 300-level course with a writing component. I will spend time in class discussing the specific expectations of the essay. All essays will be thesis-driven, well edited and grammatically correct. If you have writing questions, you can always make an appointment to discuss a draft with me. There is one-on-one assistance available at the Writing Lab (68 Prince Lucien Campbell) and you can schedule a tutorial session by calling 541-346-3226.

**Disability**
If you require accommodations for a disability, please let me know as soon as possible. Disability Services is available to assist you, and you can find more information at: [http://ds.uoregon.edu/](http://ds.uoregon.edu/). They can be contacted at [disabsrv@uoregon.edu](mailto:disabsrv@uoregon.edu) or 541-346-1155.
**Class Schedule**

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<th>Week One</th>
<th>April 3</th>
<th>Dr. Melissa Graboyes - Syllabus and Introduction</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>April 5</td>
<td>Dr. Nelson Ting—Anthropology “Introduction” pg. xxi-xxx</td>
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<td>Week Two</td>
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<td>April 10</td>
<td>Dr. Stephen Dueppen—Anthropology</td>
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<td>April 12</td>
<td>Dr. Lindsay Braun—History</td>
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<td>Issue 1. “Did the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade Under-develop Africa?”</td>
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<td>Week Three</td>
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<td>April 17</td>
<td>Dr. Doris Payne—Linguistics</td>
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<td>April 19</td>
<td>Dr. Daphne Gallagher—Anthropology</td>
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<td>Issue 2. “Have the Contributions of Africans Been Recognized for Developing New World Agriculture?”</td>
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<td>Issue 3. “Is European Subjugation of Africans Ultimately Explained by Differences in Land, Plant, and Animal Resources?”</td>
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<td>Week Four</td>
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<td>April 24</td>
<td>Dr. Melissa Graboyes—History</td>
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<td>Issue 13. “Should Female Genital Cutting Be Accepted as a Cultural Practice?”</td>
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<td>Issue 17. “Does Increased Female Participation Substantially Change African Politics?”</td>
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<td>April 26</td>
<td>Dr. Peter Walker—Geography</td>
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<td>Issue 9. “Is Climate Change a Major Driver of Agricultural Shifts in Africa?”</td>
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Week Five
May 1  Dr. Alfredo Burlando—Economics
Issue 8. “Does Foreign Aid Undermine Development in Africa?”

May 3  Dr. Michael Williams—Sociology
Generate midterm exam questions/review for exam

Week Six
May 8  MIDTERM EXAM
Distribution of Essay Prompt

May 10 Dr. Ibrahim Gassama—Law
Issue 18. “Is Corruption the Result of Poor African Leadership?”

Week Seven
May 15 Dr. Lisa Gilman—Folklore

May 17 Dr. Ron Severson (Lundquist College of Business)—Microfinance
Review website: http://maplemicrodevelopment.org/

Week Eight
May 22 Teddy Workneh—Journalism
ESSAY DUE

May 24 Angela Kellner—KLCC
Mongo Beti, *Poor Christ of Bomba*. pg. 3- 45

Week Nine
May 29 Dr. Andre Djiffack—Romance Languages
Mongo Beti, *Poor Christ of Bomba*. pg. 46-79

May 31 Rita Honka—Dance
Mongo Beti, *Poor Christ of Bomba*. pg. 80-120
Week Ten

June 5  Chris Bennett and Hilary Lord—IE3 Internships & Study Abroad
  Mongo Beti, *Poor Christ of Bomba*. pg. 121-165

June 7  Graboyes
  Generate final exam questions/ Course review

Final exam:  June 11—8 am
  Do not schedule your departure from campus until after this exam.