

University of California - Riverside
Department of Comparative Literature and Foreign Languages
CPLT 70: Introduction to African Literature (Online)
Spring Quarter 2019

Instructor: Anthonia Kalu
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Office Hours - Online:

Thursday: 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Synchronous Meeting Times (Required):

Every Wednesday – From 1:10 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Required Texts:

Anthonia Kalu; editor. *Rienner Anthology of African Literature*. Boulder, Colorado: Rienner Publishers, 2007. [Note: This is not an electronic book! It is **not** available online and should be purchased (in hard copy) by all enrolled students].

Articles on e-Reserve at Course site.

Multimedia: Relevant multimedia will be assigned from the Course's Digital Archives

Recommended Texts:

Joseph Gibaldi and Walter S. Achtert. *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*

Course Description:

This is an introduction to African literature in English. We will trace the history of African literary traditions from its beginnings to the early 2000s. Some of the assigned works have been translated from African or other European languages into English. We will examine representations of colonialism across the continent, apartheid in South Africa, politics and independence in the post-colony, gender, African aesthetics, and the diverse cultures on the continent. We will also explore some relationships between oral and written literature. Some questions that will interest us include: What is African literature? What is *the language question* in African literature? Why African literature? Who is an African writer? Who is the African writer's audience? How do we determine "authentic" African literary forms and styles?

Course Requirements:

This is an Online course. Students are required to be present for the synchronous Online lecture and view the recorded online lecture(s) for each assigned unit, participate in the online discussions, attend office hours online and submit all assigned work online

There will be one journal project, a short paper, three quizzes, one final examination and one research paper. The short paper will be 4-6 typewritten-pages long, including reference pages. The final examination is cumulative. Class participation is an essential part of this

Note: Mark your calendar for Synchronous Lecture meeting dates – indicated every week in this syllabus. If you are unable to attend required Online class meetings, please contact the instructor immediately.

course and is expected as a normal part of student responsibility. All quizzes and examinations will be administered online. All announcements about quizzes and examinations will be made in the syllabus and/or as needed on the course site. Although students will be provided with Online access time frames for taking quizzes at their chosen time, each quiz will be allocated equal time. Each quiz will be timed. Each student's test will be timed based on when s/he logs in and begins a test or quiz. This means that each quiz will close after the allocated time for that assignment has elapsed. In addition, all quizzes will become unavailable after the allocated test period has elapsed. For example, a quiz that lasts 20 minutes will close after the student has been online on the quiz's page for 20 minutes and all course students' access to the test/quiz will end after the assigned 24-hour period.

Each student's **Research Paper** must focus on an aspect of African Literature explored in this class and must be submitted in an appropriate format on the course's site online. Students should use the *MLA Handbook for Writers of College Research Papers* or a similar style sheet for correct citation and documentation.

Assessment and Evaluation:

Assigned Readings: To ensure adequate understanding of the lectures and discussions, students are expected to first complete all assigned readings before the class for which they are due. Students should also complete all assigned readings before logging on to the assigned unit's synchronous lecture and before watching each unit's assigned lecture-video or accessing assigned audio-visuals from the course's digital archives.

For all essay assignments, each student will critically analyze an identified aspect of assigned text(s) in a way that shows evidence of critical reading as well as research based on readings of course-assigned readings. In the research paper, students' presentations must reflect a close reading of two or more selected texts and significant library research. The assignments must be typed, double spaced, and submitted on time and *only* online via the assignment item in the Canvas learning management system. Assignments emailed to the instructor or the TA will not be accepted. All sources (including Internet) should be properly acknowledged. Plagiarism and failure to acknowledge sources constitute academic misconduct, and may result in a failing grade for the course and may also include the imposition of severe sanctions by the university. Failure to submit a completed, well-documented research paper will result in a failing grade; there will be no exceptions.

Note: You should attend scheduled office hours if you do not understand course-assigned materials. However, make sure to complete relevant readings before you login to the Zoom Room for office hour consultations.

Quizzes and participation in Online discussions are an important part of students' grades. Students should pay attention to due dates as indicated in the syllabus. Changes to due dates will be announced via an email to enrolled students and also posted on the course's announcement pages. **Quizzes are available Online for 24 hours on the Friday of the week for which they are listed.**

Lecture consists of one hour (1 hour) a week of required visual lectures and one hour (1 hour) a week Question and Answer sessions (required). A short paper, journal, one research paper and one final examination are also required for a final course grade.

Journal entries should address the assigned readings for each unit. For each entry, first identify the reading assignment; then identify an idea, issue or problem presented in that assigned reading and write about it in a clear and concise manner. Do not retell the story or repeat the plot line. Entries for each reading should be at least half a page long but must not exceed one page (double spaced! -12 font!). **Some ideas to help you get started:** What is

your first response to the reading? Was this a difficult or easy story, poem, and so on, to engage? Does the idea, issue or problem you identify and address relate to one from a previous reading? Which one? How? Did your thinking about the story, poem, etc., change after you finished reading it? If yes, why? If not, why not? Make sure to date the end of each entry – this will help you keep track of how your thinking develops about the stories, poems, etc., overall. What questions, thoughts or comments (if any) do you have about this assigned reading but do not want to engage at this time? The ideas you generate in your journal may be explored further in the **Research Paper**.

Student Self-Evaluation: Each student is required to submit a Self-Evaluation for this course. The self-evaluation should address **your** performance throughout the quarter, ending with your anticipated grade (A - F, based on **your** performance) for this course. **Your Self-Evaluation** should be 1.5 pages long. It is **due** on the course site on **June 7, 2019**. This assignment is part of your participation grade.

Academic Integrity Policies Plagiarism

This course operates under University of California, Riverside Academic

Integrity Policy and Procedures. Academic honesty is absolutely necessary. Please refer to <http://conduct.ucr.edu> for more information on this subject.

Plagiarism is not tolerated at UCR and has serious consequences. Your essays and exams must be your own work and inadequate referencing may be seen as plagiarism. The consequences for plagiarism in any form range from a zero on the assignment in question to an “F” grade in the course. **If you have questions about correct referencing, please consult your instructor or TA.** UCR Academic Integrity Policies & Procedures are available here: <http://conduct.ucr.edu/policies/academicintegrity.html>.

Downloading Digital Media Content and Recordings

Students MAY NOT download digital media content or record the professor’s lectures without permission. Unless otherwise expressly allowed by the professor, students may not download digital media content or record a class. Permission to download digital media content or record a class applies exclusively to the student who received permission from the professor. The downloaded digital media content or recording may not be accessed or utilized by any other individual. No replication of the downloaded digital media content or recording may be made without the express permission of the professor. Downloaded digital media content or recordings must not be posted to any form of digital media. Students who violate this policy are subject to disciplinary action under the UCR Standards of Conduct, <http://conduct.ucr.edu/policies/standards.html>.