

LIT 4233 / AFS 4935 / FRT 2930 Postcolonial African literature in French
T 5 - 6 (11:45 AM - 1:40 PM) MCCB 1108
R 6 (12:50 PM - 1:40 PM) MCCB 1108
Spring 2022

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Course description

Focusing mainly on the novel and autobiography, the aim of this course is to introduce students to a new generation of Francophone African writers. We will explore the ways in which writers engage with contemporary African experiences in and out of the continent, and examine the new literary forms and practices that transform the production. The objective of the course is to understand the topics, ideas and innovative representations of Africa and its diaspora proposed by these writers. Authors include Fatou Diome, David Diop, Gaël Faye, Camara Laye, Alain Mabanckou and Léonora Miano.

Assignments

Book chapters, excerpts and articles (indicated by the instructor) should be read before the beginning of the session.

Each student is required to write two essays on a topic that will be announced in due time. Students are also required to write a final paper on a topic of their choice. The topic should be discussed with the instructor before submission of the proposal. The final paper should be a research paper. All the works have to be submitted on the class canvas site by the date indicated by the instructor.

Required Texts

Fatou Diome, *The Belly of the Atlantic*
David Diop *At Night all Blood is Black*
Gaël Faye *Small Country*
Camara Laye *The Dark Child*
Alain Mabanckou *Lights of Pointe-Noire*
Léonora Miano *Season of the Shadow*

Additional material including excerpts, essays, book chapters and articles will be available on Canvas.

Course requirements

This is a face-to-face course. However, when unable to attend in person (because you have tested positive, you are quarantining, or not yet clear to come to campus) you

can attend any class remotely via Zoom (with video on). Please let me know in advance that you will be attending remotely.

Grades

For information on how UF assigns grade points, visit:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>

Grading criteria and format will be provided before each essay and activity.

The final grade will be determined by the total scored for:

Attendance and participation	10%
Presentation	15 %
Essays 1 & 2	40 %
Final paper	35 % (proposal 5% and final paper 30%)

The final grade is obtained by totaling your points and assigning the grade as follows:

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

Attendance and participation:

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>

Attendance is mandatory and will be taken at the start of each class (and recorded in the Canvas gradebook) – it is therefore important you arrive in class on time. I will take points off for each class absence, unless appropriate justification is provided, or the absence is due to one of the “acceptable reasons” as per UF policies.

Participation in class discussions should be consistent, informed, thoughtful and considerate.

NOTE: If you have personal issues that prohibit you from joining freely in class discussion, e.g., shyness, language barriers, etc., see the instructor as soon as possible to discuss alternative modes of participation.

Un-respectful class demeanor (e.g. talking and texting during the class, using laptops for anything else than taking class notes, and studying for other classes) is NOT TOLERATED.

Make-up policy

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>.

Excuses for missing a class test or deadline for assignments will only be accepted for proven and acceptable reasons. You should give me prior notice whenever possible.

Academic Honesty: UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Honor Code (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor.

Students Requiring Accommodation

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the Disability Resource Center by visiting <https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/>. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

Campus Helping Resources

Students experiencing crisis or personal problems that interfere with their general wellbeing are encouraged to utilize the university’s counseling resources. The Counseling and Wellness Center provides confidential counseling services at no cost for currently enrolled students. Contact information: <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx>, 392-1575. Other useful contacts are also the University Police Department: 392-1111.

Students with Disabilities Act

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter, which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

UF Evaluations Process

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

In-Class Recording

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to

the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor. A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session. Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student.

Class Schedule

Please note: the instructor reserves the right to make changes to the following schedule during the semester. The schedule might change according to the study of one particular work.

Week 1

R Jan 6 Introduction

Week 2

T-R Jan 11-13 Francophone literatures
 Camara Laye *The dark child* (autobiography 1) (chaps 1-5)
 Abiola Irele “In search of Camara Laye” (*Research in African Literatures*, Spring 2006, Vol. 37, No. 1, pp. 110-127)

Week 3

T-R Jan 18-20 Camara Laye *The dark child* (chaps 7-12)

Week 4

T-R Jan 25-27 Fatou Diome *The Belly of the Atlantic* (chaps 1-9)
 Ayo Coly “Globalization and the revival of the anticolonial and nationalist narrative of home” (Chap 6 in *The pull for nationhood*). (Ebook available online UF library).

Week 5

T-R Feb 1-3 Fatou Diome *The Belly of the Atlantic* (chaps 9-14)
Achille Mbembe "Africa's mode of self-writing" (in class)
Available online.

Week 6

T-R Feb 8-10 Gaël Faye *Small Country* (chaps 1-10)
Virginie Brinker, *La transmission littéraire et cinématographique du génocide des Tutsi au Rwanda*, 2014, p. 310-326. I will present the article.

Week 7

T-R Feb 15-17 Gaël Faye *Small Country* (chaps 11-31)
Kerstens, Paul. "Voice and give voice: dialectics between fiction and history in narratives on the Rwandan genocide." *International Journal of Francophone Studies* 9.1 (2006): 93-110.

First essay due**Week 7**

T-R Feb 22-24 Léonora Miano *Season of the Shadow* (chaps 1-3)
Léonora Miano "Sub-Saharan Literatures and the Conquest of the Self" (available online).

Week 8

M-R March 1-3 Léonora Miano *Season of the Shadow* (chaps 4-5)

Week 9

8- 10 March **Spring Break**

Week 10

T-R March 15-17 Léonora Miano *Season of the Shadow* (chaps 4-5)

Week 11

T-R March 22-24 Alain Mabanckou *Lights of Pointe-Noire* (Week 1)
(Autobiography 2)
Briex "Penser et Écrire l'Afrique aujourd'hui by Alain Mabanckou (review)" I will present the review
Mbembe "Afropolitanism" (available online).

Week 12

T-R March 29-31 Alain Mabanckou *Lights of Pointe-Noire* (Week 2)

Rokiatou Soumaré “How to Become Globalized Without Losing Your Mind: A Conversation with Alain Mabanckou” *World Literature Today* Vol. 90, No. 5 (article available online).

Second essay due

Week 13

T-R 5-7 April

David Diop *At night all blood is black* (chaps 1-13)

Week 14

T-R 12-14 April

David Diop *At night all blood is black* (chaps 14-27)

Week 15

T April 19

Conclusions

Final paper due