

Master Syllabus

1. Course Information

College: College of Liberal Arts
Department: Political Science
Course Title: Regional Studies: Africa
Course Designation and Number RST 271
GE Area(s)

II: Cultural-Social Foundations: The Non-western World

VI: College Component

Writing Intensive: Yes No

For WI Courses: All Sections Selected Sections are WI.

Method(s) of Instruction: Lecture
 Discussion
 Web-enhanced
 Web-only
 Other
 Small Group Activities

Includes Lab: Yes No

Prerequisites: None

1. Objectives

GE Program Objectives:

- sharpen critical thinking, problem-solving, and communication skills;
- learn about the aesthetic, ethical, moral, social, and cultural dimensions of human experience needed for participation in the human community;
- increase knowledge and understanding of the past, of the world in which we live, and of how both past and present have an impact on the future.

GE Area Two Objectives:

- describe and analyze historical-social elements of non-western culture;
- describe and analyze the global interdependence of groups and of individuals.

GE Area Six Objective (in addition to the above):

- understand important relationships and interdependencies between the student's major and other academic disciplines, world events or life endeavors.

Course Objectives and GE Learning Outcomes:

In terms of area two, students are introduced to historical, cultural, economic and political concepts in order to better understand contemporary issues as they relate to the continent of Africa. Presenting documentaries/films, slides and guest lecturers offer other valid viewpoints.

- describe and analyze historical-social elements of non-western culture.
- Describe and analyze the global interdependence of groups and individuals.

For area six, the college component, this course has linkages to virtually all majors in the Liberal Arts College, be they in the humanities, the fine arts, or the social sciences. In some instances students who take RST Africa, later enroll in other upper level courses or declare a major in political science. Moreover, some students also take Regional Studies: Africa because they intend to travel to this part of the world, thus they seek additional insights.

- Understand important relationships and interdependencies between the student's major and other academic disciplines, world events or life endeavors.

Re Diversity:

There are many aspects of this particular general education course that refer to human diversity since the African continent itself, not to mention the African diaspora, is rich in human diversity. The mere physical, cultural, religious and ethnic distinctions between North Africa and sub-Saharan Africa as well as the vast array of languages that are actually spoken in Africa (i.e., one-third of the languages in the world) address Africa's cultural imprint on humankind and cultural diversity. Africans scholars are regularly invited to lecture on books such as Chinua Achebe's Things Fall Apart. Such lecturers further promote the appreciation for cultural diversity. Discussions on myths and stereotypes is an invaluable component of this course, although it is often times a difficult topic given the sensitivity of this subject matter.

WAC Objectives

- To improve students' writing proficiency-their ability to develop ideas and transmit information for an appropriate audience in an organized, coherent fashion while writing with appropriate style and correct grammar, usage, punctuation, and spelling.
- To encourage students to use writing as a learning tool to explore and structure ideas, to articulate thoughts and questions, and to discover what they know and do not know, thereby empowering students to use writing as a tool of discovery, self-discipline, and thought.
- To demonstrate for students the ways in which writing is integral to all disciplines and essential to the learning and conveying of knowledge in all fields.

Students will be required to write a 1500 word interpretive essay on the novel Things Fall Apart, which they will have the opportunity to resubmit.

3. Suggested Course Materials

Reading: Achebe, Chinua. 1958. Things Fall Apart
Snipe, Tracy. 1998. Arts and Politics in Senegal
*(Regional Studies Africa – See course readings available in a packet at the bookstore.)

Videos: As indicated below.

4. Suggested Methods of Evaluation

The grades will be based on a map quiz of Africa, a written assignment and two exams. Prior to the exam, students will receive a comprehensive study guide. The exam is essentially in essay form. Sixty percent of it is based on identification questions and forty percent of its is based on short answer questions.

5. Grading Policy

All GE course are graded A – F. WI component is graded Pass/Unsatisfactory.

6. Suggested Weekly Course Outline Including Typical Assignments

- Week 1** Course Overview/Introduction
Map Presentation. (Librarian)

“Three Tales from Senegal” (Short film)

*“A Tradition of Myths and Stereotypes” in Africans and Their History
* “A Translator’s Preface” in Africans and Their History
- Week 2** *“Africa: A Geographic Preface” in Understanding Contemporary Africa
*“Definition of Africa: ‘Trans-Red Sea Theory’” in Homeward Journey: Readings in African Studies
- Week 3** **MAP QUIZ**
*“The Musical Heritage” in All That Jazz
“The Maghreb and the Berbers,” Homeward Journey
THERN AFRICA: (Slide presentation on Morocco)
- Week 4** Things Fall Apart
Guest Lecturer
- Week 5** **MIDTERM EXAMINATION**
- Week 6** * “European Exploration and Conquest of Africa” in Africana Studies
Chapter 2, “The French Policy of Assimilation” in Arts and Politics in Senegal, 1960-1996
- Week 7** * “Africa’s Road to Independence” in Africana Studies
Video 54158: “The Century of Warfare: War in the Middle East 1945-89”
- Week 8** **WESTERN AFRICA: Senegal**
“Introduction” in Arts and Politics in Senegal
“The First World Festival of Negro Arts” (Excerpt from documentary)
“Goree Suite” by Dr. Harley Flack (Sound recording)
- Week 9** Chapter 3, “President Leopold Sedar Senghor: Homme de Culture” in Arts and Politics in Senegal
Chapter 4, “President Abdou Diouf: Homme de Technique” in Arts and Politics in Senegal
- Week 10** **SOUTHERN AFRICA: South Africa**
“Southern Africa” in Cultural Atlas of Africa
Slide Presentation (South Africa)
FINAL EXMINATION (Covers all material since the midterm examination.)

7. Other

Syllabus distributed to students should employ the format approved by UCAP and must include:

- ✓ Instructor name, office hours, and contact information.
- ✓ Office of Disability Services information.
- ✓ Information on how grades will be determined.
- ✓ Attendance policy.