African Cultures across the World

4 Extra Departmental Courses

Offered by the Centre for Studies in African Literatures and Cultures

Open to all undergraduate students including those from the Dept. of Comparative Literature.

SEMESTER- 1

Course I: Orality, Words, Rhythm I

Section I:

1. The history of Africa and the ‘diaspora’ with reference to African peoples
   Two texts from Africa, one each from three from Caribbeans, South and North America
Note: These texts may be from any literary genre, ie. they need not necessarily be essays.

Section II

Study of one African musical tradition and any two of the musical/ cultural traditions, one from each ‘diaspora’
Texts to be both verbal and musical

African music: an overview

African American music -- origins, features.
   Blues -- origins, features, development, influential artistes, influence on other musical genres.
   Ragtime -- overview
   Jazz -- origins, confluence of African and European musical traditions, development, influential artists, new age jazz
   Rhythm and blues -- overview
   Soul music -- overview
   Hip-hop/rap/contemporary r & b

African music in the Caribbean -- overview
   Ska -- overview.
   Calypso -- overview.
   Reggae -- origins, features, influential artists
SEMESTER- II

Course II: Orality, Words, Rhythm II

Section I:

Conceptualising the culture of ‘orality’ in Africa and the ‘diaspora’: Part 2.
Two texts from Africa, one each from three from Caribbeans, South and North America
Note: These texts may be from any literary genre, ie., they need not necessarily be essays.

Section II:

20 poems from Francophone and Lusophone Africa,
20 from the African-American diaspora in the North and the South Americas and the Caribbeans

Suggested poets/movements: Leopold Sedar Senghor, Agostinho Neto, David Diop, Tchicaya U Tamisi,
Nicolas Guillen, Aime Cesaire
Poets from the Harlem Renaissance, the Black Arts movement and after
Lusophone Negritudinist poetry from Latin America

SEMESTER-III

Course III: Orality, Text, Script I

Section I:

The Culture of Orality and Scriptal Culture: part 1
Two texts from Africa, one each from three from Caribbeans, South and North America
Note: These texts may be from any literary genre, ie., they need not necessarily be essays.

Suggested texts: (From Movements and Concepts)
Harlem Renaissance and the Black Arts Movement
Negritude, Pan-Africanism
Creolite, Antilleanite
Womanism

Section II

Drama: Three plays, one from Africa, one from the Caribbeans and one from the Americas
Suggested authors: Wole Soyinka, Ngugi wa thiong’o, Ama Ata Aidoo, Efua Sutherland, Tess Onwuemeb, Femi Osofsan, Kole Omatsos,
Dereckalcott, Aime Cesaire
Lorraine Hansberry, LeRoi Jones, Ntozake Shange
Section I:

The Culture of Orality and Scriptal Culture: Part 2
This section will map the movement from orality to script in the formation of a new genre, i.e., the novel.
In the first section, illustrative selections will be taught from each of the following:
1. One African language text in translation
2. One English/French/Portuguese text incorporating cultures and forms of orality into script culture
   (Selections may be from available translations of African ‘first novels’ eg, Fagunwa, Nwana etc. for first part and Tutuola, Ahmadou Korounma, Amadu Koumba, etc. for second)
3. ‘Oral novels’ in the diaspora: Zora Neale Hurston

Section II

Narratives: 3 novels, one from Africa, two from the diaspora.

General bibliography

Aime Cesaire: *Discourse on Colonialism*
W.E.B. DuBois *Color and Democracy* (1945) and *The World and Africa* (1947), Frantz Fanon *Black Skin, White Masks* (1952)
George Padmore *Pan-Africanism or Communism?: The Coming Struggle for Africa* (1956)
Albert Memmi *The Colonizer and the Colonized* (1957)
Richard Wright's *White Man Listen!* (1957)
Robert Young *White Mythologies: Writing History and the West* (1990)
Joseph R. Washington (*Black Religion*, 1963)
Alice Walker *In Search of Our Mother’s Gardens*
Angela Davis
Chinua Achebe *Hopes and Impediments*  
*Home and Exile*
Ngugi wa thiong’o *Writers in Politics*  
*Homecoming*
*Moving the Centre*  
*Decolonising the Mind*
Wole Soyinka *Art Dialogue and Outrage* ed. Biodun Jeyifo