

"Africa in the 20th and 21st Centuries" is presented this semester as a reading course primarily focused on historical changes on the continent as its people encountered and navigated their way through a number of major transformative developments, including: imperialism; colonialism: wars; urbanization; new independence; globalization; and post-colonial circumstance. The course begins with a brief prelude and introduction which reviews the late nineteenth-century and early twentieth-century European conquests of African territory. Using an inter-disciplinary base of readings, the course does not hold tightly to purely chronological order. An emphasis is placed on listening to a narrative for this period as shared by African voices (artists, writers, artists, film makers, and historians). A museum visit, and a film series are included within the course calendar. Gender issues are isolated for review as a part of this semester's work. This course also serves as the Department's senior seminar.

STUDENT REQUIREMENTS

Students are expected to attend each meeting of the class. Both a mid-term and a final examination are included within our study pattern. The format for examinations is as follows: roughly 30 to 40 per cent "fill in the blank" questions; 60 to 70 per cent essays. A research paper of 15 pages is also required. A list of suggested topics for the term paper will be provided during the second week of class. Term paper topics, once chose, will be narrowed and refined in consultation with the professor and within individual office sessions. Term paper work shops will be provided in class. Term papers are due on 23 April. Classroom participation is rewarded; students are encouraged to display careful reading of texts, to ask probing questions which enrich discussion and debate, and to add new materials and commentaries.

Books: The following books have been ordered at the Rutgers University Book Store, on Halsey Street.

1. FOREIGN GODS INC . By Okey Ndibe. (Soho)
2. PURPLE HIBISCUS. By Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. (Algonquin)
3. WOMEN IN TWENTIETH CENTURY AFRICA. By Iris Berger (Cambridge)
4. AFRICA SPEAKS, AMERICA LISTENS. By Robin Kelley. (Harvard)

Additional Readings: Several additional short readings will be assigned; students will be required to access and to conduct readings on web sites.

Prof. Holbrook's Office: 303 Conklin hall

Hours: Thursdays, 1:30-2:30 and by appointment. Special hours for research paper advisement will be posted beginning in the third week of the semester.