

African Cultures across the World
Four Extra Departmental Courses
Offered by the Centre for Studies in African Literatures and Cultures

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

Course I: Orality, Words, Rhythm I [SEMESTER – I : GROUP A : (ED 1.27)]

Section I:

1. The history of Africa and the 'diaspora' with reference to African peoples
 2. Conceptualising the culture of 'orality' in Africa and the 'diaspora': 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, i.e. 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

Course II: Orality, Words, Rhythm II [SEMESTER – II: GROUP A : (ED 2.18)]

Section I:

Conceptualising the culture of 'orality' in Africa and the 'diaspora': Part 2.

Two texts from Africa, one each from three from Caribbean, South and North America

Note: These texts may be from any literary genre, i.e., they need not necessarily be essays.

Section II:

20 poems from Anglophone, Francophone and Lusophone Africa,

20 from the African-American diaspora in the North and the South Americas and the Caribbean

Suggested poets/movements: Leopold Sedar Senghor, Agostinho Neto, David Diop, Tchicaya U Tamsi, Nicolas Guillen, Aime Cesaire

Poets from the Harlem Renaissance, the Black Arts movement and after

Lusophone Negritudinist poetry from Latin America

Course III: Orality, Text, Script I [SEMESTER – III: GROUP B: (ED 3.15)]

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

Onuwyembe, Femi Osofisan, Kole Omatoso,

Dereck Walcott, Aime Cesaire

Lorraine Hansberry, LeRoi Jones, Ntozake Shange

Course IV: Orality, Text, Script II [SEMESTER – IV: GROUP B : (ED 4.28)]

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.

Suggested authors: Toni Morrison, Toni Cade Bambara, Ama Ata Aidoo, Chinua Achebe, Pepetela, Allejo Carpentier.

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)

Harold Cruse: (*The Crisis of the Negro Intellectual*, 1967),

James Cone: (*Black Theology and Black Power*, 1969),

Albert Cleage: (*The Black Messiah*, 1968),

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