

## Literatures of Africa: Course I ( CL/PG/ 3.3a )

### Rationale

This course offers the student a grounding in the historical, cultural and literary contexts of verbal expression in Africa, and introduces her to the emergence of Lusophone, Anglophone, and francophone literatures following colonial intervention. It is to be noted that oratures extant in different African languages and the new tradition of writing in these languages has been included only where authorial translations are available or where multiple translations are extant for the purposes of comparative study.

### Introduction: Making the map of Africa

**A.** This section focuses on the histories of contact and cultural transactions from the earliest times through the time of Islamic settlement, slave trade, colonialism, imperialism culminating in the conferences at Berlin, the partition of Africa, independence and the situations that result from it.

No texts will be taught; sections from relevant books will be referred to in the course of lectures.

#### **B. (i) Before 'literature'**

This section will consider theories and practices of orature, the place of orature in non-script societies through teaching of sections from texts that have been constructed through oral practices and documented by various sources

Texts :

Selections from the Malinke narrative *Sundiata*/selections from Thomas Mfolo's *Chaka*

Selections from collections of tales made by Birago Diop and Hampate Ba

Selections from D.O. Fagunwa's narrative *The Forest of a Thousand Demons* trans. W. Soyinka, to be taught in conjunction with selections from Amos Tutuola's *My Life in the Bush of Ghosts* or *The Palm wine Drinkard*

No. of texts : 4

#### **(ii) Literary Systems/Literary Languages**

This section traces the formation of culture as a concept and its effect upon the idea of literature and the place of the writer in the context of colonial cultural policy in Portuguese, French and English areas of influence, colonially and "post" colonially.

Texts :

Two essays each from Anglophone, Lusophone and Francophone African writers

No. of texts : 6

(iii) The Languages of African Literatures

This section focuses on the language debate in African literature

Texts :

Ngugi wa Thiong'o "Quest for Relevance", in *Decolonising the Mind* or one essay from *Homecoming* or one essay from *Writers in Politics*

Chinua Achebe "Colonialist Criticism" or "Where Angels Fear to Tread" or "The African Writer and the English Language"

Interviews with David Diop and Cheikh Hamidou Kane in Gerald Moore ed. *African Writers Talking*

Besides these, one current document on the language debate will be taught, eg. The Asmara declaration of 2000.

No. of Texts : 4 essays

C .Poetry

15 poems from the following collections to be selected each year

*Penguin Book of African Verse*

*French African Verse* eds, Wake And Reed

*Poems from Black Africa* ed. W, Soyinka

*The Heinemann Book of African Women's Poetry* eds. F. and S. Chipasula

*Songs of the Marketplace* ed. B. Jeyifo

*Echoes of the Sunbird, A Horse of White Clouds* (both edited by D. Burness)

Poems from North Africa

(ii) Selections from Prison Writings

Soyinka *The Man Died*

Ngugi *Detained*

Breyten Breytenbach *MouirNotes for a Novel*

Jack Mapanje ed. *Gathering Seaweed Prison Writing from Africa*

No. of texts : 1

## **Literatures of Africa Course II (CL/PG.4.2a)**

This course focuses on the novel, short story and drama.

### **Novels: 3 novels**

Three novels, one from North Africa, one from Anglophone Africa and one from either Lusophone or Francophone

### **Short stories : 10 short stories (selections)**

*Heinemann Book of South African Short Stories* eds. Hirson & Trump

*Picador Book of African Stories*

*Heinemann Book of Contemporary African Short Stories* eds. Achebe & Innes

*Unwinding Threads* ed. C. Brunner

*Opening Spaces* ed. Yvonne Vera

*The Heinemann Book of African Women's Writing* ed. C. Brunner

### **Drama : Selected plays**

J.P. Clarke, Wole Soyinka, Femi Osofisan, Bode Sowande, Tess O. Akeke, Irobi Esiaba, D. Ndlovu, South African People's Plays, Plays by South African Women, Athol Fugard, Zakes Mda, Penina Mlamba, Ngugi wa Thiong'o, Micere Mugo, Ama Ata Aidoo, Efua Sutherland, Catherine Levy Maree, Jacob Hevi, African Plays for Playing