Course Instructor: Dr. Sarah Cervone
Office: L216
Office Hours: by appointment
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Objective
This course is an introduction to African Humanities. It draws from interdisciplinary sources to examine the geographic continent called ‘Africa’ and the complex cultural systems, political structures, religious practices, economic arrangements, social relationships, and histories shared by the diverse populations of people connected to Africa.

Goals
At the conclusion of the semester, students will be able to:
   a. Understand and recreate physical, political and social maps of Africa,
   b. Identify archaeological histories of Africa and the development of African civilizations,
   c. Recognize the colonial and post-colonial relationships that position Africa in the Modern World System,
   d. Situate 21st century challenges and experiences within their specific socio-historical contexts,
   e. Appreciate the complexity and diversity of African cultures, societies and people,
   f. Interpret and discuss African social and cultural phenomena in an intellectual and academic context.

Class Design: The first part of the course will establish the historical foundations that have shaped contemporary social and cultural phenomena in Africa. Class lectures will complement the material presented in the textbook by offering introductory theories and concepts as they relate to Africa and people connected to Africa. Students will be evaluated via four writing assignments, two exams, and one project. Assignments, readings, grades, and announcements will be posted on Canvas and the course website, and all assignments must be submitted digitally through TurnitIn on Angel and in hardcopy in class. Students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the Canvas system.

Readings
In order to participate fully, it is important to complete each day’s reading assignment prior to class.
   • Supplemental articles will be available electronically on the course website

Grading and Assessment

1. Attendance 10 90-97.9 = A, 97-100 = A+
2. Exams: (2 x 20 points) = 40 80-87.9 = B, 88-89.9 = B+
3. Assignments (6 x 5 points) = 30 70-77.9 = C, 78-79.9 = C+
4. Final Project = 20 60-67.9 = D, 68-69.9 = D+
   < 60 = F
100 (Grades are never curved/bumped)
African Humanities: HUM 2420 (Fall 2013)
Tuesday & Thursday (11:00 – 12:15) NW Campus P-263
Canvas: login to eSantaFe at www.sfcollege.edu
Coursewebsite: http://anthrocervone.org/africanhumanities/

Attendance: Attendance and participation are a key component of this course. Every student is allowed two excused absences for religious, sickness or personal reasons. Three or more absences will result in a five-point reduction in the final grade unless medical documentation or a police report verifies extenuating circumstances. Two tardies greater than 10 minutes will result in one absence.

Exams: Each exam will be comprised of 20 true/false and multiple choice questions. They will cover the readings and the material (including films and speakers) presented in class. The exams are not cumulative. Each exam will be administered through the Angel website and will last 30 minutes after log-in. Students are responsible for saving and submitting their responses before the allotted time expires. **Students who chose to take an exam on an off-campus computer must do so at their own risk. Make-up exams will not be allowed with medical documentation.**

Assignments and Final Project: Class assignments are designed to assist students in developing specialized expertise in a specific country/area in Africa. In each assignment, it is extremely important to situate the unique experiences, histories, and circumstances of your selected region within the more broad social and historical phenomena that shape African culture. The assignments and projects will be graded according to: 1.) writing and grammar, 2.) content (use of material presented in the readings and in class), 3.) ability to present and discuss in class, 5.) use of academic sources, and 6.) aesthetic appeal and design (poster). **Failure to include citations will result in an automatic ‘0’**. Please check your ‘Turnitin’ score to avoid plagiarism. I will be available during office hours and by appointment to assist with any problems or questions. Assignments must be turned in via Canvas and in hardcopy in class before their specified due date and time. **Late assignments will not be accepted without medical documentation.**

General Education Learning Outcome
The final project will assess student’s ability to meet the GELO for Global and Socio-Cultural Responsibility: Demonstrate an understanding of diversity/pluralism in the world community, an awareness of civic and social participation, and ethical and informed decision-making. (GE Humanities C)

Classroom Etiquette
All points of view are welcome, yet they must be expressed in an intelligent and non-offensive manner and framed within an academic context. Students who revert to slurs and/or insults will be asked to leave the classroom. Please refer to the Santa Fe College Student Conduct Code: [http://dept.sfcollege.edu/rules/studentconductcode.pdf](http://dept.sfcollege.edu/rules/studentconductcode.pdf). In addition, **the use of cell phones and laptops is forbidden while class is in session.**
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Accommodations for Students with Disabilities
Under Section 504 and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, postsecondary institutions have an obligation to provide auxiliary aids and services that enable effective communication for qualified students with disabilities. Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Disability Resource Center. Visit http://www.sfcollege.edu/student/drc/index.php?section=policies/policies_procedures for more information.

Academic Honesty
Authenticity of student work will be verified though the Turnitin electronic database. Plagiarized work will receive a failing grade, and evidence of plagiarism will be submitted to the Department. For information about plagiarism and how to avoid it, visit: http://dept.sfcollege.edu/library/doingresearch/doingresearch_plagiarism.htm

Class Schedule

Part one: Constructing, Deconstructing and Reconstructing Africa
8/22: Course Introduction: Who we are and why we are here
8/27: Library Research Trip: Room Y 130
8/29: Physical, Political, and Ecological Geographies
   The Contemporary Map of Africa. Michael L. McNulty
9/3: Social Geographies and the ‘Global South’
   Africa: Problems and Perspectives. Phyllis Martin & Patrick O’Meara
9/5: Digital Exploration of Africa via Google Earth
   Assignment 1 (Country Reports) due: present & discuss in class

Part two: African Prehistory, Civilizations and Representations
9/10: Prehistory, Civilizations & Empires
   Aspects of Early African History. John Lamphear and Toyin Falola
9/12: African-European Relations
   Africa and Europe before 1900. Curtis A. Keim
9/17: Orientalism and Imperial Representations
   Orientalism. Edward Said and Afrocentricity, Molefi Kete Asante (available on course website)
9/19: Assignment 2 (Orientalist Representations) due: present & discuss in class

Part three: Colonialism, the Modern World System, and ‘Development’
9/24: Colonialism and the Modern World System
   The Colonial Era. Sheldon Gellar
9/26: Nations and Nation-building
   Decolonization, Independence, & the Failure of Politics. Edmond Keller
   Watch and discuss: Africa, States of Independence special by Aljazeera
10/1: Modernization and Development Policies & Programs
   The African Development Crisis. Richard Stryker & Stephen Ndegwa
10/3: Watch and Discuss: What are we doing here?
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10/8: Assignment 3 (Contemporary Challenges) due: present and discuss in class
10/10: Midterm Exam: Open in Angel from 10:00 am to 10:00 pm
10/15: Final Project Research and Development

Part Four: Culture & Society
10/17: Local Economies and Informal Markets
Economic Change in Contemporary Africa. Sara Berry
Watch & Discuss: Africa, a would-be economy
10/22: Religion & Philosophy
African Systems of Thought. Ivan Karp
10/24: Music & Art (Field Trip to Harn Museum’s African Collection)
The Art of Africa. Christa Clarke
Online: http://florida.theorangegrove.org/og/file/51ab38bb-7145-0b3a-a71a-fed62613114c/1/The%20Art%20of%20Africa.pdf
10/29: Assignment 4 (Localized Expressions) due: present & discuss
10/31: Final Project Description

Part Five: Global and Local Inequality
11/5: Language Diversity, Schooling & Education
11/7: Environment, Conservation and Indigenous People
11/12: African Garden Research and Development
11/14: Health & Inequality
11/19: Watch and discuss: A Walk to Beautiful
Assignment 5 Health Solutions

Part six: Globalization & the African Diaspora
11/21: Africanizing Globalization
Social Change in Contemporary Africa. Claire Robertson in Africa
11/26: Watch & Discuss: Hip Hop Colony
11/28: The African Diaspora
12/3: Final Projects Due
12/5: African Food and Music Festival
12/12: Final Exam Open in Canvas 10:30 AM to 10:30 PM
Changes to this syllabus: In the event of extenuating circumstances, the information listed in this syllabus may change. All modifications will be announced in advance in class and on Angel.