

ST. LOUIS UNIVERSITY - MADRID
ENGL 333

LITERATURE OF THE AFRICAN DIASPORA

Section M01	Tuesday & Thursday 12:30 pm – 1:45 pm	Dr. Stephen Casmier
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Office:	Padre Arrupe Hall 3 rd Floor	Classroom: Padre Rubio Hall 4
Office Hours:	TTh 11-12:15	(or by appointment)

Literature of the African Diaspora

Literature of the African Diaspora will acquaint students with literature of the Black Atlantic experience (the experience of Africans in three regions: Africa, the Americas and Europe) through the discussion of writings spanning a period of nearly three hundred years. In this course, students will read seven major works of literature in addition to a selection of essays, poems and short stories. Students will be expected to write 3 short essays on any 3 of the seven major works discussed in this class. Texts for this class will include: *Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe, *So Long A Letter* by Mariama Ba, *The Classic Slave Narratives*, edited by Henry Louis Gates, *The Dark Child* by Camara Laye, *Beloved* by Toni Morrison, and *Native Son* by Richard Wright.

Books and Other Materials

Things Fall Apart, Chinua Achebe
The Classic Slave Narratives, Ed. Henry Louis Gates
The Dark Child, Camara Laye
So Long a Letter, Mariama Ba
Beloved, Toni Morrison.
Native Son, Richard Wright

Evaluation

Attendance: Attendance at all class sessions is required. This is not a correspondence course. Missing more than three classes will seriously affect the grade given in this course. Anyone who expects to be absent from class for sanctioned events should inform the professor during the first week of class.

Assignments: The grade in this course will be based on the student's performance on 2 exams, 3 papers, several short quizzes and an oral report. You may rewrite one paper for a better grade. A word of advice: you *cannot* rewrite the final paper, so you should not wait until the end of the semester to write your papers if you want to maximize your chances of getting a good grade.

All assignments must be given to me in class on the day that they are due. You must do your oral report on the assigned day. You also have eight opportunities to write only three papers, so *I will not accept late papers*.

Although I give the whole gamut of minus and plus grades, your final grade in the course will be limited to the following scale. A (4.0), A- (3.7), B+ (3.3), B (3.0), B- (2.7), C+ (2.3) C (2.0), C- (1.7), D (1.0), F (0.0)

Academic Integrity/Ethics

This class will adhere to the following guidelines adopted by the English Department concerning Academic Integrity:

Students are expected to be honest in their academic work. The University reserves the right to penalize any student whose academic conduct is, in its judgment, detrimental to the University. As discussed in the *Student Handbook*, such conduct includes cases of plagiarism, collusion, cheating, giving or receiving (or offering or soliciting) information in examinations, or the use of previously prepared material in examinations or quizzes.

Your course instructor will investigate and adjudicate violations according to the *Policy on Academic Honesty* of the College of Arts and Sciences. If the charges are found to be true, the student may be liable for substantial penalties. In cases involving less serious infractions -- such as failing to document properly a small part of a paper or assignment that derived from a written source or from the work of another student -- the instructor may impose a grade penalty as he thinks appropriate. Normally, an obviously plagiarized paper will receive a zero grade. In cases of more serious violations, such as plagiarizing all or a large part of a paper or assignment or colluding with another student in an act of dishonesty, students may also face additional penalties from officials in the school or college in which they are pursuing their degrees. These penalties may include such things as academic probation, suspension or expulsion by the University.

Format

All essays and assignments done outside the classroom must be printed by a computer printer. The typeface should be clean, dark, easy to read and double-spaced. Please place your name, my name, the assignment number, and the title of the piece at the top left-hand corner of your first page. Number the pages and staple them together.

I. Africa and the Middle Passage

Week 1

Introduction

The African Slave Trade and the Black Atlantic

Assignments: *Things Fall Apart*, pp. 1-51

Week 2

Assignment: *TFA*, pp. 52-109

TFA, pp. 110-147

Presentations:

1) Nigeria & the Igbo

2) Tarzan, Mr. Johnson and Stereotypes of Africans (video summary)

3) Chinua Achebe

Week 3

Assignment: *TFA*, pp. 148-209

The Life of Olaudah Equiano, pp. 15-247

Presentations: 4) The Slave Trade
5) Justifications for Slavery/European Images of Africans

Week 4

Presentations: *Frederick Douglass*, pp. 339-436
6) The Slave Market

II. Slavery and Jim Crow

Week 5

Assignments *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*, pp. 437-567

Presentations:
7) Abolition Movement
8) Runaway Slave Ads in St. Louis Papers
Paper #1 Due *Things Fall Apart*

Week 6

Assignments *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*, pp. 567-668

Presentations: 9) Slave Sale Ads and Inventories
10) Dred Scott

Week 7

Assignments "The Passing of Grandison," (Library Packet)
Assignment: "If We Must Die,"
"Africa"
"America")
Langston Hughes
"Stranger in the Village" (Library Packet)

Presentations: 11) Frederick Douglass
12) Reconstruction

Paper #2 Due *Equiano*

Take-home Midterm

Week 8

Presentations: 13) Jim Crow
14) Langston Hughes
15) The Harlem Renaissance

Paper #3 *Slave Girl/Frederick Douglass*

III. Europe and the Black Atlantic

Week 9

Assignment Senghor
Dark Child, pp. 1 - 92
Dark Child, pp. 93-135

Week 10

Presentations: 16) Camara Laye
 17) Negritude
Assignment: *Dark Child*, 137-188
So Long a Letter

Week 11

Presentations: 18) The Malinké
 19) Pan Africanism
Assignment *So Long a Letter*

Paper #4 Due *Dark Child*

Week 12

Presentations: *Native Son*, pp. 3-93
 20) Richard Wright
 21) "How Bigger Was Born"

Paper #5 *So Long a Letter*

Week 13

Assignment: *Native Son*, pp. 97-270
Presentations: 22) Race & Social Darwinism
 23) The Great Migration

IV. Re-membering Africa and America

Week 14

Assignment: *Native Son*, pp. 273-430
Assignment: *Beloved*, pp. 3-85
Presentations: 24) Lynching and *Without Sanctuary* (Library Reserve)
 25) Margaret Garner
 26) Toni Morrison

Week 15

Assignment: *Beloved*, pp. 86-209
 Beloved, pp. 210-275
Presentations: 27) Civil Rights Movement
 28) Afro Centrism

Paper #6 Due

Native Son

Final (In Class or WebCT) 2 - 3 pm

Paper #7 Due

Beloved (No Workshop)