

General Education Course Proposal

Proposed Course: French 149 Voices of Africa Units 3
Prefix No. Title

Department: Foreign Languages & Literature School: Arts & Humanities

GE Category (Indicate one category only):

Foundation: A1___; A2___; A3___; B4___
Breadth: B1___; B2___; C1___; C2___; D___; E___
Integration: B___; C X; D___; International/Multicultural___

Existing Course X; Revised Course ___; New Course ___

Course Included in Current GE Program yes

New courses require the Undergraduate Course Proposal form in addition to this form.

Revised courses require the Undergraduate Course Change Request in addition to this form.

Proposed catalog description: Limit course description to 40 words using succinct phrases. Include prerequisites, limitations, lecture/lab hours. Indicate former course number, e.g., (Former Biol 105)

Study of representative works by such writers as Achebe, Senghor, and Mphahlele which reveal the attitudes of modern Africans toward their land, their traditions, and their encounter with the 20th century world. Course taught in English.

Enrollment limit per section: 30

Expected number of sections per semester – Year 1 1; Year 3 1

Attachments:

1. A statement presenting the ways in which this course meets the Specifications provided in the appropriate section of the General Education Policy as well as in the Policies for Inclusion and Evaluation of General Education Courses.
2. A statement of elements common to all sections of this course, identifying content, objectives, required student activities, grading policy, representative texts, and an approximate schedule for the course. Required student activities include such things as papers, research projects, homework, laboratory and/or studio performance, recitations, participation, attendance, and exams.
3. A typical syllabus for a particular offering of the course.
4. Any special cost factors associated with this course.

Approval for Inclusion in General Education

[Signature] 3-23-98 Kim Morin 4/29/98
Department Chair Date School Curriculum Committee Date

[Signature] 5/6/98 [Signature] 12/15/98
School Dean Date General Education Subcommittee Date

[Signature] 12/22/98
Associate Provost Date

French 149 Voices of Africa

ATTACHMENT #2

FREQUENCY OF COURSE OFFERING:

Spring semester

PREREQUISITE:

upper division standing

CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

Study of representative works by such writers as Achebe, Senghor, and Mphahlele which reveal the attitudes of modern African toward their land, their traditions, and their encounter with the 20th century world. Course taught in English.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this course students will

- 1) become familiar with the historical development of literature (originally published in French) of Africa South of the Sahara .
- 2) understand the links between Africa, the West Indies and African Americans as they met in Paris in the 1920s and 1930s
- 3) understand fundamental principles of religion and philosophy as they pertain to African culture.

COURSE CONTENT AND SCOPE:

This course introduces students to the culture and literature of Africa South of the Sahara. The emphasis is on literature published in French but the students will also be exposed to the Harlem Renaissance and its cultural contributions to the African Négritude movement as well as literature published in other European languages (Spanish, Portuguese).

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODOLOGIES:

Students present oral reports from readings on African religions and philosophies by Joseph M'Biti; in class discussion on the various reading selections; viewing of most of the film series by Ali Mazrui, The Africans, to contextualize the setting in the various works read and discussed as well as the film adaptation of Joseph Zobel's Black Shack Alley.

REQUIRED OUT-OF-CLASS ASSIGNMENTS:

Students read the assigned text according to the class schedule; students prepare oral reports (and written summaries) on African Religions and Philosophies; students complete a term paper (minimum 2,500 words) in which they compare a required text with another proposed text of their choice (see attached list with syllabus).

The 4,000 word writing requirement is met by 1) written report on a chapter of either Joseph MBiti's or Janheinz Jahn's books 2) essay midterm and final exam 3) term paper (2,500 word minimum)

TYPICAL COURSE SCHEDULE:

Week 1	Intro. to African Geography - with particular attention to Africa South of the Sahara.
Week 2	Intro. to African History. Assignment on African Religions & Philosophies
Week 3	Discussion on African Religions and Philosophies
Week 4	Intro. to the African Folk Tale
Week 5	Discussion of some African Folk Tales
Week 6	Traditional Africa; Introd. to Camara Laye, <u>The Dark Child</u>
Week 7	Discussion of <u>The Dark Child</u> ; Intro. to Joseph Zobel, <u>Black Shack Alley</u>
Week 8	Viewing of film: Sugar Cane Alley; comparing book and film
Week 9	Comparing the two autobiographical works (Laye & Zobel)
Week 10	Intro. to the Harlem Renaissance and its impact on French African Lit.
Week 11	Intro. to Claude McKay, <u>Banjo</u> ;
Week 12	Discussion of Négritude; reading of poetry of Senghor, Césaire, & Damas
Week 13	Post colonial literature: Mariama Bâ, <u>So Long A Letter</u>
Week 14	Discussion of African women writer in general and of M. Bâ's work
Week 15	Discussion of African literature in Spanish, Portuguese and Afrikaans with selected readings in English

P.S. Every week or so, a segment (30 minutes) of Ali Mazrui's The Africans series is viewed to better understand the many cultures of Africa and the influence of traditional Africa, Islam, and the West on modern Africa.

MULTIPLE METHODS OF EVALUATION AND GRADING POLICY:

- 1) Oral Report on one or two chapters of Joseph Mbiti or Janheinz Jahn's books (20% of grade)
- 2) Writing: Students will write one term paper. It will involve reading one additional work and comparing it to one read in class. (40% of grade)
- 3) Examinations: there will be one midterm essay (20% of grade) and one final essay exam (20%) on course materials.

FRENCH 149: VOICES OF AFRICA
(3 units)

Dr. Maurice Gendron

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PREREQUISITE: upper division standing

CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

Study of representative works by African writers which reveal the attitudes of Africans towards their land, their traditions, and their encounter with the 20th Century world.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- 1) To become familiar with the historical development of literature (originally published in French) of Africa south of the Sahara .
- 2) To understand the links between Africa, the West Indies and African Americans as they met in Paris in the 1920s and 1930s
- 3) To understand fundamental principles of religion and philosophy as they pertain to African culture.

READING LIST;

Selected passages from: Janheinz Jahn, Muntu, The New Culture

John S. Mbiti, African Religions and
Philosophies

Birago Diop, Tales of Amadou Koumba (selections)

Camara Laye, The Dark Child

Claude McKay, Banjo

Zobel, Joseph, Black Shack Alley

Selected reading of Négritude authors (in course handout)

Mariama Bâ, So Long a Letter

Athol Fugard, Master Harold and the Boys

GRADING;

1) Oral Report on one or two chapters of Joseph Mbiti or Janheinz Jahn' s books (20%)

2) Writing: Students will write one term paper. It will involve reading one additional work and comparing it to one read in class. (40%)

3) Examinations: there will be one midterm essay (20%) and one final essay exam (20%) on course materials.

Students With Disability:

It is the student's responsibility to identify himself(herself) to the university and instructor so reasonable accommodations for learning and evaluations within the course can be made.

Conduct of course; cheating and plagiarism:

Please consult the University policies in the Catalog and the Schedule of Courses.

French 149

Course Schedule

January 29: Introduction; presentation on African geography by Dr. R. Lee

February 5: African Religions and Philosophy oral reports; presentation by Prof. James Brouwer on African History; viewing of first video segment of The Africans: a Triple Heritage

February 12: Continue oral reports; introduction to the African folk tale, Tales of Amadou Koumba; film series segment: The Africans (30 minutes)

February 19: African folk tales; The Africans

February 26: Camara Laye's The Dark Child; The Africans

March 5: The Dark Child; film "Sugar Cane Alley" from Joseph Zobel's novel "Rue Cases Nègres"

March 12: Comparing The Dark Child and "Sugar Cane Alley"; the Africans

March 19: an introduction to the Harlem Renaissance and Claude McKay; The Africans

March 27: Claude McKay's Banjo :

April 2: MidTerm Exam; introduction to the "négritude" movement; The Africans

April 9: Easter Week Recess

April 16: The poets of "négritude"; selections; The Africans

April 23: Negritude poets cont'd; film "The End of the Road"

April 30: So Long a Letter; The Africans

May 7: So Long a Letter cont'd; intro. to Athol Fugard; Term paper due (absolute deadline); the Africans

May 14: Master Harold and the Boys; doc. on South Africa

May 21: Final Exam: 17:45 - 19:45

John S. Mbiti, African Religions and Philosophies, N.Y., 1970

Janheinz Jahn, MUNTU: The New African Culture, N.Y., 1961

Mbiti, "The Concept of Time" (Chap.3)

"The Nature of God" (Chap. 4) &"The Works of God"
(Chap.5)

"Spiritual Beings, Spirits, and the Living Dead", (Chap.8),

Jahn, "Life and Death; Death and Rebirth; Religion and Ethics
(Chap. 4)

Mbiti, "Ethnic Groups, Kinship and the Individual" (Chap.10)

"Birth & Childhood" (Chap.11)

"Initiation and Puberty Rites"(Chap. 12)

"Marriage and Procreation" (Ch. 13),

"Death and the Hereafter" (Chap. 14)

"Specialists: Medicine-Men, Rainmakers, Kings and Priests" (Chap. 15)

"Mystical Power, Magic, Witchcraft and Sorcery" (Chap. 16)

Jahn, "Nommo - The Magic Power of the Word" (Chap.5)

FRENCH 149

Suggested READING SELECTIONS for term paper:

Ousmane Sembene, God's Bits of Wood

Wole Soyinka, The Interpreters

Hamidou Kane, Ambiguous Adventure

Ezechiel Mphahlele, Down Second Avenue

Chinua Achebe, Things Fall Apart or Man of the People

Mongo Beti, King Lazarus

Yambo Ouologuem, Bound to Violence

Ferdinand Oyono, Houseboy

Sembene Ousmane, The Money Order

James (Wa Thiongo) Ngugi, A Grain of Wheat

Nadine Gordimer, July's People

Legson Kayira, The Detainee

Choose one work:

How does it relate to The Dark Child,
Banjo, So Long a Letter, or Black Shack Alley?