**ENGLISH 335: Literary and Creative Expressions in West Africa - Winter 2023**

Christopher Wise, Professor

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Office: HUM 251

Office Hours: By appointment

**CATALOG DESCRIPTION:**

ENG 335 – Literary and Creative Expressions Across Asia, Africa, the Middle East, and Latin America

Analysis primarily of texts of Asia, Africa, the Middle East and Latin America. Repeatable once as an elective with different topics.

Prerequisites & Notes: ENG 101 or equivalent.

Credits: 5

Grade Mode: Letter

GUR Attributes: ACGM

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course will examine contemporary West African texts, including novels, films, speeches, as well as political and literary theory. Course concerns will include colonialism, imperialism, neocolonialism, neo-imperialism, third world literature and post-colonialism, decolonization, racism, negritude, and ethnic conflict, FGM and tribal cutting, and related issues.

**Course Texts**

Sembene Ousmane, film: *Xala*

Thomas Sankara, *Thomas Sankara Speaks*

Aime Cesaire, *Discourse on Colonialism*

Yambo Ouologuem, *The Duty of Violence*

Joshua Hammer, *The Bad-Ass Librarians of Timbuktu*

Sembene Ousmane, film: *Moolade*

Ngugi wa Thiong’o, *The River Between*

**STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

1. Communicate critically in a variety of creative genres, forms and structures using recognized conventions.
2. Understand and read texts critically in relation to the discourses and cultures of West Africa with special emphasis on the Senegalese context.

**CLASS EXPECTATIONS**

Students will write one mid-term essay exam (2 hours), one take-home final exam, and one formal paper (1,250-1,500 words). Formal paper topics will be written in consultation with the instructor. Students will also perform small group work. In addition to doing the course reading in a timely fashion, students will visit historical and cultural sites as well as attend guest lectures and/or gatherings on topics relevant to the course themes.

*Plagiarism*

Plagiarism will lead to automatic failure of this course. The instructor will follow standard procedures as outline in WWU’s catalogue in responding to plagiarism.

*Attendance*

* Attendance is mandatory for this course. Two absences are allowed without affecting your grade. Each absence thereafter will lower your FINAL grade by 1/3 (So a “B” would become a “B-” for example.) It is your responsibility to ask for materials and information covered in your absence.
* Reasonable accommodation for persons with documented disabilities can be arranged through Disability Resources for Students at Old Main 110 or by email at [drs@wwu.edu](mailto:drs@wwu.edu). Please bring documentation to me within the *first week* of class so we can work together from the start.

*Mobile Phones/ Laptops*

* All cell phones should be turned off when you enter the classroom.

**GRADING** **&** **ASSIGNMENTS**

Midterm [25%]

Take-Home Final Exam [25%]

Formal Essay [25%]

Participation [25%]

Note: “Participation” includes group work, attendance, presentations, in-class writing, etc.

**Class Schedule**

[Note: Due to non-standard nature of class meetings, the class schedule for all three sections taught will be the same.  However, readings and assignments for different sections are indicated according to course number, i.e 335, 333, 408, 350]

READING *PRIOR* TO QUARTER:

333/408: Read: F.E. Peters, *Judaism, Christianity, and Islam* (Chapters 1-2)

333/408: View film: *La genèse* [*Genesis*]

335: Read: Ngugi, *The River Between*

350: Read Ba, *So Long A Letter*

WWU ON-CAMPUS (Before Senegal):

Tuesday, 1/3: 12-4:30: Course Intro and Syllabus; 333/408/335/350.

Wednesday, 1/4: 12-4:30pm, 4.5 hrs; 333/408/335/350.

Thursday, 1/5: 12:00-3:30, 3.5 hrs; 333/408: Lecture/Discussion: “Ancient Egypt & The Abrahamic, pt 1”; Read: *Egyptian Book of the Dead* (Goelet, “Commentary”; Plates 1-4; “Commentary” on “Plates 1-4.”

Friday, 1/6: 12:30-4:30: 4.5 hrs: 333/408/350: Read: Peters, *Judaism, Christianity, and Islam* (Chapter 3).

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Monday, 1/9: 12-4:30pm 4.5 hrs; 333/408:Lecture/Discussion 1: “Islam and the Abrahamic”; 335: Lecture/Discussion 2: “Sembene’s *Mooladé &* Ngugi's *The River Between";*333/408: Read Peters, *Judaism, Christianity, and Islam* (Chapter 4); 335: View: *Mooladé*.

Tuesday 1/10:12: 3;30, 3.5 hrs; 333/408: Read: Hale/Malio, *The Epic of Askia Mohammed*.

Wednesday, 1/11: 12-4:30pm, 4.5 hrs; 333/408/350: Read: Wise/Kati, *Timbuktu Chronicles* (ix-xxvii; 15-62; 85-114).

Thursday, 1/12:, 3.5hrs; 333/408: Read: Wise/Kati, *Timbuktu Chronicles* (115-154); 335: In-class film viewing and discussion: *Xala*.

Friday, 1/13: 12-4:30pm, 4.5 hrs; 333/408/350: Read: Wise/Kati, *Timbuktu Chronicles* (173-209; 223-307).

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Monday, 1/16: Holiday

Tuesday 1/17: 3.5 hrs; 335: Read: Ouologuem/Wise, *The Yambo Ouologuem Reader* (vii-208*).*

Wednesday 1/18: 12-4:30pm, 4.5 hrs, 333/408/335/350.

Friday, 1/20: View *Ceddo*.

Monday, 1/23: 12-4:30pm: 4.5 hrs: 333/408/335/350. Lecture/Discussion: Third World Literature & Postcolonial Studies; 335: Read: Cesaire, *Discourse on Colonialism* & *Thomas Sankara Speaks*(excerpts) [4.5 hrs];

Tuesday, 1/24: 12-4:30pm: 4.5 hrs: 333/408: 333/408/335/350. Taal "Key Concepts & Traditional African Society" & Hammer's *The Bad-Ass Librarians of Timbuktu* [4.5 hrs]

Wednesday 1/25: Read: Hammer's, *The Bad-Ass Librarians of Timbuktu*. [4.5 hrs].

Thursday 1/26: 12-4:30pm: [4.5 hrs]: 333/408/335/350.: Read Hammer's *The Bad-Ass Librarians of Timbuktu.*

Friday 1/27: 12-4:30pm: [4.5 hrs]: 333/408/335/350; **Midterm Exams: 333/408**

SENEGAL PORTION OF QUARTER:

Sunday 1/29: Arrive in Dakar: NIGHT ONE IN DAKAR

Monday 1/30: AM/PM Historical Tour of Dakar: NIGHT TWO IN DAKAR

Tuesday 1/31: West African Research Center: NIGHT THREE IN DAKAR

AM – Grand Marché Visit & Wade Monument

PM – WARC Welcome Banquet: Presentation, Director of P.R.

Griot performance: Sanu Mbaye & Soninke singer from Sorano

(oral history as spoken and sang), 4:00 pm – 8:00 pm.

Wednesday 2/1: Goree Island: NIGHT FOUR IN DAKAR

Museum Maison des Eclaves/ Slaves’ House

Thursday 2/2: Religious Leaders & Lectures: NIGHT FIVE IN DAKAR

8-9:30 am Class: Pre-Mosque visit.

AM– Grand Tijaniyya Mosque - Talk: Mamarame Seck, IFAN.

PM – Catholic Cathedral - Abbe Jacques Seck.

Friday 2/3: WARA, IFAN, Diop University: NIGHT SIX IN DAKAR

AM –Lecture at WARC: Prof Louis Mendy on Sembene’s *Ceddo.*

Lunch at WARC

PM – IFAN & Diop University Visit.

Saturday 2/4: Dakar & Lake Retba: NIGHT SEVEN IN DAKAR

8-11 am Class: Reading: Wise, *Archive of Umarian Tijaniyya* (TBA).

PM – Lake Retba Visit

Sunday 2/5: Dakar: NIGHT EIGHT IN DAKAR

AM –WARC: Lecturer: Dr. Sokhna Mai Mbacke Djamil, Young Women Leader of the Muridiyya;

Lunch at WARC.

PM – Surfing Lessons & Beach

Monday 2/6: Touba: NIGHT ONE IN SAINT LOUIS

AM – Travel to St. Louis via Touba.

PM – Tour Djourbel & Muridiyaa Mosque.

Tuesday 2/7: St. Louis: NIGHT TWO IN SAINT LOUIS

Free day to explore Saint Louis

Wednesday 2/8: St. Louist: NIGHT THREE IN SAINT LOUIS

PM – Historical Tour of St. Louis

St Louis and Gaston Berger University:

PM – Tour of GBU & Guest Lecturer: Alassane Dia

4-7pm Class: 335; Topic: Tijaniyya in Futa Tooro

Thursday 2/9: NIGHT FOUR IN SAINT LOUIS

Visit to Alwaar

Friday 2/10: Free Day in Saint Louis: NIGHT FIVE IN SAINT LOUIS

Saturday 2/11: NIGHT SIX IN SAINT LOUIS

Visit to Djoudj National Bird Sanctuary

Sunday 2/12: Class, Travel to Saly: NIGHT ONE IN SALY

AM Travel

PM – Beach

Monday 2/13 Saly: NIGHT TWO IN SALY

8-10am Class [350]

Visit to Djilor, Senghor’s village

Lecturer at Senghor’s Village.

Cultural Performance & Discussion

Tuesday, 2/14 Saly: NIGHT THREE IN SALY

8-10 am Class [333/350]

Visit Joal, Senghor’s Hometown

Lecturer: Raphael Ndiaye, Director, Foundation Senghor.

Wednesday 2/15: Saly: NIGHT FOUR IN SALY

8-11 am Class – Ablaye Diakaté (on Ajami Research)

PM: Lagune de la Somone – Boat Tour / Beach

Thursday 2/16: Saly: NIGHT FIVE IN SALY

Reserve De Bandia / Beach

Friday 2/17: Saly: NIGHT SIX IN SALY

PAPER CONFERENCES.

 PM – Celebration Party, Local Band & Dancing

Saturday 2/18: Depart

Final assignments Due: F 3/10

*Note: All information on this syllabus is subject to revision.*