**ENGLISH 333/408: Topics in Global Literature: Scribes & Griots - Winter 2023**

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Office Hours: By appointment

**CATALOG DESCRIPTIONS:**

**ENG 333: Topics in Global Literature**

Studies in world literature in English or translation and of their historical and cultural contexts.

Prerequisites & Notes: ENG 202

Credits: 5

Grade Mode: Letter

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course will explore literary and creative expressions of Africa from the time of the Ancient Egyptians to the present. Ancient African as well as more recent Islamic notions of speaking, writing, and other forms of communication will be situated in their proper historical setting and cultural context, including griot and written traditions. We will also explore questions of sorcery, the Abrahamic traditions, especially Islam and West African Sufism, and Ajamization with special reference to the Sahelian setting. To this end, we will focus especially on two prominent Sufi orders in the Sahel: the Umarian Tijaniyya and the Muridiyya. In Senegal, we will meet and speak with prominent members of both orders.

**TEXTS**

Raymond Faulkner, *The Egyptian Book of the Dead \**

F. E. Peters, *Judaism, Christianity, and Islam*(vol. 1)\*

Cheick Omar Sissoko, *Genesis* (film)

Thomas Hale/Nouhou Malio, *The Epic of Askia Mohammed \**

Christopher Wise/Mahmud Kati, *The Timbuktu Chronicles* \*

Christopher Wise, [*Archive of the Umarian Tijaniyya.*](https://wwu.instructure.com/courses/1269087/files/52955669/download?verifier=5NubUFa0phLEs2YWnmc1TirG9HDJ4b9CpbbtHPUF&wrap=1)

Sembene Ousmane, *Ceddo: We Do Not Want To Convert To Islam* (film)

Al Hajj Seku Taal, ["Key Concepts and Traditional African Society"](https://wwu.instructure.com/courses/1269087/files/52955798/download?verifier=WNAZ7Sk3WWOdsQ6xdp63aFtgNNVnlqc33Z06Otlb&wrap=1)

**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 Africa from the time of the Ancient Egyptians to the present, 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). ENG 408 students will write a longer formal paper (2,500 to 3,000 words); they will also give oral presentations of their research and give group reports on topics assigned by the professor. 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**

ENG 333 Students

Midterm [25%]

Take-Home Final Exam [25%]

Formal Essay [25%]

Participation [25%]

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

ENG 408 Students

 Midterm [20%]

Take-Home Final Exam [20%]

Formal Essay [35%]

Participation [25%]

Note: “Participation” includes group work, attendance, presentations, in-class freewrites, 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 – 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 pm, 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: 12:00-3:30, 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: 12-4:30, 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

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.*