

Ambedkar University Delhi

Course Outline

Monsoon Semester (August-December 2018)

School: School of Letters

Programme with title: MA English

Semester to which offered: I and III

Course Title: Literatures of Africa

Credits: 4 Credits

Course Code: SOL2EN338

Type of Course:

Compulsory:

Elective: Yes

For SUS only (Mark an X for as many as appropriate):

1. Foundation (Compulsory)
2. Foundation (Elective)
3. Discipline (Compulsory)
4. Discipline (Elective)
5. Elective

Course Coordinator and Team: Prof. Harish Narang

Email of course coordinator: harishc.narang@gmail.com

Pre-requisites: None

Aim: This course focuses on colonial and post-colonial writings which emerged from different African colonies and nations in the twentieth century. It invites student to grapple with issues of gender, race, ethnicity, language and decolonization through a reading of works which respond and react to racial subjugation, exploitation and even erasure faced by the people of Africa over

the last four centuries. An attempt would be made to survey some representative texts from Africa written in the recent past in English or in translation.

Brief description of modules/ Main modules:

The course shall be divided into the following four modules for the purposes of actual classroom teaching and evaluation:

Module I: Africa in History - and Out of it.

This Module will focus on the history of Africa before its colonization and attempts to distort its historical evolution during the colonization

Module II: Africa under colonization

This Module will focus on different models of colonizing in different regions by various European powers and their comparative impacts on Africans. This Module will also take into account the process of decolonization of various African nations.

Module III: Literary texts from the regions of East and Central Africa will be discussed against the background of the socio-political history of related nations.

Relevant theoretical texts- essays and books- especially by African scholars will also be discussed within this module.

Module IV: Literary texts from Western and Southern regions of Africa will be taken up for detailed study in this Module.

Tentative Reading List:

Aime Césaire- Selected Poems

Alan Paton- *Cry, the Beloved Country*

Alex La Guma- *A Walk in the Night*

Ama Ata Aidoo- Selected Poems

Amos Tutuola- *The Palm-wine Drinkard*

Ayi Kwei Armah- *The Beautiful Ones Are Not Yet Born*

Ben Okri- *The Famished Road*

Bessie Head- *Maru*

Buchi Emecheta- *Naira Power, In the Ditch*

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie- *Half of A Yellow Sun*

Chinua Achebe- *Things Fall Apart, Anthills of Savannah, A Man of the People*

Flora Nwapa- *Efuru, This is Lagos and Other Stories*

Frantz Fanon- *Black Skin, White Masks, The Wretched of the Earth*

J.M. Coetzee- *Disgrace*

Leopold Senghor- Selected Poems

Nadine Gordimer- *My Son's Story*

Naguib Mahfouz- *The Beginning and the End*

Ngugi wa Thiong'o- *I Will Marry When I Want, The Trail of Dedan Kimathi, Petals of Blood, Weep not Child, Matigari*

Okot P'Bitek- *Song of Lawino, Song of Ocol*

Ousmane Sambene- *God's Bits of Wood, Xala*

Tsitsi Dangarembga- *Nervous Conditions*

Wole Soyinka- *A Man of the Forests*

Yvonne Vera- *Butterfly Burning*

Apart from these a host of secondary readings will be used to link the different ideological pegs that hold the course together.

Tentative Assessment schedule with details of weightage:

Home assignment: 20%

Mid semester exam: 40%

End semester exam: 40%