

UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY-AFRICA
LIT 4785: AFRICAN AUTHORS SEMINAR
COURSE SYLLABUS
CREDIT: 3 UNITS
LECTURER :

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In-depth consideration of the works of one or two significant writers (novelist, poet, dramatist, or short story writer); his, her or their contribution to the life and letters of Africa.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- Motivate students to read and appreciate African authors
- Assist students develop and express literary opinions intelligently.

COURSE CONTENT

Week 1

- What is African literature
Origins and development of African Literature.

Week 2

Introduction to Chinua Achebe

- Biographical information/influences.

Week 3

- Historical/Political issues informing Achebe's work – Pan-Africanism

Week 4

Reading and appreciating Achebe

Things Fall Apart

Week 5: Issues raised in Things Fall Apart

Week 6: Tribal society: The River Between. An Introduction

Week 7: MID TERM EXAM

Week 8: Characterization in The River Between

Week 9: Introduction to Anthills of the Savannah

Week 10: Intertextuality

Week 11: Introduction to Devil on the Cross

Week 12: Issues/themes in Devil on the Cross

Week 13: The woman question. Is the main female character credible?

Week 14: FINAL EXAMINATION

COURSE TEXTS

- Chinua Achebe, Things Fall Apart
- Chinua Achebe, Anthills of the Savannah
- Ngugi wa Thing’o, The river Between
- Ngugi wa Thing’o, Devil on the Cross

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

1. What do you understand by the term African literature?
2. What would you consider the major theme in The Devil on The Cross?

Research Assignment

Do you feel the two writers developed in the writing of their later works?

COURSE EVALUATION

Attendance	15%
Participation	15%
Research paper/oral presentation	20%
Assignments	20%
Final exam	30%
Total	100%

GRADING

A	90 - 100
A-	87 - 89
B+	84 - 86
B	80 - 83
B-	77 - 79
C+	74 - 76
C	70 - 73
C-	67 - 69
D+	64 - 66
D	62 - 63
D-	60 - 61
F	0 - 59