

MLAN 371/FREN 353
SU 2019
Africa: Myth and Reality
Introduction to Contemporary Francophone African Culture and Society

Introduction:

Pick up a local, national or international paper, watch the news, read some major texts, even some comics, surf the web and two things become immediately clear to you: 1) Africa is totally absent, nonexistent, a “blank or enchanting darkness”, “heart of darkness;” 2) if it does appear at all, the picture is that of a continent in crisis, a continent “enmeshed in a web of myth” ranging from “the dark continent or wild Africa,” “the place on earth that abounds with wild animals,” “the last great wilderness, the untamed paradise, the virgin land,” to a continent without a history because, according to some Western historians, “whereas other continents had shaped history and determined its course, Africa had stood still, held down by inertia”. How accurate are these presumptions? What is their origin? And what role do they play in today’s global world, where former colonial powers are being threatened, postcolonial “deals” are challenged, and where the digital tools help reshape global identity.

Course Description

This course is an introduction to contemporary francophone African culture and society taught on site in Cameroon and Senegal. Located in central Africa, both countries represent several cultural regions and cultures (West, Central, and North). They are also known for their colonial heritage and religious pluralism. They offer an ideal platform to study the continent’s society, cultures, politics, and history. Drawing from multidisciplinary sources, this course will focus on the myths about Africa and will address how colonial and postcolonial conditions have constructed those them. With on-site classes, students will challenge those myths, and learn the reality behind them.

Objectives:

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Show her/his understanding of the diversity of Francophone African cultures.
- Discover its principal characteristics.
- Appreciate francophone African art and civilization and how it has been influenced by western and eastern civilizations and how it has evolved over the course of history.
- Develop critical analysis of past and present relationships between France and its former colonies with an emphasis on colonial and postcolonial discourses.

- Adopt a critical approach when discussing the challenges of fictional production on Francophone Africa in comparison to the reality by participating in in-class discussions, presentations, sight-seeing, and by completing analytical writing samples.

Required texts:

Martin/O'Meara	<u>Africa</u> , 4 th ed., Indiana UP, 2014
Richmond/Gestrin	<u>Into Africa: Intercultural Insights</u>
Bâ	<u>So Long a Letter</u>
Denis	<u>Chocolat</u> (film)
Teno	<u>Clando</u> (film)

Excerpts from the following works will be included in the Course Pack found on Scholar:

André Gide	<i>Travels in the Congo</i>
Mongo Beti	<i>The Poor Christ of Bomba</i>
	<i>Remember Ruben</i>
Labuke	<i>Africa: Women's Art, Women's Lives</i>
Reader	<i>A Biography of the Continent</i>
-----	<i>Africa (The PBS Series)</i>
	<i>A Day in the Life of Africa</i>
Richard, Roy et al (eds.) Perspectives on Africa: a Reader in Culture, History, and Representation	

Evaluation

Grades:

Participation and Attendance:	15%
Exam:	10%
Travel Journal:	20%
Final Paper:	30%
Final Presentation:	20%

93 - 100 = A	88 - 89 = B +	78 - 79 = C +	68 - 69 = D +	0 - 59 = F
90 - 92 = A -	84 - 87 = B	74 - 77 = C	64 - 67 = D	
	80 - 83 = B -	70 - 73 = C -	60 - 63 = D -	

Participation and Attendance: Participation, or lack thereof, will also affect your grade, thus, when we are on tours or attending lectures if you are talking, sleeping, or in any way distracted, your participation grade will be adversely affected. You are required to attend all class sessions and organized group activities in France unless a serious emergency prevents you from doing so. In addition, your active and intelligent participation is an important part of this course, and your involvement in discussions and activities is expected and welcomed.

Exam: Four hours of class will be held prior to the trip, and for each one hour class, readings will be assigned. At the end of the fourth class, students will take an exam with three parts: Multiple choice, identifications, one short synchronic essay, and one longer diachronic essay.

Travel journal: At the end of the trip, students will turn in a travel journal, with a minimum of one page per day of site visits that synthesize what they have learned in relation to the course topic. Each travel journal should include a final entry that summarizes what the student has learned about the “myth” of Africa, and why this is problematic for international relations and relationships between people here at home.

Final Paper: All students are required to write a formal research paper of **ten pages to twelve pages** in length, typed in Times New Roman Font 12, double-spaced, with one-inch margins on all sides of the paper. Choice of topic is open; however, you must select a topic that connects directly with some aspect or aspects of “the myth of Africa” discovered during the course. The choices are endless, so make sure you select something that is focused enough to permit in-depth analysis in your paper. You should incorporate information from at least four different sources, only one of which can be a website. *Please use MLA citation format.*

Final Presentation: Each student will prepare a short presentation in collaboration with a fellow classmate on a topic assigned by the instructors. The presentation should not exceed 10 minutes, and will be followed with questions. These presentations will be in English.

Due Dates: This course is offered as an extended summer session class.

Final Paper: Wednesday, July 1st

You must email your work to both instructors for this course by Wednesday, July 23, at midnight. Be sure to email it to **both** instructors for this course. Before sending any work electronically, be sure that it will arrive in properly formatted condition. Points will be taken off for work submitted sloppily.

Late work will be accepted, with a 10-point penalty deducted from the grade for each day that the assignment is late. Work submitted more than 2 days late will not be accepted.

Code of Conduct:

Participation in this seminar and travel to Africa is a privilege. Students are reminded that their behavior will reflect on Christopher Newport University, thus you are responsible for your decisions and will be held accountable for your actions. Those who are unable to conduct themselves appropriately and who negatively impact their classmates, professors, or the community at large will have their grades adversely affected; moreover, they may be prevented from participating in future seminars abroad.

Physical Activity Statement:

This course includes many excursions for which ample walking and some hiking shall be involved. Students must be physically healthy enough to walk several miles per day and should drink plenty of water to stay hydrated. Students are responsible for wearing appropriate attire in different climates. This course includes visits to arid and tropical climates; thus, sunscreen, clothes that are light but cover most of the body are essential.

Disabilities:

If you believe you have a disability, you should make an appointment to discuss your needs. In order to receive an accommodation, your disability must be on record in disability services located in the Academic Advising Center, David Student Union, Room 3125 (Telephone: 594-8763; Fax: 594-8765).

Academic Honesty:

Plagiarism is the stealing or passing off as your own the writings or ideas of someone else. Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to, quoting, summarizing, or paraphrasing ideas without giving credit to their source, submitting as your own work that has been copied or purchased from another student or other source, permitting someone else to revise or edit a paper to the extent that it is no longer your own work, lifting off the Internet wording or ideas that are not your own without crediting the Internet source. Plagiarism is a very serious violation of the CNU Honor Code and may result in penalties that can include, at the discretion of the instructor, rewriting the entire assignment, having to complete an alternative assignment, getting a zero on the plagiarized assignment or getting an F for the course. In addition to these penalties, the instructor has the right to place a note in the student's university file, which could result in an honor

council sanction such as suspension or expulsion from CNU. I expect that you will uphold the CNU Honor Code in all work submitted for this course.

Course Calendar

Pre-departure Class 1:

Monday, April 8th, 5-7 pm:

The History of Africa and Colonialism from antiquity to 1800

Reading to be completed before class: Excerpts from *Africa: A Biography of the Continent*.

Written Homework: Answers to discussion questions on reading.

Pre-Departure Class 2:

Wednesday, April 10th, 5-7 pm:

The History of Africa and Colonialism from 1800 to the present

Reading to be completed before class: Excerpts from *Africa: A Biography of the Continent*.

Written Homework: Answers to discussion questions on reading.

Monday, April 15th, 5-6:15 PM

(315 contact minutes prior to departure)

Written Exam

Senegal :

Day 1:

Early morning flight to Dakar, Sénégal.

Lunch at Le Lodge des Almadies (the hotel), \$36 per person (\$792 X 2=\$1584, \$79.20 per student) .

Afternoon visit of IFAN, Museum of African Arts (**\$11 per student, \$220 total**) (**2 hours of contact minutes; guided tour of the museum with curator**) **435 mins.**

Dinner.

Day 2:

Early breakfast at hotel.

Visit to the Marché Kermel (one of the largest and most historic markets in Dakar, with handmade African products, art, and a wide array of produce and locally made food).

Early lunch

Visit to the Village des arts and its art gallery (local artists sell their wares, and there is a permanent African Art Gallery on site; **one hour of contact minutes**). 495 contact minutes.

Day 3 :

Early morning Ferry ride from Dakar to the L'Ile de Goree (**25 minutes, 10.50 USD per person, \$231 total**).

Ferry schedule: <https://www.visiting-africa.com/africa/senegal/ile-de-goree-ferry-schedule>

Settle in at Chez Éric, B&B, breakfast included, \$25 per person, \$550 total, \$27.50 per student (Rue de la compagnie, Gorée 18522, Senegal).

Guided Visit of La Maison des Esclaves (trading post for slaves), \$1.10 per student (\$22); visit to museum and guided tour of port (**two hours of contact minutes; 615 minutes**).

Late afternoon visit of the picturesque Musée historique du Sénégal at the Fort Estrées (the Historical Museum of Senegal), \$1.10 per student (\$22 total). (**two hours of contact minutes; 735 total contact minutes**)

Dinner.

Day 4:

Walking tour of historic Gorée, visit of Gouvernor's house and the William Ponty School (no entrance fees) (**two hours of contact minutes; 855 total contact minutes**).

Early lunch and visit of the Castel overlooking the island and the continent. No entrance fee.

Evening trip to Saint-Louis via car (\$1800 for four cars round trip). \$81 per person (\$90 per student).

Students get settled [Hotel La Residence](#)

BP 254 - 159 rue Blaise Diagne, St. Louis, 46024 Senegal

866-767-0278

Roughly \$50 per person (\$1,100 per night, \$55 per person with profs' price included). Four nights=\$4,400 (\$220 per person).

Dinner near hotel.

Day 5 :

Breakfast at Hotel

Two hour Horse and carriage tour of old Saint-Louis (\$6 person, \$132 total; 6.60 per student) (**two hours of contact minutes; 1015 total contact minutes**) <http://www.saintlouisdusenegal.com/excursion-tour-de-ville-en-caleche/>

Lunch

Continuation of walking tour, including visit to La Gouvernance, the seat of colonial power in

Guided Boat tour of Saint-Louis (colonial residences) and fishing village (\$22 per student, \$440 total). (**90 minutes of contact minutes; 1105 total contact minutes**) <http://www.saintlouisdusenegal.com/tour-de-l-ile-de-saint-louis-en-pirogue-ou-vedette/>

Early dinner

Day 6:

Trip to the Sahel, African village in the Bush. \$45 per person (including lunch, \$990 total, \$49.50 per person) (**four hours of contact minutes; 1345 total contact minutes**)

Return in the late afternoon

Day 7:

Visit to the Bird Reserve, including boat tour (Parc du Djoudj). Several KM of hiking to habitats. Packed lunch (\$50 per person, \$1,100 total, \$55 per student).

Evening return to the Dakar airport and then Yaoundé.

Day 8

Students get settled at Monastère des Bénédictins du Mont-Febé

BP 11 78 Yaoundé- Cameroon

Tel: (237) 242 11 24 81; (237) 697 20 21 75; (237) 677 03 19 14

Roughly \$ 15 per person (\$ 330 per night; \$ 16.50 per student with 2 faculty members included). Seven nights = \$ 2310

Dinner in town

\$25 per person (27.5 per student; \$550 with 2 faculty members)

Day 9

Breakfast at the Monastère

Morning Class at Middlebury Study Abroad Center in Yaoundé (**one hour of contact minutes; 1405 contact minutes total**)

Lunch near Middlebury Study Abroad Center in Yaoundé: \$10 per person; (\$11 per student; \$220 with 2 faculty members)

Afternoon visit of National Museum of Yaoundé. This is the old presidential palace. (\$8 per person; \$8.8 per student; \$176 with 2 faculty members). (**90 contact minutes; 1495 contact minutes total**)

Dinner in town: \$25 per person (27.5 per student; \$550 with 2 faculty members)

Transportation for the day: \$3 per person (\$3.3 per student; \$66 with 2 faculty members).

Day 10

Breakfast at the Monastère

Morning visit of the Museum of the Monastère (**one hours of contact minutes; 1555 contact minutes total**).

Lunch near Middlebury Center in Yaoundé. \$10 per person; (\$11 per student; \$220 with 2 faculty members)

Afternoon class at Middlebury Center in Yaoundé. (**one hour of contact minutes; 1605 contact minutes total**)

Dinner in town: Dinner in town in Yaoundé: \$25 per person (27.5 per student; \$550 with 2 faculty members)

Transportation for the day: \$3 per person (\$3.3 per student; \$66 with 2 faculty members).

3 day trip to the West of Cameroon. Transportation round trip: \$110

Day 11:

Breakfast at the Monastère

Trip to Bana via car

Visit the Bana hospital

Diner in town in Bana (\$ 20 per person; \$22 per student; \$440 with 2 faculty members)

Night in Bana at the hotel (Roughly \$ 15 per person (\$ 330 per night; \$ 16.50 per student with 2 faculty members included).

Day 12:

Early morning breakfast at the hotel.

Trip from Bana to Foumban: visit the Foumban Royal Palace (fee charged at the Palace: \$4 per person; \$4.4 per student; \$88 with 2 faculty members included). (**two hours of contact minutes; 1725 contact minutes total**)

Visit of the Museum of Bamoun Arts and Traditions. : \$4 per person; \$4.4 per student; \$88 with 2 faculty members included). (**90 contact minutes; 1815 contact minutes total**)

Lunch in town. \$10 per person; \$11 per student; \$220 with 2 faculty members.

Trip from Foumban to Dschang: Visit the Museum of Civilization of Dschang (**two hours of contact minutes; 1935 contact minutes**). Fee: \$6 per person; \$6.6 per student; \$ 132 with 2 faculty members.

Trip from Dschang to Bana.

Diner in town in Bana (\$ 20 per person; \$22 per student; \$440 with 2 faculty members).

Night in Bana at the hotel (Roughly \$ 15 per person (\$ 330 per night; \$ 16.50 per student with 2 faculty members included).

Day 13.

Trip from Bana to Batoufam.

Visit the Batoufam Kingship. (guided visit to the Palace, meet the King) **(two hours of contact minutes; 2055 contact minutes total)**

No fee, it is advised to bring symbolic presents to the King.

Trip from Batoufam to Yaoundé

Dinner in town in Yaoundé: \$25 per person (27.5 per student; \$550 with 2 faculty members).

Day 14

Breakfast at the Monastère

Morning class at Middlebury Study Abroad Center in Yaoundé **(one hour of contact minutes; 2105 contact minutes total)**

Lunch near Middlebury Study Abroad Center in Yaoundé: \$10 per person; (\$11 per student; \$220 with 2 faculty members)

Visit Briquetterie, a cosmopolitan neighborhood in Yaoundé. See/buy Central, West Africa and Oriental fashion arts.

Visit the Artisanat of Yaoundé: arts and craft market.

Diner in town in Yaoundé: \$25 per person (27.5 per student; \$550 with 2 faculty members)

Transportation for the day: \$3 per person (\$3.3 per student; \$66 with 2 faculty members).

Day 15

Breakfast at the Monastère

Visit College Charles et Thérèse Mbakop (High School). Students assist in teaching classes **(two hours of contact minutes; 2225 contact minutes total)**.

Lunch near College Charles et Thérèse Mbakop (\$20 per person; \$22 per student; \$440 with 2 faculty members).

Afternoon: Visit University of Yaoundé I. Students attend classes **(two hours of contact minutes; 2345 contact minutes total)**.

Dinner in town. \$25 per person (27.5 per student; \$550 with 2 faculty members)

Transportation for the day: \$3 per person (\$3.3 per student; \$66 with 2 faculty members).

Day 16 – 19: 3 day trip to the shore. Round trip: Transportation round trip: \$110

Day 16

Breakfast at the Monastère.

Trip from Yaoundé to Bimbia. Visit the slavery port **(two hours of contact minutes; 2465 contact minutes total)**.

Trip from Bimbia to Limbé.

Visit the beach in Limbé Limbe, the Botanical Gardens (3-minute walk), Limbé Wildlife Centre (4-minute walk)

Dinner in Limbé (\$20 per person; \$22 per student; \$440 with 2 faculty members).

Night in hotel in Limbé: Victoria Guest House, Limbé 3-star

City Center, Sapa Road, Limbé, 00237, Cameroon, 800-491-9657

\$ 46 per person, \$ 50.6 per student, \$ 1012 with 2 faculty members included.

Day 17

Breakfast at the hotel \$ 10 (for 10: only one person per room can have breakfast offered by the hotel)

Trip from Limbé to Buea. Visit the University of Buea. Students attend a class **(one hour of contact minutes; 2525 contact minutes total)**.

Trip from Buea to Kribi.

Dinner in town in Kribi. \$25 per person (27.5 per student; \$550 with 2 faculty members)

Night at Les Gîtes de Kribi, Kribi

3-star

Route des Chutes de la Lobé, Kribi, Cameroon

\$54 per person. \$ 59.4 per student, \$ 1188 with 2 faculty members included.

The hotel has a view on the beach, it is 8 mn walk to the Kribi port; Kribi Lighthouse (9-minute walk); Lobe Waterfalls (3.9 mi / 6.3 km).

Day 18

Breakfast at the hotel. \$10 per person, \$11 per student, \$220 with 2 faculty members included.

Guided visit to the Pygmeé people settlement (**two hours of contact minutes; 2645 contact minutes total**).

Tips for the guide: \$2 per person, \$2.2 per student; \$ 44 with 2 faculty members included.

Trip from Kribi to Yaoundé.

Dinner in town in Yaoundé. Diner in town in Yaoundé: \$25 per person (27.5 per student; \$550 with 2 faculty members)

Day 19.

Breakfast at the Monastère

Visit to Canal 2(A television network). Students participate in a television show (**one hour of contact minutes; 2705 contact minutes total**).

Lunch in town: \$10 per person; (\$11 per student; \$220 with 2 faculty members)

Afternoon visit of Musée Ethnographique des Peuples de la Forêt. Fee : \$10 per person ; \$ 11 per student ; \$220 with 2 faculty members included. (**one hour of contact minutes; 2765 minutes total**)

Afternoon Visit of Université de Yaoundé II-Soa. Students attend classes (**two hours of contact minutes; 2885 contact minutes total**).

Dinner in town in Yaoundé. \$25 per person (27.5 per student; \$550 with 2 faculty members)

Day 20.

One day trip to the Southern Region of Cameroon. Round trip: \$ 50 per person; \$55 per student; \$1100 with 2 faculty members included.

Breakfast at the Monastère

-visit Park de la Mefou: \$ 10 per person, \$ 11 per student, \$220 with 2 faculty members included

-the river Nyong at Ebogo: canoe ride on the Nyong River. \$ 10 per person, \$ 11 per student, \$220 with 2 faculty members included

Tips for the guide: \$1 per person, \$1.2 per student; \$22 with 2 faculty members included.

Lunch/early dinner at Ebogo. (\$20 per person; \$22 per student; \$440 with 2 faculty members).

Day 21

Breakfast at the Monastère.

Watch the parade on TV (celebration of the Cameroonian national day).

Day 21/22: Return home, Yaoundé to Washington Dulles.