

## SEMESTER AT SEA COURSE SYLLABUS

**Voyage: Spring 2014**

**Discipline: African-American and African Studies**

**AAS 2559: African Literatures and Cultures**

**Lower Division**

**Faculty Name: Kandioura Drame**

This course will explore aspects of contemporary African literatures and cultures. It will focus on selected issues of special resonance in contemporary African life. Oral literature, and its continuing impact on all other art forms. Key issues in colonial policies and the legacies of colonialism in Africa: language, politics, education. The course will examine the image of the postcolonial state and society as found in contemporary arts, painting, music, and cinema. The final grade will be based on contributions to discussions, a mid-term, and 2 papers.

### **Required Books**

Jan Knappert- *Four Centuries of Swahili Verse*, Darf, 1988.

D. O. Fagunwa- *The Forest of A Thousand Deamons*. Translated by Wole Soyinka.  
1850771812, 9781850771814.

Ngugi wa Thiong'o- *Matigari*. Africa World Press, 1989. ISBN 0865433607, 9780865433601

Gary Stewart- *Rumba on the River, A history of the Popular music of the Two Congos*, Verso, 2004. For more info, see website of author: rumbaontheriver.com.

Olaniyan, Tejumola – *Arrest the Music: Fela and His Rebel Art and Politics*, Indiana U. Press, 2004.

### Films

*Fela in Concert*, 1986

*Music is the Weapon (Musique au poing)*, DVD, 2009

### **TOPICAL OUTLINE OF COURSE**

**B1-January 13-** Introduction: Maps, Geography, Countries, Languages in Africa.

**B2-January 15-** Africa: Peoples, Languages, Histories, general overview.

**B3- January 18: Swahili verse. J. K. *Four Centuries of Swahili Verse***

**B4- January 21: Swahili verse.**

**B5- January 23: Swahili verse**

**B6- January 26: Swahili verse**

**B7- January 28: Swahili verse**

**B8- February 5: Swahili verse**

**B9-February 13: Swahili verse**

**B10- February 21: Swahili verse**

**B11- February 26: Yoruba Language Literature. Fagunwa- *The Forest of A Thousand Deamons*.**

**B12- March 6: Yoruba Language Literature. Fagunwa- *The Forest of A Thousand Deamons*.**

**B13- March 8:** Yoruba Language Literature. Fagunwa- *The Forest of A Thousand Deamons*.

**B14- March 16:** Yoruba Language Literature. Fagunwa- *The Forest of A Thousand Deamons*.

**B15- March 19:** Gikuyu Language Literature. Ngugi- *Matigari*

**B16- March 22:** Gikuyu Language Literature. Ngugi- *Matigari*

**B17- March 24:** Gikuyu Language Literature. Ngugi- *Matigari*

**B18- March 27:** Gikuyu Language Literature. Ngugi- *Matigari*

**B19- April 4: Suwer Glass Painting from Senegal**

**B20- April 6: Cheri Samba, “Peintre Populaire”**

**B21- April 9: Fela: Afrobeat. Documentary: *Music is the Weapon (Musique au poing)*, DVD**

**B22- April 16: Maghreb in the years of Rai. Documentary: *Rai Story (DVD)*, 2004.**

**B23- April 18: Reading Gary Stewart- *Rumba on the river: A History of the Popular Music of the Two Congos*. Documentary (DVD): *On the Rumba River***

**B24- April 21: *On the Rumba River***

**B25- April 25: Final**

## **FIELD LAB**

Guided visit of the Museum of Berber culture Institut Royal de la Culture Amazigh (IRCAM) in Rabat. Participants will take notes and write a report of their exploration of the culture with references to the artifacts and lecture.

Paper #1	25%
Paper #2	25%
Midterm Exam	25%
Field Lab Assignment	15%
Discussions	10%

Before each assignment you will be given directions about the format to follow. You will be responsible to know basic information about work show, read, and discussed.

## **HONOR CODE**

Semester at Sea students enroll in an academic program administered by the University of Virginia, and thus they must abide by the University’s Honor Code. The Code prohibits all acts of lying, cheating, and stealing. Please consult the Voyager’s Handbook for further explanation of what constitutes an honor offense.

Each written assignment for this course must be pledged by the student as follows: “On my honor as a student, I pledge that I have neither given nor received aid on this assignment.”