

Black all Over: Modern and Contemporary Black Literature from the Caribbean to Africa **ENGL 7/8332 – The African Diaspora**

Class Descriptions: Beginning with the Pan-Africanist movement of the early twentieth century, this class charts the development literature across the African diaspora as writers begin to reflect the increasing resistance to colonialism. As blacks begin to push for self-determination between World Wars, writers build off the inspiration of the Harlem Renaissance we examine the dawn of negritude and the embrace of anti-colonialism. Similarly, the plays, novels, and essays dramatize the push for and consequences of national independence in African countries, events that coincide with the Civil Rights and Black Power Movements. The literature of the diaspora charts the complex motivations and responses of the changing relationship to the West. Despite the significant tribal differences and histories the works in the class explore the multiple thematic, political, literary similarities. While we certainly view a number of academic movements from the emergence of postcolonialism and comparative literature to reimagining world literature, this class focuses significant attention in the attempt to retain the traditions of their pre-colonial, pre-slave communities while wrestling with the trauma of violent colonial history. Part of the recovery their full selfhood – whether in their homeland and beyond – means coming to terms with the psychic and physical violence endured by their communities. Finally in an increasingly globalized world we view how blacks navigate multicultural identities while considering the question of relationships of blacks across the diaspora and the world at large.

Required Texts:

Chinua Achebe – *Things Fall Apart* (978-0-385-47454-2)

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie – *Americanah* (978-0-307-45592-5)

Mariama Ba – *So Long a Letter* (978-1-57766-806-0)

Aime Cesaire – *Discourse on Colonialism* (978-1-58367-025-5)

Edwidge Danticat – *Breath, Eyes, Memory* (978-1-61695-502-1)

Frantz Fanon – *Black Skin, White Masks* (978-0-8021-4300-6)

Marlon James – *A History of Seven Killings* (159-4633942-0)

Jamaica Kincaid – *Annie John* (0-374-10521-9)

Lynn Nottage – *Ruined* (978-155-936355-6)

Zadie Smith – *White Teeth* (0-375-70386-1)

Wole Soyinka – *Death and the King's Horseman* (0-393-32299-8)

