Michigan State University Course Syllabus –

Edozie, Rita Kiki (PhD)
Professor of International Relations and African Affairs
Former Director, African American and African Studies

MC 390: 004
Spring 2016, Tuesdays - 5:00 PM-7:50 PM
339 North Case Hall

THE AFRICAN DIASPORA IN GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

Map 1: Overview of the slave trade out of Africa, 1500-1900
Civil Rights author, Mary Frances Berry’s new book (*We Are Who We Say We Are*, Oxford University Press, 2015 [http://www.amazon.com/We-Are-Who-Say-Atlantic/dp/0199978336](http://www.amazon.com/We-Are-Who-Say-Atlantic/dp/0199978336)) writes on the complexity and malleability of racial meanings within the US over generations showing how Colored Creoles, similar to other immigrants and refugees were forged from and interacted with a rich global history passing back and forth as was representative of the diversity of the Atlantic World experience.

The course dovetails Berry’s African Diasporic experiences as well as similar experiences of other African Americans, Afro-Caribbean’s, Afro-Latins, and continental Africans. We do so by answering the questions - What is the African Diaspora? Where is the African Diaspora? Who is from the African Diaspora? How does the African Diaspora move, develop, and change? How has the African Diaspora been made and remade?

In this context, the course content presents for engagement and critical study four key elements of African Diaspora study as follows. First, there exists a common origin and consciousness of African origin. Secondly, African Diaspora study premises common experiences of racial terror including slavery, colonialism, and racism. Third, the study of the African Diaspora reveals continued black marginalization and inequality based on racial legacies and structures. Finally, through African Diaspora study, African descendant and African peoples acknowledge a common identification with an international Black community that requires continuous and sustained facilitation and engagement to effect its positive transformation. Participants of this course engage these core themes on a weekly basis in relation to several subtopics that are characteristic of the study of African Diasporas. These include contested definitions and concepts, heritage and racial identities, historic vs. new African diasporas, the globality and diversity of African Diasporas, as well as cultural Diasporic trans-nationalisms and political Pan-Africanisms.

The course is guided by an ethnic and area cultural studies methodology that serves to comparatively engage and span African diaspora communities and lived experiences among local, national, and global sites of study in the US, Africa, the Caribbean, Latin-America, and Europe primarily.

The course content delivery is offered as a student-centered, reading-and-discussion intensive, multi-media interactive, and critical-thinking facilitative weekly seminar. It is also a Tier 3 Writing course emphasizing acquisition of research and academic writing and oral communication skills for junior and senior level student participants.
Required Assigned Books


- Paul Tiyambe Zeleza *In Search of African Diasporas Testimonies and Encounters* Carolina Academic Press (March 26, 2012)


- Candis Watts Smith *Black Mosaic: The Politics of Black Pan-Ethnic Diversity* Copyright Date: 2014 Published by: NYU Press


Assignments

1. Weekly Talking Point Notes 15 points/1 point a week
2. Two Roundtable Group Presentations/Papers 40 points (20 points each)
3. Final Research Presentations and Papers 35 points (5 points presi)
4. Class Participation and Attendance 10 points

100 points

Grading Scale

1. at least 95 points - 4.0  2. at least 90 points - 3.5  3. at least 85 points – 3.0
4. at least 80 points – 2.5; 5. at least 75 points – 2.0  6. at least 70 points – 1.5
7. at least 65 points – 1.0

Code of Conduct

** Full attendance and seminar participation is required. You will be penalized for unexcused absences.
** Late assignments are not encouraged; however, lose 1 point a day for up to two days for late assignments (a day begins 10 minutes after the assignment due date deadline)
** I’m sorry; I cannot accept emailed copies of assignments.
** Refer to the Student Handbook for Academic Honesty Policy
** Take advantage of my office hours- especially group presentations, and for final research paper development and revise and resubmits. Tuesday’s and Thursday’s 11:00 am – 4::00 pm by appointment only.
CALENDER OF EVENTS

PART ONE
DIASPORA DEFINITIONS AND SCOPE:
CLASSIC DISPERALS, NEW ROUTES & ENCOUNTERS

WEEK ONE
1/12 Orientation & Overview:
The Study of the African Diaspora in Black/Africana Studies and International Public Affairs

Required Readings

Read the Syllabus


Assignment

*Prepare, Present, and Submit Talking Point Notes to Discuss Readings*

*Prepare for Discussion Opener* Episode 1 (Segment 2): The Establishment of Black Studies
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=noccmGJ9JsA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=noccmGJ9JsA) Watch and listen carefully to the video. Answer the question – what is the African Diaspora and what is the concept's relation to the discipline of Black/Africana Studies. How will we approach the study through the discipline of public affairs and international relations? **Key concepts** – persons of African descent, Black Studies, Africana Studies, the African Diaspora!
WEEK TWO
1/19 Defining and Mapping African Diasporas - Dispersals

Required Readings


CHAPitERS - Introduction By Alusine Jalloh and Dynamics of the Global African Diaspora By Joseph E. Harris

Stable URL: http://www.jstor.org/stable/524719

Assignment:

*Prepare, Present, and Submit Talking Point Notes to Discuss Readings*
*Prepare for Discussion Opener* Review the promotional clip and website for SF’s Museum of the African Diaspora. In reviewing MOAD’s “art of the African Diaspora”, identify an artwork and discuss the Diasporic features/elements in terms of Diaspora movements, adaptation and transformation.
Museum of the African Diaspora (MoAD) in San Francisco https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6QJ8uaeRmC0
MoAD website http://www.moadsf.org/explore/current-and-upcoming-exhibitions/

WEEK THREE:
1/26 Adaptations in Northern Hemispheric Hostlands: Exclusion, Creolization, and Resistance in the Early Americas

Required Readings


Rethinking American Slavery By Colin A. Palmer
"He Is an African But Speaks Plain": Historical Creolization in Eighteenth-Century Virginia By Douglas B. Chambers

"This City Has Too Many Slaves Joined Together": The Abolitionist Crisis in Salvador, Bahia, Brazil, 1848-1856 By Dale T. Graden


Assignment:

Prepare, Present, and Submit Talking Point Notes to Discuss Readings

Prepare for Discussion-Opener: Review the clip featuring Robin Kelly’s discussion of his book on the African influences of Jazz and the African American transformations of Jazz in Africa. Come to class prepared to discuss the ways that African Diaspority is manifest in Kelly’s discussion. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DW2gVNex2hs

WEEK FOUR

2/2: Exploring the Global African Diaspora I: Latin America and the Caribbean

Required Readings

Paul Tiyambe Zeleza In Search of African Diasporas Testimonies and Encounters Carolina Academic Press (March 26, 2012) Chapters:-

2006
Venezuela
Brazil

2007
Haiti
Cuba

2008
Mexico

**Assignment**

Select Chapters Assigned

*Prepare, Present, and Submit Talking Point Notes to Discuss Readings*

*Prepare for Discussion Opener* Review the video on Black In Latin America (Episode 1) Haiti and The Dominican Republic: The Roots of Division and discuss the distinctiveness (from the US) as well as the comparisons and variances of African Diasporas in Latin America and the Caribbean

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6RlG4b3LV90

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**WEEK FIVE**

2/9: Exploring the Global African Diaspora II: Europe and Asia

**Required Readings:**

Paul Tiyambe Zeleza *In Search of African Diasporas Testimonies and Encounters* Carolina Academic Press (March 26, 2012)

Chapters:

- 2007
  - Germany
  - Britain
  - France

- 2009
  - Spain
  - Germany
  - India
  - Qatar
  - Dubai
  - Oman

Kristin Mann, Edna G. Bay; *The African Diaspora: African Origins and New World Identities* by Isidore Okpewho, Carole Boyce Davies, Ali A. Mazrui

**Assignment:**

Select Chapters Assigned
*Prepare, Present, and Submit Talking Point Notes to Discuss Readings*

*Prepare for Discussion Opener Review* the video on Black In Latin America (Episode 1) Haiti and The Dominican Republic- The Roots of Division and discuss the distinctiveness (from the US) as well as the comparisons and variances of African Diasporas [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q_OgAkbvoc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q_OgAkbvoc)

Black France The immigration problem Episode # 3 [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oiA9QiAnA8I](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oiA9QiAnA8I) African tribe lost in India

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**PART TWO**

**DIASPORIC ORIGINS AND SLAVERY**

**WEEK SIX**

2/16 Diasporic Origins and Slavery
Roundtable 1a:

**Required Readings:**


Assignment

Group Presentation 1a – Exchanging Our Marks
Prepore, Present, and Submit Talking Point Notes to Discuss Readings
Prepare for Discussion Opener Research and/or watch the movie on “The Trans Atlantic Slave Trade, Slavery, and Anti-Slavery Resistance” called Amistad. Discuss the role that slavery forged the African Diaspora as well as North American, US, and World history!
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ej9C5rQOaYU Amistad - Official® Trailer [HD]

PART THREE:
DIASPORIC STRUCTURES:
RACE, CULTURE, AND ETHNICITY

WEEK SEVEN
2/23 Race and the Identity of the African Diaspora

Required Readings

Wright, Michelle, Becoming Black: Creating Identity in the African Diaspora Duke University Press, 2010-

| Invention of the Black Other | 27 |
| Works of WEB Du Bois Leopold Sedar Senghor and Aime Cesaire | 66 |
| Frantz Fanons Legacy in Black Nationalist Thought and the Black Male Subject | 111 |
| Making to Motherhood and the Diasporic Black Female Subject | 136 |
| Black Subjectivities in Berlin London and Paris | 183 |

If the Black Is a Subject Can the Subaltern Speak? 229

 Assignment
Select Chapters Assigned
Prepare, Present, and Submit Talking Point Notes to Discuss Readings
Prepare for Discussion Opener Watch the video presentation by Paul Gilroy How did Birth of the Nation socially construct the African Diaspora identity as racially inferior? https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=79sJjKG-VMo Paul Gilroy on The Birth of a Nation

WEEK EIGHT
3/1: Culture and the African Diaspora Roundtable Group 1b

Required Readings


Assignment
Group Presentation 1b – Africanisms in American Culture
Prepare, Present, and Submit Talking Point Notes to Discuss Readings
Prepare for Discussion Opener: Identify the African-inspired and hybrid cultural roots of Latin American dance, music, and cinema. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o42YSSo2ri8 African Influence on Latin American Culture

WEEK NINE
3/7 SPRING BREAK

Global Black History
WEEK TEN
3/15: African Diaspora Identities and Ethnicity

Required Readings

Candis Watts Smith *Black Mosaic: The Politics of Black Pan-Ethnic Diversity*
Copyright Date: 2014 Published by: NYU Press – Chapters:

1 Black on Black History 19
2 Diasporic Consciousness: Theorizing Black Pan-Ethnic Identity and Intraracial Politics 45
3 From Group Membership to Group Identification 69
4 Broadening Black Identity: Evidence in National Data 110
5 Politicizing Identities: Linking Identity to Politics 133
6 Perspectives on Intraracial Coalition and Conflict 175
Conclusion: My President Is Black?

Assignment

Select Chapters Assigned

Prepare, Present, and Submit Talking Point Notes to Discuss Readings

Prepare for Discussion Opener Have fun with this clip; it's Trevor Noah – Let’s talk about ethnicity, identity and the African Diaspora in comparative (South Africa – US) and Diasporic perspective.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GgZYCj39M38 Funny South African Comedian Trevor Noah On Black Americans

PART FOUR:
NEW AFRICAN DIASPORAS AND NEW ENCOUNTERS

WEEK ELEVEN
3/22: Non-American Blacks or Black Immigration in the US
Roundtable 2a

Required Readings


**Assignment**

Group Presentation 2a – The Other African Americans

*Prepare, Present, and Submit Talking Point Notes to Discuss Readings*

*Prepare for Discussion Opener* Let’s talk about “The African Immigrant in China”

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GURLHAM-Kol African Immigrants Talk About Life in Beijing

**WEEK TWELVE**

3/29: The Largest African Diaspora Outside of Africa: Afro-Brazil Roundtable 2b

**Required Readings**


Niyi Afolabi, *Quilombismo and the Afro-Brazilian Quest for Citizenship* *Journal of Black Studies* Vol. 43, No. 8 (NOVEMBER 2012), pp. 847-871

**Assignment**

Group Presentation

*Prepare, Present, and Submit Talking Point Notes to Discuss Readings*

*Prepare for Discussion Opener* Let’s discuss Brazil’s so called, “racial democracy” – in African Diasporic perspective https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gh7c46U5hhY Black in Latin America E02, Brazil: A Racial Paradise
PART FIVE:
COMMON DIASPORIC FORMATIONS,
STRUGGLES, AND SOLIDARITIES

WEEK THIRTEEN
4/5: Afro-modernity and Parallel Political Pan African Struggles

Required Readings


Assignment
Select Chapters Assigned

*Prepare, Present, and Submit Talking Point Notes to Discuss Readings*

*Prepare for Discussion Opener* Review the debate between Stokely (Carmichael) and Molefe Asante on Pan Africanism and Afro-centricity! What does the debate tell us about the future of the African Diaspora

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o3zolaSp0Kk Kwame Ture vs. Molefi Asante - Africa and the Future Debate (Pan-Africanism vs Afrocentrism)

WEEK FOURTEEN
4/12 Cultural Pan Africanism Roundtable 2c

Required Readings

Assignment

Prepare, Present, and Submit Talking Point Notes to Discuss Readings

Prepare for Discussion Opener: Listen to Bob Marley’s classic African Diaspora liberation song and the second video on the Jamaican’s Rastafari Ethiopianism African Diaspora movement and show how diaspora formation, exchanges and political solidarity are made through culture.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ta_MvFSQ_Mc
Bob Marley and the Walers: Redemption Song (Lyrics) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HQ6uGRmPQSQ
Faces Of Africa: Rastafarians coming Home to Africa

PART SIX:
CONTRIBUTING TO AFRICAN DIASPORA FORMATION – “YOU” FINALE AND CREATIVE PROJECTS

WEEK FIFTEEN
4/19: FINAL PAPER WORKSHOP

Required Readings
Read for your research (Your Literature Review)

Assignment
Conduct your own online research

WEEK SIXTEEN
4/26: FINAL RESEARCH PAPER PRESENTATIONS

Required Readings
Read for your research (Your Literature Review)

Assignment
Conduct your own online research

WEEK SEVENTEEN
5/3 (Tuesday) Final Papers Due