

UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH  
SCHOOL OF LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES  
FALL 2020 COURSE OUTLINE

**COURSE TITLE:** EURO\*4050.6060 Contemporary Europe. New Landscapes in the Post-Cold War Era

**COURSE INSTRUCTOR:** Dorothy Odartey-Wellington

**Office Hours:** Via Zoom Wednesdays 1:30-2:30

**GUEST SPEAKERS:**

1. Professor Johan Schimanski, University of Oslo
2. Professor Augustine H. Asaah, University of Ghana
3. Fred Kudjo Kuwornu, film director
4. Amara Lakhous, author
5. Olumide Popoola, author

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

(B)ordering Identities in Contemporary Afro-European Fiction.

Given that borders are fundamental to identity formation, this course will examine the ways in which various actions around borders, such as the crossing, the erasure and the rearrangement of boundaries, reveal the complex ways in which writers of African descent in Europe conceive of identity and confront various sociopolitical, cultural and historical issues. To this end we will adopt a border poetics approach, which is designed to analyze creative representations of territorial and symbolic borders, in the reading of contemporary works of fiction such as *The Belly of the Atlantic* (Fatou Diome, France/Senegal), "The Rain-Maker Affair" (Léonora Miano, France/Cameroon), *Adua* (Igiaba Scego, Italy/Somalia), *Clash of Civilizations Over an Elevator in Piazza Vittorio* (Amara Lakhous, Italy/Algeria), *The Last Patriarch* (Najat El Hachmi, Spain/Morocco), *the things i am thinking while smiling politely...* (Sharon Dodua Otoo, Germany/UK/Ghana) and *When We Speak of Nothing* (Olumide Popoola, UK/Germany/Nigeria).

**Warning:** Some of the novels in this course contain graphic descriptions of physical and sexual violence. Pages where such descriptions occur will be flagged to enable you to skip them should you find such material distressing.

**METHOD OF DELIVERY:** Remote Synchronous and Asynchronous

**PREREQUISITE(S):** Undergraduate: 10.00 Credits; Minimum grade 050/

**PREREQUISITE(S):** Graduate: None

**LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

By the end of this course you should be able:

1. Discuss the emerging field of Afro-European literatures and cultures and its representative authors knowledgeably
2. Use the theory of border poetics to discuss literary representations of borders
3. Discuss issues related to identity in the work of European writers of African descent
4. Express and justify critical and aesthetic judgements orally and in writing.
5. Present a research proposal to an audience of peers for discussion and feedback
4. Identify an engaging question in the field and discuss it critically in a research paper.

### REQUIRED RESOURCES:

**FICTION** (Available through the University bookstore and the Co-op bookstore, unless otherwise indicated)

Diome, Fatou. *The Belly of the Atlantic*. Translated by Lulu Norman and Ros Schwartz, Editions Anne Carrière, 2003.

El Hachmi, Najat. *The Last Patriarch*. Translated by Peter Bush, Serpent's Tail, 2011. (Kindle version available at Amazon.ca)

Lakhous, Amara. *Clash of Civilizations Over an Elevator in Piazza Vittorio*. Translated by Ann Goldstein, Europa Editions, 2008. (Kindle version available at Amazon.ca)

Mabanckou, Alain. "Confessions of a *sapeur*." Translated by Dominic Thomas. *Francophone Afropean Literatures*, edited by Nicki Hitchcott and Dominic Thomas, Liverpool University Press, 2014, pp. 217-221. (Electronic Copy available on Ares Course Reserves System)

Miano, Léonora. "The Rain-Maker Affair." Translated by Kathryn Batchelor. *Francophone Afropean Literatures*, edited by Nicki Hitchcott and Dominic Thomas, Liverpool University Press, 2014, pp. 179-195. (Electronic Copy available on Ares Course Reserves System)

N'Sond'e, Wilfried. "Francastérix." Translated by Karen Lindo. *Francophone Afropean Literatures*, edited by Nicki Hitchcott and Dominic Thomas, Liverpool University Press, 2014, pp. 210-203. (Electronic Copy available on Ares Course Reserves System)

Otoo, Sharon Dodua. *the things i am thinking while smiling politely...* Assemblage, 2012.

Popoola, Olumide. *When We Speak of Nothing*. Cassava Republic, 2017.

Scego, Igiaba. *Adua*. Translated by Jamie Richards, New Vessel Press, 2017.

**FILM** (Electronic copy available on Ares Course Reserves System)

Kuwornu, Fred, director. *Blaxploitalian. 100 Years of Blackness in Italian Cinema*. 2017.

Kuwornu, Fred, director. *18 Ius Soli*. 2012.

**PEER-REVIEWED SOURCES** (Electronic copies available on the Ares Course Reserves System)

Brancato, Sabrina. "Afro-European Literature(s): A New Discursive Category?" *Research in African Literatures*, vol. 39, no. 3, 2008, pp. 1–13.

Ede, Amatoritsero. "The Politics of Afropolitanism." *Journal of African Cultural Studies*, vol. 28, no. 1, 2016, pp. 88–100.

Göttsche, Dirk. "Self-Assertion, Intervention and Achievement: Developments in Contemporary Black German Writing." *Remapping Black Germany: New Perspectives on Afro-German*

*History, Politics, and Culture*, edited by Sara Lennox, University of Massachusetts Press, 2016, pp. 67-90.

Louviot, Myriam. "Postcolonial Writing in France before and Beyond the 2007 Littérature-Monde Manifesto." *CLCWeb: Comparative Literature and Culture*, vol. 18, no. 4, 2016, pp. 1-8.

Mabanckou, Alain. "'The Song of the Migrating Bird': For a World Literature in French." *Forum for Modern Language Studies*, vol. 45, no. 2, 2009, pp. 144-150.

Newman, David. "The Lines That Continue to Separate Us: Borders in Our 'borderless' World." *Progress in Human Geography*, vol. 30, no. 2, 2016, pp. 143-161.

Orton, Marie. "Counter-Memory and Representations of Otherness: Three Documentaries by Fred Kudjo Kuwornu." *Journal of Italian Cinema & Media Studies*, vol. 6, no. 2, 2018, pp. 179-192.

Orton, Marie. "Writing the Nation: Migration Literature and National Identity." *Italian Culture*, vol. 30, no. 1, 2013, pp. 21-37.

Parati, Graziella. "Where Do Migrants Live? Amara Lakhous's 'Scontro Di Civiltà Per Un Ascensore a Piazza Vittorio.'" *Annali D'italianistica*, vol. 28, 2010, pp. 431-446

Pitts, Johny. *Afropean: Notes from Black Europe*. Penguin, 2020, pp. 1-10, 354-380.

Schimanski, Johan and Stephen Wolfe. "Entry Points: An Introduction." *Border Poetics Delineated*, edited by Johan Schimanski and Stephen Wolfe, Wehrhahn, 2007, pp. 9-25.

Song, H. Rosi "Narrating Identity in Najat El Hachmi's *L'últim patriarca*." *Displaced Women: Multilingual Narratives of Migration in Europe* edited by Lucia Aiello et al. Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2014, pp. 45-58.

Thomas, Dominic. "Introduction." *Afro-European Cartographies*, edited by Dominic Richard David Thomas, Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2014, pp. 1-15.

#### **ASSESSMENTS: (Undergraduate)**

Active participation in synchronous discussions	10%
Active participation in Asynchronous discussions	10%
Written assignment I (Author and work) (Choose author and date on sign up sheet, Courselink)	20%
Oral presentation of research proposal (10mins) (Choose date on sign up sheet, Courselink)	20%
Written assignment II (Final research paper)	40%

#### **ASSESSMENTS: (Graduate)**

Active participation in synchronous discussions	10%
Active participation in Asynchronous discussions	10%
Written assignment I (Article/Chapter Summary)( Choose author and date on sign up sheet, Courselink)	20%
Oral presentation of research proposal (10mins) (Choose date on sign up sheet, Courselink)	20%
Written assignment II (Final research paper)	40%

#### **University Statements**

#### **Email Communication**

As per university regulations, all students are required to check their e-mail account regularly: e-mail is the official route of communication between the University and its students.

### **When You Cannot Meet a Course Requirement**

When you find yourself unable to meet an in-course requirement because of illness or compassionate reasons please advise the course instructor (or designated person, such as a teaching assistant) in writing, with your name, id#, and e-mail contact. The grounds for Academic Consideration are detailed in the Undergraduate and Graduate Calendars.

Undergraduate Calendar - Academic Consideration and Appeals

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-ac.shtml>

Graduate Calendar - Grounds for Academic Consideration

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/index.shtml>

### **Drop Date**

Students will have until the last day of classes to drop courses without academic penalty. The deadline to drop two-semester courses will be the last day of classes in the second semester. This applies to all students (undergraduate, graduate and diploma) except for Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and Associate Diploma in Veterinary Technology (conventional and alternative delivery) students. The regulations and procedures for course registration are available in their respective Academic Calendars.

Undergraduate Calendar - Dropping Courses

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-drop.shtml>

Graduate Calendar - Registration Changes

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/genreg-reg-regchg.shtml>

### **Copies of Out-of-class Assignments**

Keep paper and/or other reliable back-up copies of all out-of-class assignments: you may be asked to resubmit work at any time.

### **Accessibility**

The University promotes the full participation of students who experience disabilities in their academic programs. To that end, the provision of academic accommodation is a shared responsibility between the University and the student.

When accommodations are needed, the student is required to first register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS). Documentation to substantiate the existence of a disability is required; however, interim accommodations may be possible while that process is underway. Accommodations are available for both permanent and temporary disabilities. It should be noted that common illnesses such as a cold or the flu do not constitute a disability.

Use of the SAS Exam Centre requires students to book their exams at least 7 days in advance and not later than the 40th Class Day.

For Guelph students, information can be found on the SAS website

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/sas>

### **Academic Integrity**

The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity, and it is the responsibility of all members of the University community-faculty, staff, and students-to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and to do as much as possible to prevent academic offences from occurring. University of Guelph students have the

responsibility of abiding by the University's policy on academic misconduct regardless of their location of study; faculty, staff, and students have the responsibility of supporting an environment that encourages academic integrity. Students need to remain aware that instructors have access to and the right to use electronic and other means of detection. Please note: Whether or not a student intended to commit academic misconduct is not relevant for a finding of guilt. Hurried or careless submission of assignments does not excuse students from responsibility for verifying the academic integrity of their work before submitting it. Students who are in any doubt as to whether an action on their part could be construed as an academic offence should consult with a faculty member or faculty advisor.

Undergraduate Calendar - Academic Misconduct

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-amisconduct.shtml>

Graduate Calendar - Academic Misconduct

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/index.shtml>

### **Recording of Materials**

Presentations that are made in relation to course work - including lectures - cannot be recorded or copied without the permission of the presenter, whether the instructor, a student, or guest lecturer. Material recorded with permission is restricted to use for that course unless further permission is granted.

### **Resources**

The Academic Calendars are the source of information about the University of Guelph's procedures, policies, and regulations that apply to undergraduate, graduate, and diploma programs.

Academic Calendars: <https://www.uoguelph.ca/academics/calendars>

### **Disclaimer**

Please note that the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic may necessitate a revision of the format of course offerings and academic schedules. Any such changes will be announced via CourseLink and/or class email. All University-wide decisions will be posted on the COVID-19 website (<https://news.uoguelph.ca/2019-novel-coronavirus-information/>) and circulated by email.

### **Illness**

The University will not require verification of illness (doctor's notes) for the fall 2020 or winter 2021 semesters.