

## ANG-2011: AFRICAN LITERATURE

---

### Course Description and Objectives

In this course, students are introduced to Anglophone literature from sub-Saharan African countries such as Nigeria, Kenya, Somalia, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Botswana, and South Africa. Despite its title, the course is not designed to define a particularly African aesthetic but rather to familiarize students with a range of novels and critical texts from and about the continent. During class discussions, we will explore how colonialism, anti-colonial struggles for independence, and globalization have influenced and shaped writing in this region. The course will raise questions about stereotypes in representations of “Africa” and about the distinctiveness of each work as well as its relationship to a specific cultural and historical context.

### Pedagogical Approach

This class combines lectures, general class discussion, and small group participation with a focus on the interpretation of each individual work within its socio-historical context and its place in the field of postcolonial studies. The study of each novel will combine the close reading of the work with insights gained through theory and criticism. Students are encouraged to put forward ideas and to contribute to the ensuing debates and should be prepared to participate by reading in advance the work(s) that will be discussed each week. Students are expected to attend all classes and are responsible for all information and instruction provided in them.

- **Quality of Language:**

Quality of English will be one of the factors in evaluating work. Lectures and group discussions are held in English. During exams no bilingual dictionaries are permitted, but students will have access to a class set of English dictionaries.

- **Evaluation:**

Participation Assignment: 5%; In-class Test: 30%; Research Essay: 35%; Final Exam: 30%

### Required Texts

*The Joys of Motherhood* by Buchi Emecheta

*Death and the King's Horseman* by Wole Soyinka

*A Grain of Wheat* by Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o

*Life & Times of Michael K* by J. M. Coetzee

*Nervous Conditions* by Tsitsi Dangarembga

*We Need New Names* by Noviolet Bulawayo

- Required texts will be available at *La Maison Anglaise*, Place de la Cité.

• Plagiat / voir *Règlement des études* [www.lit.ulaval.ca/index.php?id=493](http://www.lit.ulaval.ca/index.php?id=493)

• Centre de prévention et d'intervention en matière de harcèlement : <https://www.ulaval.ca/services-ul/harcelement.html>

---

#### Échelle de conversion de notes (1<sup>er</sup> cycle)

**Excellent :** A+ = 94-100    A = 89-93    A- = 85-88

**Très bon :** B+ = 82-84    B = 78-81    B- = 75-77

**Bon :** C+ = 72-74    C = 68-71    C- = 65-67

**Passable :** D+ = 61-64    D = 55-60

**Insuffisant :** E = 0-54