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**AFS 3332: GENDER AND SEXUALITIES IN SUB-SAHARA AFRICA CONTEXTS  
SPRING 2015**

**Professor: Zablon Mgonja**

**Email: use blackboard message**

**African & African Diaspora Studies LC 307 A**

**Class time: T/Th 12:30-1:45**

**Office Hours: M/F : 2-3PM**

**Room: OE 105**

**Phone: 305 348-8455**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course examines gender and sexuality in contemporary Sub-Saharan Africa, using a critique of Western conventional categories and a critical approach to the AIDS epidemic as frames for thinking about changes in African societies over the last two decades. Drawing primarily on ethnographic work and theoretical literature from the social sciences, the course examines notions of gendered and sexualized identifications in sub-Saharan Africa. Theoretically, the course asks how Sub-Saharan African contexts challenge Western or Global North conventional conceptualizations of gender and sexualities. More empirically, the course explores key aspects of personhood in Sub-Saharan African societies, including the consideration of the impact of the colonial legacy, conceptions and practices of reproduction, women's rights, homosexuality and trans-sexual practices, constructions of masculinities and femininities, etc.

**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**

By the end of this course students will be able to:

theorize gender and sexuality in African contexts.

critically examine and assess the applicability or lack thereof of Western conventional theoretical approaches to gender and sexuality in African societies.

demonstrate an understanding of how Sub-Saharan African contexts challenge the ways gendered identities, personhood, "love," and intimacy are conceptualized (and sometimes universalized) in the West or Global North.

demonstrate an expansion of their understanding of African contemporary issues.

-feel more engaged with African concerns related to gender and sexualities.

**GLOBAL LEARNING STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

**Global Awareness:**

Students will be able to demonstrate knowledge of how much local African gender constructs and sexualities are interrelated with global, international, and intercultural issues, movements, trends, and systems.

**Global Perspective:**

Students will be able to take into consideration both African and Western feminist, queer studies, and other theoretical perspectives in their analyses of African sexualities and gender constructs as they are performed locally, and are influenced by global and international forces and laws, in ever growing intercultural contexts.

**Global Engagements:**

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Students will be able to propose solutions to specific cases of gender intolerance and rigid heteronorm activity in given local, global and intercultural African contexts.

### **Course Communication**

Communication in this course will take place via blackboard messages.

### **COURSE READINGS**

Required Readings are indicated for each Module. They can be found in pdf. on the Blackboard site associated with this course. PLEASE READ THE ASSIGNED MATERIALS BEFORE COMING TO CLASS

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

#### **Group presentations: (15 minutes)**

During the first week of class, you will identify a group partner with whom you are going to work throughout the semester. You will need to pick two articles to critique. You will present your reading in two different days. Your

- 1) Give a summary of the article/chapter
- 2) What is the main argument(s) Why did the author(s) write the article or chapter?
- 2) What are the data used as evidence by the author to support the claims he/she makes in his/her argument?
  
- 3) What is useful about the reading(s)?
- 4) Were any of the points made questionable? If so, why?
- 5) What points, issues, or terms would you like to discuss or have clarified?
- 6) How do the various readings assigned inform each other? Contradict? Raise new questions?

#### **Class Discussion (15 Minutes)**

- After the presentation, the class will engage in the discussion of what has been presented, following the same questions listed above as guideline.

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### **Exams**

There are four (4) exams based on assigned readings and films. These exams will be a combination of short answer and essay questions.

### **Film Reaction paper**

There is (1) film reaction paper (8-10) pages, 12 pt, double-spaced) which will be counted as your GL film reaction paper. Your paper grade will follow the order below:

**A:** *outstanding* analysis; solid examples and reasons are given to support your views; clearly written.

**B:** fulfilled the assignment adequately; few if any grammatical problems or unclear sentences.

**C:** fulfilled the assignment but either the analysis is insufficient or superficial and/or there were a number of grammatical mistakes.

**D:** the assignment was not adequately fulfilled and/or there were a substantial amount of grammatical errors and awkward and confusing sentences.

**F:** the assignment was not turned in within one week of the due date, or was not completed according to the criteria listed above.

### **FINAL GRADE CALCULATION**

Group presentations : 200 pts

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Attendance and participation 100pts

Exams @ 100 Points 400 pts

Class assignments 100 pts

Final GL Paper 200 pts

**TOTAL 1,000pts 4**

1000-950 A	860-830 B	760-700 C
940-900 A-	820-800 B-	690-600 D
890-870 B+	790-770 C+	590-00 F

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