

HIS 469/568 COURSE SYLLABUS

African History and Cultures through Film

Spring 2022, Tuesdays 4 – 6:50 pm

Dr. Colleen Kriger

Office phone not available; 334-5992 (History Department)

Office: 2107 MHRA (2nd floor)

Office Hours (with mask); Tues. or Wed. by appointment

Course Objectives: In this course we analyze the multiple mappings of race, gender, class, and sexuality in contemporary Francophone Cinema. Along the way, we will examine the historical impacts of Africa's precolonial and colonial eras, struggles for independence, and the legacies of these histories in the post-colonial period. In particular, we will discuss the ongoing flows between Francophone African countries and France. We will analyze the ways in which Africa and Africans have been portrayed in a variety of film genres, so we will be especially concerned with issues of *content* – that is, messages conveyed in film about Africa and Africans – and the *ways* those messages are conveyed in order to decode them. We look at stereotypes about Africa in film, where those stereotypes have come from, in what forms they persist over time, and responses to them by politically aware and engaged filmmakers. We will therefore identify historical, social, economic, political, and cultural forces at play both in the production of the films and in their content. What are the challenges of seeing Africa on its own terms and not in relation to the west, especially the former colonial power? How are interactions with the West negotiated? Finally, we will consider how some films and their circulation may change perceptions of Africa both from within and outside the continent. **All films will be subtitled in English and this course will be taught in English.**

Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs): At the completion of this course the student should be able to:

1. Identify, describe, and analyze common stereotypes Americans have about Africa, African history, and/or African people;
2. Explain the historical and political dimensions of media studies;
3. Describe, critically analyze, and interpret scenes or segments of films.

Course requirements for undergraduate students (hard copies):

Weekly Position Papers (based on weekly readings, 1p. typed), together worth 30% of final grade (SLOs 1 and 2);

Paper #1 (draft of film scene analysis essay, 5pp. typed), 15% of final grade (SLO 3);

Paper #2 (revised film scene analysis, 6-7pp. typed), 40% of final grade (SLO 3);

Attendance and class lecture/discussion participation, 15% of final grade.

Course requirements for graduate students (hard copies):

Weekly Position Papers (as above), together worth 30% of final grade (SLOs 1 and 2);

Paper #1 (draft of film scene analysis essay, 6-7 pp. typed), 15% of final grade (SLO 3);

Paper #2 (revised film scene analysis, 8-10 pp. typed), 40% of final grade (SLO 3);

Attendance and class lecture/discussion participation, 15% of final grade.

Undergraduate Grading Scale: (See also UNCG Critical Thinking Rubric)

A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, C-, D+, D, D-, F/WF.

Graduate Grading Scale: (See also UNCG Critical Thinking Rubric)

A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, F/WF.