SEMESTER AT SEA COURSE SYLLABUS

Voyage: Spring 2014  
Discipline: African-American and African Studies  
AAS 3500: African Cinema  
Upper Division  
Faculty Name: K. Drame

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
This course is a survey of African cinema since the 1950s. First the course will examine the representation of Africa and the Africans in colonial films and the policies of colonial nations regarding cinema and filmmaking mainly in Francophone Africa. Second, the course will study the birth and evolution of celluloid filmmaking by Francophone Africans in the postcolonial era, the aesthetic forms and economic basis of filmmaking as well as the ideological and thematic structures of this cinema. Third, the course will examine the history and development of Nollywood (Anglophone video cinema, mainly Nigerian) into the first “film industry” in Africa in the last twenty years.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS:

AUTHOR: Manthia Diawara  
TITLE: African Films: New Forms of Aesthetics and Politics  
PUBLISHER: Prestel Publishing  
ISBN #: 9783791343426  
DATE/EDITION: 5/25/2010

Pierre Barrot, Editor  
Nollywood, the Video Phenomenon in Nigeria  
Indiana University Press  
9780253221179  
1/26/2009

Jamie Meltzer, Director  
Welcome to Nollywood (DVD)

- Release Date: 2/9/2010  
- UPC: 845637000777  
- Original Release: 2006  
- Source: Indiepix  
- Format: DVD
TOPICAL OUTLINE OF COURSE

B1- January 13: Introduction


B3- January 18: Discussion of reading and The African Queen by John Huston (1951)


B5- January 23: Discussion of White Mischief by Michael Radford (1987)


B8- February 5: An African Intervention. Screening of Borrom Sarret by Ousmane Sembène (1962)


B12- March 6: Self-Portrait II: Hyena on a motorcycle. Screening of Touki-Bouki by Djibril Diop-Mambety (1973)

B13- March 8: Self-Portrait II: Hyena on a motorcycle. Discussion of Touki-Bouki by Djibril Diop-Mambety (1973)


B24- April 21: Conclusion

B25- April 29: FINALS

FIELD WORK
Field lab attendance is mandatory for all students enrolled in this course. Please do not book individual travel plans or a Semester at Sea sponsored trip on the day of our field lab.
Day visit of CAPE TOWN FILM STUDIOS. This Field Lab is conceived as a guided tour and direct observation of technical equipment and installations for filmmaking in postcolonial Africa. Conception and production of films to A to Z. Students are expected to ask questions pertaining to the concept and function of “Film Studio”, economic and scientific/technological dimensions of the business of filmmaking. Students will submit a five-page report on the visit highlighting what they have learned about the function of film studios in filmmaking during their visit of CAPE TOWN FILM STUDIOS.
HONOR CODE
Semester at Sea students enroll in an academic program administered by the University of Virginia, and thus bind themselves to the University’s honor code. The code prohibits all acts of lying, cheating, and stealing. Please consult the Voyager’s Handbook for further explanation of what constitutes an honor offense.

Each written assignment for this course must be pledged by the student as follows: “On my honor as a student, I pledge that I have neither given nor received aid on this assignment.” The pledge must be signed, or, in the case of an electronic file, signed “[signed].”