

SYLLABUS SAS AFRICAN ORAL TRADITIONS

Voyage: Spring 2014
Discipline: Literature
ENSP 2559: African Oral Traditions
Lower Division
Faculty Name: Kandioura Drame

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this course we will explore the forms and genres of oral tradition in Africa as recorded and translated into English by scholars in the last 100 years.

We will read and comment a selection of proverbs, folktales, and epic stories in French translation across Africa and assess the significance of oral tradition in Africa today. Listening to audio and visual recordings and live performances will be required when available.

Students will place into contexts and analyze various texts of oral tradition. A paper, an oral presentation, a midterm and a final exam are required.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

AUTHOR: Stephen Belcher et al, Ed.
TITLE: Oral Epics from Africa: Vibrant Voices from A Vast Continent
PUBLISHER: Indiana University Press
ISBN #:
DATE/EDITION: 1997

Nelson Mandela, Ed- *Favorite African Folktales*, New York: W.W. Norton, 2004.

TOPICAL OUTLINE OF COURSE

- A1- January 12: Oral Tradition: Genres, Production, Functions.**
- A2- January 14: Oral Tradition: Genres, Production, Functions.**
- A3- January 16: Oral Tradition: Genres, Production, Functions.**
- A4- January 19: N. Mandela- *Favorite African Folktales*.**
- A5- January 22: N. Mandela- *Favorite African Folktales*.**
- A6- January 25: N. Mandela- *Favorite African Folktales*.**
- A7- January 27: Folktales**

- A8- February 4: Proverbs**

A9- February 12: Proverbs

A10- February 20: Proverbs

A11- February 24: Myths

A12- March 5: Myths

A13-March 7: Myths

A14-March 15: Myths

A15- March 18: Epic stories. Discussion of “Introduction: The Oral Epic in Africa,” P.XII-P.XX , *Oral Epics from Africa: Vibrant Voices from A Vast Continent*

A16- March 20: Epic stories. Discussion of “Mande Epics”, P. 8-P.67

A17- March 23: Epic stories. Discussion of “Mande Epics”, P.68-P.113

A18- March 26: Epic stories. Discussion of “Songhay and Zerma Epics”, P.126-P.145.

A19- April 3: Epic stories. Discussion of “Fulbe Epics”, P.147-P.199.

A20- April 5: Epic stories. Discussion of “Egyptian Epics”, P.227-P.254.

A21- April 8: Epic stories. Discussion of “Central African Epics”, P.255-P.286

A22- April 15: Epic stories. Discussion of “Izibongo”.

A23- April 17: Izibongo.

A24-April 20: Izibongo.

A25- April 28: Finals.

FIELD WORK

Queen Mothers; Village visit; Oral performance/ storytelling.

Students will meet the Queen Mothers in session, observe the proceedings, and have the opportunity of asking questions about the institution, its functions, and relations with other branches of traditional government. Students will in a position to observe village life and culture, economic, educational, and cultural issues. Attend a storytelling performance and engage the storyteller in a discussion of his/her art and views on oral tradition. Students may choose one of the events, describe it, and analyze in relation to the course and course material on African oral traditions.

Before each assignment you will be given directions about the format to follow. You will be responsible to know basic information about work show, read, and discussed.

HONOR CODE

Semester at Sea students enroll in an academic program administered by the University of Virginia, and thus they must abide by 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"; in the case of an electronic file, assignments must be signed "[signed]."

METHODS OF EVALUATION / GRADING RUBRIC

Paper	25%
Midterm Exam	25%
Final Exam	25%
Field Lab Assignment	15%
Oral presentations	10%

RESERVE LIBRARY LIST

AUTHOR: Trevor Cope

TITLE: *Izibongo, Zulu Praise-Poetry*

PUBLISHER:

ISBN #:

DATE/EDITION:

ELECTRONIC COURSE MATERIALS