What would it mean to think Africa differently? Where would we find the forms of language and the conceptual and methodological strategies which would allow us to do this? How do we think about Africa differently in a world that is increasingly perceived to be converging towards a ‘global village’? Is Africa losing its cultures and identities in this ‘global village’? In the context of the current level of globalisation, this course explores Africa’s position in and relations with other parts of the globalising world. With concrete examples, we explore some of the key political, economic, social, cultural and other effects of globalization in Africa. In looking at these issues, the course highlights Africa’s experience of globalization, focusing on the challenges and opportunities which arise from the apparent growing interconnections.

We have all grown used to a particular way of thinking and writing about Africa: a set of images, tropes and ideas; a particular language; a particular version of Africa’s place (or lack of place) in history; a particular version of Africa’s participation (or lack of participation) in the major movements and phenomena of our time, modernity, development, globalization, etc. It is probably fair to describe these views as the “dominant discourses” in the sense that they shape many of the ideas and images of Africa that circulate in everyday life. These views have also been instrumental in shaping the construction and production of a range of knowledges about Africa, its people, landscapes, and fauna and flora.

We ask the question – which is also a challenge – how do we come up with new ways of thinking about Africa in the global arena? This is a question with both theoretical and methodological implications. On the one hand, we need a set of strategies and approaches to evade and outwit the dominant discourses; to get around them, to expose their terms and then (more difficult) to devise new frames of looking at, analyzing, writing, conceptualizing and imaging Africa. On the other hand, we need a set of guiding ideas, concepts, paradigms and the resources of a critical intellectual tradition – in other words, we need theory.

**Course convenor:**
A/Prof. H. Chitonge  
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**Course lecturers:**
A/Prof H. Garuba Associate  
Ms Z. Msomi  
Prof. A. Deumert
Course administrator:
Mrs. Vuyelwa Mnqanqeni
021-650 4034
vuyelwa.mnqanqeni@uct.ac.za

Lecture times:
Monday, Tuesdays, Wednesdays
Time: 14:00-15:00

Additional times may be arranged for screening of films or guest lectures.
For any assistance on the course, please contact the course administrator or the course convenor

Lecture venues:
HOERI LT2

Required Readings:
- The Global Transformation Reader (any edition) by David Held & Anthony McGrew (editors)

Tutorials:
There are 10 tutorials for the course as a whole. Attendance at all lectures and tutorials is compulsory. Apologies for missed sessions will be accepted only when accompanied by a doctor’s note. All tutorial assignments are available on Vula.

Course Readings:
All the required readings for the course are available on Vula (see lecture programme below). Weekly readings must be done in advance of lectures and tutorials. Additional readings are not provided, but you are encouraged to read them.

Assessment Requirements:
Three short assignments – 10% each
A research project – 20%
A final exam – 50%

You must submit each of the three assignments to your tutor by the end of day on which the assignment is due (see below). Details about the research project will be provided on Vula.

Assignment due dates:
Assignment 1: 10 August
Assignment 2: 31 August
Assignment 3: 21 September
Research Project Paper: 19 October
A cover page and plagiarism form needs to be filled out and attached to the front of your assignment (downloadable from the VULA site under ‘Resources’).

**Please Note:** It is the policy of Centre for African Studies not to grant extensions on due dates other than in the case of medical emergencies or on compassionate grounds. A doctor’s note is required in the case of medical emergencies. Late work will be penalized by deducting 10% for each day overdue.

Be sure to consult the examination timetable for the date and venue of the final examination

**Lecture Programme:**

**Week 1 (July 23- 25): Introduction to Globalisation, Culture and Identity**
A/Prof. H. Chitonge

**Required Readings:**

**Further Reading:**

**Week 2 (July 30- 1 August). Africa in the Globalising World**
A/Prof. H. Chitonge

**Required Readings:**
Further Reading:


Week 3 (August 6-8): Africa in the Global Community
A/Prof. H. Chitonge

Required Readings:


Further Reading:


A/Prof. H. Chitonge

Required Readings:


Further Reading:


A/Prof. H. Chitonge

Required Readings:


**Further Reading:**


• Bohler-Muller, Narnia and Olorunju, Phindile (2011). “Swaziland: The Last Gasp of an Absolute Monarchy?” African Institute of South Africa, Briefing No.54. 1-10

**Week 6 (August 27-29). Youth and Globalization in Africa**
Dr. Divine Fuh

**Required Readings:**


**Further Readings:**


**Week 7 (September 3-5): Identity Dynamics in Africa**
Ms Z. Msomi

**Required readings:**


**Further Reading:**
• Sharp John & Emile Boonzaier, 1994, ‘Ethnic Identity as Performance: Lessons
Documentary: Africa Meet Africa (Venue TBC)

Week 8 (September 17-19): Popular Culture and Identity in Africa
Ms Z. Msomi

Required reading

Further Reading

Week 9 (September 24-26): Globalisation and Knowledge Production in Africa
A/Prof. H. Garuba

Required Reading:

Further Reading:

Week 10 (October 1-3): African Intellectual Project in the Context of Globalisation
A/Prof. H. Garuba

Required Reading:
Further Reading:

Week 11 (October 8-10). Globalisation and the Language Question in Africa
Prof. Ana Deumert
Required Reading:

Further Reading:

Week 12 (October 15-17): Globalisation in Contemporary Africa
A/Prof. H. Chitonge
Required Readings:

Further Reading:

NB: Lectures End on October 26. Exams begin on November 6.