

AXL 1200S Course Outline



Africa: Culture, Identity and Globalisation

AXL1200S is a service course designed specifically for non-Humanities students preparing themselves for professional practice. Broad-based and introductory, it is intended to satisfy the Complimentary Studies requirements of professional institutes (like the Engineering Council of South Africa). It does this by focusing on contexts and ideas which will be of direct benefit in professional practices, as well as on more abstract ideas which will be generally enriching.

In the time available, this course sets out to introduce and develop more complex understandings of culture, identity and the challenges of globalisation which societies in contemporary Africa are facing today. We envisage the ideas explored and debates encouraged as contributing towards a more thoughtful professional practice and critical awareness of the social and historical context, particularly in the post-apartheid South Africa, a society which is defined, in part, by that particular conjunction. That is, the need to negotiate the thorny legacies and complex material realities of colonialism and apartheid whilst dealing with the intensified effects of globalization.

From Cape Town to Algiers and Puntland, we will take a case-study approach, examining a range of different contemporary issues, historical moments and diverse localities across the continent. This will enable us to examine dominant concepts and vocabularies that operate in relation to complex processes of globalisation but which impact everyday life in distinctly different ways. This approach will also enable us to introduce and explore a range of concepts, ideas and critical terms in Humanities-type study - "tools to think with" that cut to the heart of contemporary contexts.

Course Convenor:

Zuziwe Msomi

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Course Lecturers:

Associate Professor Chitonge, Ms Zuziwe Msomi

Course Administrator:

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Lecture times:

Friday, 5th period (12:00-13:00)

Lunch hour may be used from time to time for screening of films or guest lectures

For assistance regarding this course, please contact the course administrator or the course convenor.

Lecture venue: Leslie Social Science 2D

Readings:

Available on Vula (see lecture programme below).

Required reading:

- *Globalisation and the African Experience* (2012). Mbah, Emmanuel & Salm, Steven (editors). Durham: Carolina Academic Press.
- *The Global Transformation Reader* (any edition) by David Held & Anthony McGrew (editors)

Assessment Requirements:

Three short assignments – 10% each

A group research project – 20%

A final exam – 50%

Please submit a hard copy of the assignment to the department in the appropriate tutor box, and a soft copy online on VULA.

Assignment due dates:

Assignment 1: 17 August 2018

Assignment 2: 31 August 2018

Assignment 3: 21 September 2018

Group Project: 5 October 2018

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').

Details about the research project have been uploaded on VULA.

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 penalised by deducting 10% for each day over- due.

Be sure to consult the examination timetable for the date and the venue of the final examination. You must be prepared to make yourself available for re-examination, which affects all borderline candidates. This normally takes place the week following the examination period.

Tutorials:

There are ten tutorials for the course as a whole. Attendance at all lectures and tutorials is compulsory. Weekly readings must be done **in advance** of lectures **and** tutorials. The tutorial programme runs parallel with the lecture programme and they reinforce one another. You are expected to **prepare notes** which comprise your thoughts on the weekly readings, comments and questions before the tutorial. These will form the basis of the discussion during tutorials each week. Attendance at all lectures and tutorials is compulsory. All tutorial assignments are available on Vula.

LECTURE PROGRAMME

Week 1 (23 July-27 July): Introduction to the course

Associate Professor Chitonge

Required Readings:

Guttal, Shamali(2007). "Globalisation Origin and Definition." *Development in Practice*, Vol.17, Nos. 4 &5. 523-33

Week 2 (30 July- 3 August). What is Globalisation?

Associate Professor Chitonge

Required Readings:

- *The Global Transformation Reader* (any edition) by David Held & Anthony McGrew (editors), Cambridge: Blackwell. Introduction pg 1-16.

Additional Reading

- Huntington, S(1993). "The Clash of Civilisations." *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 72, No. 3. 21-49

Week 3 (6 August-10 August): Africa in the Globalising World

Associate Professor Chitonge

Required Readings:

- Zeleza, Paul(2003). *Re-thinking Africa's Globalisation* (Vol.1). Trenton: Africa World Press. Chapter 1. pg.1-16

Additional Readings:

- Adekunle, Julius (2012). "Globalisation in the Pre-Colonial Period" in E. Mbah & S. Salm(eds) *Globalisation and the African Experience*. Durham: Carolina Academic Press. Chapter 1. pg.23-36

Week 4 (13 August-17 August)): Challenges of Globalisation in Africa

Associate Professor Chitonge

Required Readings:

- Mkandawire, Thandika(2005). "Mal-adjusting African Economies and Globalisation." *African Development*, Vol. XXX, Nos. 1 & 2. 9-29
- Ouattara, Alassane (1997). "The challenges of Globalisation for Africa." A paper presented at the Southern Africa Economic Summit, Harare, Zimbabwe, May 12.

Additional Readings:

- De Beer, CS (2005). "Africa in the Globalising World: Digital Divide or Human Divide?"
- Bush, Ray (2008). "Africa and Globalisation" *Soundings*, Issue 39. pg.20-31
- Stiglitz, Joseph (2002). *Globalization and its Discontents*. New York: Norton & Company. Chapter 2

Week 5 (20 August-24 August): Globalisation and Political Transformation in Africa

Associate Professor Chitonge

Required Readings

- United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA, 2007). *The Relevancy of African Traditional Institutions of Governance*. ECA: Addis Ababa. Pages 1-15.

Additional Reading

- United Nations Public Administration Network (2002). "The Challenges of Globalisation in Africa" What Role for Civil Society and other Stakeholders?" Addis

Ababa. (available at <http://unpan1.un.org/intradoc/groups/public/documents/CAFRAD/UNPAN008264.PDF>) 06/07.15

Week 6 (27 August- 31 August): Globalisation and Cultural Transformation in Africa

Associate Professor Chitonge

Required Readings:

- Gilbert, Jane (2006). "Two Worlds: Integration, Synthesis or Conflict? Psychological Perspectives on Cultural Identity in Africa" in T. Lyons and G. Pye (eds.). *Africa on the Global Stage*. Trenton: Africa World Press. Chapter 4.

Additional Reading

- Lieber, J. Robert & Weisberg, E. Ruth (2002). "Globalisation, Culture and Identity Crisis." *International Journal of Politics*, Vol.16, No.2. pg273-296

Week 7 (3 September-7 September): Identity Dynamics: Past, Present and Future

Ms Zuziwe Msomi

Required Reading

- Sharp John & Emile Boonzaier, 1994, 'Ethnic Identity as Performance: Lessons from Namaqualand'. *Journal of Southern African Studies* 20(3). 405-415.

Documentary screening: *Africa Meets Africa (Venue TBC) Screening: 6 September, 13:00-14:00; Thursday.*

Additional Reading:

- Jenkins, Richard. 2008. 'Identity Matters,' pp. 1-15 in *Social Identity*. Routledge: London

MIDTERM BREAK: 8-16 September

Week 8 (17 September- 21 September): Popular Culture in Urban Africa

Ms Zuziwe Msomi

Required Readings:

- Simone, AbdouMaliq (2008). "Some Reflections on Making Popular Culture in Urban Africa", *African Studies Review*, Volume 51, Number 3, December 2008. 75-89.

Additional Reading:

- Barber, Karin (ed.), 1997, 'Introduction: Views of the Field', In *Readings in African Popular Culture*. Bloomington, Indiana: Indiana Univ. Press. pp. 1-9.

Week 9 (24 September- 28 September): Negotiating Multiple Identities in Africa

Ms Zuziwe Msomi

Required Readings

- Comaroff, Jean and Comaroff, John. 2009. Chapter 2, 'Three or Four things about ethno- futures' pp 6-21 in *Ethnicity, Inc.* University of Kwazulu-Natal Press, Scottsville, South Africa

Additional Reading:

- Thiel, M. & Coate, Roger (2010). "Identity Politics and Political Identities: Local Expressions in a Globalising World" in M. Thiel & R. Coate (eds.) *Identity Politics in the Age of Globalisation*. London: First Forum Press. 1-28.

Week 10: (1 October- 5 October): Decolonizing the University

Ms Zuziwe Msomi

Required Readings:

Amit Chaudhuri: The real meaning of Rhodes Must Fall

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2016/mar/16/the-real-meaning-of-rhodes-must-fall>

Week 11 (8 October-12 October): Finding UCT

In this lecture we focus on UCT as a site of struggle, as a way of opening up questions of institutional power, institutional culture, and transformation

Required Readings:

Achille Mbembe (2016) "Decolonizing knowledge and the question of the archive."

<http://wiser.wits.ac.za/system/files/Achille%20Mbembe%20-%20Decolonizing%20Knowledge%20and%20the%20Question%20of%20the%20Archive.pdf>

Week 12 (15 October-19 October): Africa in the Shadow of Globalisation

Associate Professor Chitonge

Required Readings:

- Chitonge, H. (2015). *Economic Growth and Development in Africa: Understanding Trends and Prospects*. London/New York: Routledge. Chapter 7.

Additional Reading

- Hendrickson, Roshan (2012). "Global Economies: Africa and the West" in E. Mbah & S. Salm(eds) *Globalisation and the African Experience*. Durham: Carolina Academic Press. Chapter 2