



U104-454/U400-454: Modern African Prose and Poetry in French

Course Format: Online

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Course Credits: 3

Prerequisites:

- U104-454: Reading knowledge of French; appropriate for third-year or higher college or graduate student
- U400-454: Completion of U400-227, *Intermediate French Language and Culture*, with a C or better or the equivalent.

Course Level: Advanced; appropriate for third-year or higher college or graduate student

Course Description: Modern fiction, drama, and poetry by Africans from tropical Africa and the West Indies. Explore great works by Mariama Bâ, Aimé Césaire, Birago Diop, Cheikh Hamidou Kane, Ousmane Sembène, Léopold Senghor, and others. While much of the course is written in French, students in U104-454 have the option of completing the written assignments and exams in either French or English. Students in U400-454 are required to complete the written assignments and exams in French.

Required Course Materials

- Aimé Césaire, *The Collected Poetry*, trans. Eshleman and Smith (University of California Press, 1983). ISBN13: 978-0-5200-5320-5
- Birago Diop, *Les Contes d'Amadou Koumba*, any edition. ISBN13: 978-2-7087-0167-0
- Cheikh Hamidou Kane, *L'Aventure ambiguë*, any edition. ISBN13:978-2-2640-0834-3
- Ousmane Sembène, *Les Bouts de bois de Dieu*, any edition. ISBN13: 978-2-2662-4581-4
- Mariama Bâ, *Une si longue lettre*, any edition. ISBN13: 978-2-8426-1289-4

Course Learning Objectives

- Identify important events of African countries' history in relation to French history before, during, and after colonialism.
- Understand the relationship between power (politics), religion, culture, and art.
- Identify conflicts in literary texts vis-à-vis politics, religion, race, and gender.
- Express personal thoughts and opinions about French and African history, culture, and civilization to educated adults—specifically in the context of African francophone literature (expressed in the target language—French, for students in U400-454; expressed in French or English, for students in U104-454).
- Compare historical, cultural, and social aspects of African countries and France with those of their culture of origin.

Course Overview

PART # UNIT #/s	PART TOPIC UNIT TOPIC/S	EVALUATED ACTIVITIES
Part 1 • Unit 1 • Unit 2	La Poésie de la négritude: Aimé Césaire et Léopold Sédar Senghor • Aimé Césaire, poète martiniquais de la négritude • Léopold Sédar Senghor, le Poète-Président	Written Assignment 1 Written Assignment 2
Part 2 • Unit 3 • Unit 4	Birago Diop: Poète et conteur de l'Afrique contemporaine • <i>Les Contes d'Amadou Koumba: De l'oralité à l'écriture (1)</i> • <i>Les Contes d'Amadou Koumba: De l'oralité à l'écriture (2)</i>	Written Assignment 3 Written Assignment 4 Written Assignment 5

• Unit 5	• <i>Les Contes d'Amadou Koumba: De l'oralité à l'écriture (3)</i>	
Part 3A • Unit 6 • Unit 7	Cheikh Hamidou Kane: Une Aventure spirituelle • L'Aventure spirituelle africaine de Samba Diallo • L'Aventure intellectuelle de Samba Diallo	Written Assignment 6 Written Assignment 7
Midcourse Exam		
Part 3B • Unit 8 • Unit 9	Ousmane Sembène: Une Action politique • L'Action politique d'Ibrahima Bakayoko • Le Combat des femmes: "Heureux est celui qui combat sans haine"	Written Assignment 8 Written Assignment 9
Part 3C • Unit 10	Les Romans des Kane et Sembène: Une Comparaison • Une Comparaison de <i>L'Aventure ambiguë</i> avec <i>Les Bouts de bois de Dieu</i>	Written Assignment 10
Part 4 • Unit 11	La Voix des Femmes • Mariama Bâ: <i>Une si longue lettre</i>	Written Assignment 11
Part 5 • Unit 12	Poésie africaine francophone • Poésie africaine	Written Assignment 12
Final Exam		

Evaluation Methods

Your final grade will be based on your performance on the following:

- 1) Written Assignments (60%)
- 2) Midcourse Examination (20%)
- 3) Final Examination (20%)

Written Assignments 1 (60%)

Written assignments that require both short-answer and analytical long-answer responses will be assigned in each unit of the course and will cumulatively account for 60% of your final course grade.

Midcourse Examination (20%)

A midcourse examination with questions similar to those in the written assignments will occur after Unit 7 and will account for 20% of your final course grade.

Final Examination (20%)

A final examination with questions similar to those in the written assignments will occur after Unit 12 and will account for 30% of your final course grade.

- **Note:** Requirements differ depending on whether you are enrolled in U104-454 or U400-454:
 - U104-454: Written assignments and exams may be written in French or English.
 - U400-454: Written assignments and exams must be written in French.

Grading Scale

The following grading scale is used to evaluate all course requirements and determine your final grade:

A = 93–100	B = 83–87.9	C = 70–77.9	D = 60–69.9
AB = 88–92.9	BC = 78–82.9		F = Below 60

Pass/Fail Option

Students who enroll in an Independent Learning (IL) course under the pass/fail option will receive a final grade of S in place of a final grade equivalent to an A, AB, B, BC, or C and a final grade of U in place of a final grade equivalent to a D or F