ENGLISH (ADEN) 139001: Global Literature

Professor Akua Sarr  
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Office Hours: By Appointment  
Telephone: 617-552-9144
Class Schedule: Tuesdays 6:15-9:15pm  
Room: Stokes Hall 401N

Boston College Mission Statement

Strengthened by more than a century and a half of dedication to academic excellence, Boston College commits itself to the highest standards of teaching and research in undergraduate, graduate and professional programs and to the pursuit of a just society through its own accomplishments, the work of its faculty and staff, and the achievements of its graduates. It seeks both to advance its place among the nation’s finest universities and to bring to the company of its distinguished peers and to contemporary society the richness of the Catholic intellectual ideal of a mutually illuminating relationship between religious faith and free intellectual inquiry.

Boston College draws inspiration for its academic societal mission from its distinctive religious tradition. As a Catholic and Jesuit university, it is rooted in a world view that encounters God in all creation and through all human activity, especially in the search for truth in every discipline, in the desire to learn, and in the call to live justly together. In this spirit, the University regards the contribution of different religious traditions and value systems as essential to the fullness of its intellectual life and to the continuous development of its distinctive intellectual heritage.

Course Description

Global literature goes beyond the notion of the globe as a physical geographic entity and transcends national boundaries to comment on the most prevailing aspects of the human condition. This course will attempt to redefine the borders of the world we live in through narratives that recognize the many conflicting issues of race, language, economy, gender and ethnicity, which separate and limit us, while also recognizing that regardless of the differences in our stories, we are united by our humanity. Through literature, students will journey across continents, countries, cultures and landscapes, to reflect on various renditions on the human experience. Writers will include: Aravind Adiga (India), NoViolet Bulawayo (Zimbabwe), Edwidge Danticat (Haiti), Yu Hua (China), Dinaw Mengestu (Ethiopia), and Marjane Satrapi (Iran).
Success of the course will depend on full participation of its members. Thus all reading is expected to be carefully done and completed on time, and all students should be open to thoughtful reflection and discussion.

Assignments, including exams, will include various kinds of writing – all of which will form the basis of in class discussion. Evaluations of the written assignments will focus on style and expression. I will not consider your interpretation of a text right or wrong. Your ideas, in other words, will not be subject to judgment. However, I will expect clear and concise writing and textual evidence to support your arguments.

All assignments are expected by the due date. No late work will be accepted.

Course Objectives

1. Students will learn to analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view.
2. Students will develop skill in written and oral expression.
3. Students will gain a broader understanding and appreciation of literature written by contemporary international writers.
4. Students will demonstrate competency across cultural settings and will learn the impact of nationality, race, culture, ethnicity, gender, and age as demonstrated in the literature read for the course.
5. Students will demonstrate ethical competency pertaining to issues of race, nationality and ethnicity as demonstrated by the literature read for the course.

Academic Integrity: Please refer to:
http://www.bc.edu/content/bc/schools/advstudies/guide/academicinteg.html for the Woods College policy regarding academic integrity.

In this course, the presentation is the ONLY assignment that will require you to consult or review an outside source. For the other assignments, in order to foster the development of your own interpretive skills, I ask that you do NOT consult any outside sources about the literature -- including but not limited to web sites, scholarly journals, or reviews.

A note about technology in the classroom - Laptops may be used in class ONLY for taking notes and for presentations. NO cell phones may be used during class time.
GRADING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Analyses/Reflection Papers</th>
<th>Midterm</th>
<th>In Class Writing Assignments</th>
<th>Class Presentation</th>
<th>Final Exam</th>
<th>Participation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Regular attendance and contribution to class discussions is required. 3 points will be deducted for any absence.

When you do a presentation on a text, you will not be required to do a paper.

Students may earn a total of 200 points.

Final Grades will be assigned as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>187-200</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>(94-100 %)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>179-186</td>
<td>A-</td>
<td>(90-93 %)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>173-178</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>(87-89 %)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>165-172</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>(83-86%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>159-164</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>(80-82%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>153-158</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>(77-79%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>145-152</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>(73-76%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>139-155</td>
<td>C-</td>
<td>(70-72%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>133-138</td>
<td>D+</td>
<td>(67-69%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>125-132</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>(63-66%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>120-124</td>
<td>D-</td>
<td>(60-62%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Below 120</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>(below 60%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Required Texts:
(Available at the University Bookstore)

- Last Man in Tower - Aravind Adiga
- We Need New Names - NoViolet Bulawayo
- Claire of the Sea Light - Edwidge Danticat
- Boy in Twilight - Yu Hua
- All Our Names - Dinaw Mengestu
- Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood - Marjane Satrapi

Film:
(Available at Media Center - O’Neill Library)

Persepolis
Important Policies

Grade Reports

All students are required to log into the web through Agora to access their semester grades. Students must utilize their BC username and password to log on. If your username or password is not known, the Student Learning and Support Center in the O’Neill Library Computer Center will issue a new one. The SLSC requires a valid picture ID (a BC ID, driver’s license or passport) to obtain your password.

Written Work

Graduate and undergraduate students are expected to prepare professional, polished written work. Written materials must be typed in the format required by your instructor. Strive for a thorough, yet concise style. Cite literature appropriately, using APA, MLA, CLA format per instructors decision. Develop your thoughts fully, clearly, logically and specifically. Proofread all materials to ensure the use of proper grammar, punctuation, and spelling. You are encouraged to make use of campus resources for refining writing skills as needed. Please see: http://www.bc.edu/libraries/help/tutoring.html

Scholarship and Academic Integrity

It is expected that students will produce original work and cite references appropriately. Failure to reference properly is plagiarism. Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not necessarily limited to, plagiarism, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, cheating on examinations or assignments, and submitting the same paper or substantially similar papers to meet the requirements of more than one course without seeking permission of all instructors concerned. Scholastic misconduct may also involve, but is not necessarily limited to, acts that violate the rights of other students, such as depriving another student of course materials or interfering with another student's work.

Request for Accommodations

If you have a disability and will be requesting accommodations for this course, please register with either Dr. Kathy Duggan (dugganka@bc.edu), Associate Director, Connors Family Learning Center (learning disabilities or AHD) or Dean Paulette Durrett, (paulette.durrett@bc.edu), Assistant Dean for students with disabilities, (all other disabilities). Advance notice and appropriate documentation are required for accommodations. For further information, you can locate the disability resources on the web at: http://www.bc.edu/content/bc/libraries/help/tutoring/specialservices.html
Attendance

Class attendance is an important component of learning. Students are expected to attend all classes and to arrive by the beginning of and remain for the entire class period. When an occasion occurs that prevents a student from attending class, it is the student’s obligation to inform the instructor of the conflict before the class meets. The student is still expected to meet all assignment deadlines. If a student knows that he or she will be absent on a particular day, the student is responsible for seeing the instructor beforehand to obtain the assignments for that day. If a student misses a class, he or she is responsible for making up the work by obtaining a classmate’s notes and handouts and turning in any assignments due. If you miss class, you cannot make up participation points associated with that class. Types of absences that are not typically excused include weddings, showers, vacations, birthday parties, graduations, etc. Additional assignments, penalties and correctives are at the discretion of the instructor. If circumstances necessitate excessive absence from class, the student should consider withdrawing from the class. In all cases, students are expected to accept the decision of the instructor regarding attendance policies specific to the class.

Consistent with our commitment of creating an academic community that is respectful of and welcoming to persons of differing backgrounds, we believe that every reasonable effort should be made to allow members of the university community to observe their religious holidays without jeopardizing the fulfillment of their academic obligations. It is the responsibility of students to review course syllabi as soon as they are distributed and to consult the faculty member promptly regarding any possible conflicts with observed religious holidays. If asked, the student should provide accurate information about the obligations entailed in the observance of that particular holiday. However, it is the responsibility of the student to complete any and all class requirements for days that are missed due to conflicts due to religious holidays.

There may be circumstances that necessitate a departure from this policy. Feel free to contact the WCAS at 617-552-3900 for consultation.

Deadlines

Assignments are due at the beginning of the class period on the specified dates. Late assignments will be graded accordingly.