

**Africans Abroad:
Emigres, Refugees, and Citizens in the New African Diaspora**

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Office hours: W 11-12:30, R 1-3

Aims and Format

This seminar will examine the experiences of recent emigrants and refugees from Africa in an historical and comparative framework. The course begins with examples of earlier African migration both within the continent and beyond, then looks at the history of African emigration and immigration since the 1950s. We will look at the relations of overseas Africans with both their home and host societies and compare them with the experiences of other immigrant groups over the past century, drawing on some of the extensive comparative literature on immigration, ethnic diasporas, and transnationalism. Other topics include reasons for leaving Africa, patterns of economic and educational adaptation abroad, changes in gender and generational roles, issues of cultural and political identity, and the impact of international immigration policies. Students will have the opportunity to conduct focused research on specific African communities in Philadelphia or elsewhere in North America, Europe, or the Middle East. We will employ a variety of sources--including newspapers, census data, legal briefs, literature and film, and diaspora internet sites--to explore the lives, aspirations, and perceptions of Africans abroad.

Class meets Mondays from 3:30-6:00 and will consist of a combination of lectures (including several by invited guests), discussions, and presentations by students of their research in progress. Some class activities (such as films, lectures, tours) may take place outside of normal seminar hours; these are considered part of the course requirement. Students taking the course for graduate credit will meet for an extra session with the instructor every two weeks to discuss additional readings (time to be arranged).

Course requirements

All students are expected to keep up with the weekly assigned readings, to submit written assignments on the dates indicated in the syllabus, and to participate actively in class discussions. Written assignments include: 1) regular response papers based on the weekly assigned readings; 2) an analysis of the media's coverage of an event involving African immigrants; 3) a review of a novel or film about Africans abroad; and 4) a report on the nature and content of an African diaspora website. There is also a final project which may build on one of the earlier assignments but which must involve substantial new documentary, oral, or field research (12-15 pp.) Each week, one or two students will be asked to lead off the discussion, and at some point during the semester, students will make an oral presentation to the class, individually or as part of a team, on some aspect of his/her research. In this way, everyone will contribute to our cumulative knowledge of the African immigrant experience.

Books

The following required books should be available at Penn Book Center, 130 So. 34th Street
Francois Manchuelle, *Willing Migrants*
Ike Oguine, *A Squatter's Tale*
Rima Berns McGown, *Muslims in the Diaspora*
Paul Stoller, *Money Has No Smell*
Jacqueline Copeland-Carson, *Creating Africa in America*

Recommended: John A. Arthur, *Invisible Sojourners* (on Library Reserve)

Additional required readings will be posted on the course Blackboard site (B)

Tentative Schedule of Meetings and Assignments

1. Jan 8. Intro and overview; issues and approaches

*(Students unfamiliar with the basic history and cultural geography of modern Africa should consult the instructor for suggestions on introductory background reading.)

PART I. HISTORICAL DIMENSIONS

2. Jan 15. MLK Day. No class meeting. Class may be rescheduled for another day this week.
Diasporas in African and world history; legacies of the Atlantic slave trade

*Joseph Harris, ed., *Global Dimensions of the African Diaspora*, intro, chs. 1, 2, 3 (B)

*Emmanuel Akyeampong, "Africans in the Diaspora: The Diaspora and Africa" (xerox)

++Response paper

3. Jan 22. Patterns of migration in precolonial and colonial Africa

*Manchuelle, *Willing Migrants*, pp. 1-178

*Excerpts from *Mobile Africa* (B)

++Response paper

4. Jan 29. Africans in Europe; legacies of colonialism (FILM or GUEST LECTURE)

*Manchuelle, *Willing Migrants*, pp. 179-227

*Additional readings TBA. .

PART II: THE NEW AFRICAN IMMIGRANTS

5. Feb 5. The African immigrant experience in America

*April Gordon, "The New Diaspora--African Immigration to the United States" (B)

*Oguine, *A Squatter's Tale*

*Laura Foner, "Immigrants and African Americans" (B)

* John Arthur, *Invisible Sojourners*, p. vii-67 (R)

++**Response paper**

6. Feb 12. Researching and documenting African immigrant lives (LIBRARY SESSION)

**Extended Lives: The African Immigrant Experience in Philadelphia*

+++**Review of film or novel due (4 pp., see guidelines)**

7. Feb 19. Socio-economic networks and hierarchies

*Stoller, *Money Has No Smell*, excerpts

*Cheikh Babou, "Muslim *Dahiras* in New York City" (B)

*Arthur, *Invisible Sojourners*, pp. 69-107

++**Response paper**

8. Feb 26. Popular images of African immigrants (STUDENT REPORTS)

*Readings TBA

+++**Report on media coverage due (4-5pp., see guidelines)**

9. SPRING BREAK

10. Mar 12. Gendered, generational and religious identities (GUEST LECTURE)

*McGown, *Muslims in the Diaspora*

++**Response paper**

11. Mar 19. Diaspora-homeland relations; transnationalism (STUDENT REPORTS)

- *"Eritrea Goes Global: Nationalism in a Transnational Era" (B)
- *Cassanelli, "The Role of Diaspora Communities in Homeland Development" (B)
- *Takyiwaa Manuh, "Ghanaians, Canadians, and Asantes" (B)
- *Arthur, *Invisible Sojourners*, 125-149
- +++**Report on African diaspora website due (4-5 pp., see guidelines)**

11. Mar 26. Racial and spatial identities

- *Jacqueline Copeland-Carson, *Creating Africa in America*
- *Donna L. Perry, "Rural Ideologies and Urban Imaginings" (B)
- ++**Response paper**

12. Apr 2. Naturalization and citizenship; asylum seekers and refugees; legal issues

- *Readings *TBA*

13. Apr 9. (STUDENT RESEARCH REPORTS to be scheduled)

14. Apr 16. Summary and conclusions.
(RESEARCH REPORTS to be scheduled)

April 25: **Final Papers Due**

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