

SEMESTER AT SEA SYLLABUS

Voyage: Spring 2014
Discipline: Literature
ENSP 2559: African Oral Traditions
Division: Lower
Faculty Name: Kandioura Drame

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this course we will explore the forms and genres of oral tradition in Africa as recorded and translated into English by scholars in the last 100 years.

We will read and comment a selection of proverbs, folktales, and epic stories in French translation across Africa and assess the significance of oral tradition in Africa today. Listening to audio and visual recordings and live performances will be required when available.

Students will place into contexts and analyze various texts of oral tradition. A paper, an oral presentation, a midterm and a final exam are required.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

Stephen Belcher et al, Ed. *Oral Epics from Africa: Vibrant Voices from A Vast Continent*, Indiana University Press, 1997. ISBN #: 0-253-21110-7

Nelson Mandela, Ed- *Favorite African Folktales*, New York: W.W. Norton, 2004. ISBN: 0-393-32624-1

TOPICAL OUTLINE OF COURSE

A1- January 14: Oral Tradition: Genres, Production, Functions.

A2- January 16: Oral Tradition: Genres, Production, Functions.

January 17: Hilo.

A3- January 21: Oral Tradition: Genres, Production, Functions.

A4- January 23: N. Mandela- *Favorite African Folktales*.

A5- January 28: N. Mandela- *Favorite African Folktales*.

A6- January 30: N. Mandela- *Favorite African Folktales*.

January 29-30: Yokohama

February 1-3: Kobe

A7- February 4: Folktales

A8- February 6: Proverbs

February 6-7: Shanghai; 2/10-11: Hong Kong

A9- February 11: Proverbs

A10- February 13: Proverbs

February 14-19: Ho Chi Minh City

A11- February 18: Myths

A12- February 20: Myths

February 22-23: Singapore

A13- February 25:

A14- February 27: Myths

February 27-March 4: Rangoon.

A15- March 4: Epic stories. Discussion of “Introduction: The Oral Epic in Africa,” P.XII-P.XX , *Oral Epics from Africa: Vibrant Voices from A Vast Continent*

March 23: Port Louis

A16- March 6: Epic stories. Discussion of “Mande Epics”, P. 8-P.67

A17- March 11: Epic stories. Discussion of “Mande Epics”, P.68-P.113

A18- March 13: Epic stories. Discussion of “Songhay and Zerma Epics”, P.126-P.145.

March 9-14: Cochin

A19- March 18: Epic stories. Discussion of “Fulbe Epics”, P.147-P.199.

A20- March 20: Epic stories. Discussion of “Egyptian Epics”, P.227-P.254.

March 21: Port Louis Harbour

A21- March 25: Epic stories. Discussion of “Central African Epics”, P.255-P.286

A22- March 27: Epic stories. Discussion of “Izibongo”.

March 28-April 2: Cape Town

A23- April 1: Izibongo

A24-April 3: Izibongo

A25- April 8: Izibongo

A26- April 10: Izibongo

April 10-12: Tema. Field Lab days

April 13-14: Port of Tokoradi. Field Lab days.

A27- April 15: N. Mandela- *Favorite African Folktales.*

A28- April 17: N. Mandela- *Favorite African Folktales*.
A29- April 22: N. Mandela- *Favorite African Folktales*.
A30- April 24: N. Mandela- *Favorite African Folktales*.

April 27: Casablanca

A30- April 29: Conclusion

May 1: Southampton

FIELD WORK

Field lab attendance is mandatory for all students enrolled in this course. Please do not book individual travel plans or a Semester at Sea sponsored trip on the day of our field lab.

Queen Mothers; Village visit; Oral performance/ storytelling.

Students will meet the Queen Mothers in session, observe the proceedings, and have the opportunity of asking questions about the institution, its functions, and relations with other branches of traditional government. Students will in a position to observe village life and culture, economic, educational, and cultural issues. Attend a storytelling performance and engage the storyteller in a discussion of his/her art and views on oral tradition. Students may choose one of the events, describe it, and analyze in relation to the course and course material on African oral traditions.

Before each assignment you will be given directions about the format to follow. You will be responsible to know basic information about work show, read, and discussed.

METHODS OF EVALUATION / GRADING RUBRIC

Paper	25%
Midterm Exam	25%
Final Exam	25%
Field Lab Assignment	15%
Oral presentations	10%

RESERVE LIBRARY LIST

AUTHOR: Trevor Cope
TITLE: *Izibongo, Zulu Praise-Poetry*
PUBLISHER:
ISBN #:
DATE/EDITION:

ELECTRONIC COURSE MATERIALS

None

HONOR CODE

Semester at Sea students enroll in an academic program administered by the University of

Virginia, and thus they must abide by the University's Honor Code. The Code prohibits all acts of lying, cheating, and stealing. Please consult the Voyager's Handbook for further explanation of what constitutes an honor offense.

Each written assignment for this course must be pledged by the student as follows: "On my honor as a student, I pledge that I have neither given nor received aid on this assignment"; in the case of an electronic file, assignments must be signed "[signed]."

Izibongo, meaning "praise names" or "praise poem" is a pluralis tantum built from isibongo. He goes further to state that the scope of the various types of izibongo is wide, but united in "naming, identifying and therefore giving significance to the named person or object" in a specific, aesthetically acknowledged way. Praise poetry may be engaged in by virtually anybody, in a number of contexts, and directed at a variety of people, animals and objects. Herd boys praise their clay oxen, the live animals in their care, or their friends: a ploughman praises his lead ox; a hunter, his dogs; a father may praise one his children or his homestead, a wife, her husband and recently praises are composed for political organisations and football teams. Izibongo: Zulu praise-poems; by Stuart, James Cope, A. T. and a great selection of related books, art and collectibles available now at AbeBooks.com. "The Zulu eulogies or praise poems are like odes in that they praise important persons and like epics in that they record great events. The poems of this selection cover the period from 1750 to 1900 and record the growth of the Zulu military state from numerous independent tribes, and its subsequent disintegration." - from dust-jacket blurb. Series: Oxford Library of African Literature. B007E110OE. Semantic Scholar extracted view of "Izibongo: Zulu praise-poems" by James Stuart et al. @inproceedings{Stuart1968IzibongoZP, title={Izibongo: Zulu praise-poems}, author={James Stuart and D. G. Malcolm and A. T. Cope}, year={1968} }. James Stuart, D. G. Malcolm, A. T. Cope. Published 1968. History. View via Publisher. Save to Library. Create Alert.