

ALT 401: African Literature

Unit Description

This unit is a study of selected and largely representative creative texts from the south, west and north of Africa (the east having been covered in ALT 200). The unit focuses on how African writers from these three corners evaluate, in their imaginative representation of reality, various social, economic and cultural issues that have shaped what might be called the “African Experience”. Significant happenings such as colonisation, independence as well as globalisation will be given prominence.

Unit Objectives

- ❖ To situate African Literature on the world map by studying its origins and subsequent influences.
- ❖ To improve critical competence of African Literature.
- ❖ To interrogate and improve understanding of some of the sensibilities that are unique to the African experience.
- ❖ To expose students to themes and styles commonly found in African Literature.
- ❖ To get an update on the major literary trends in creative writing from Africa.

References

- ✓ Ashcroft, Bill. (1989). *The Empire Writes Back*. New York: Routledge.
- ✓ Bhabha, Homi. (1994). *The Location of Culture*. New York: Routledge.
- ✓ Gikandi, Simon. (1987). *Reading the African Novel*. Portsmouth: Heinemann.
- ✓ Ngara, Emmanuel. (1985). *Art and Ideology in the African Novel: A study*. London: Heinemann.
- ✓ OlaniyanTejumola and AtoQuayson (Eds). (2007) *African Literature: An Anthology of Criticism and Theory*. New Jersey: Wiley-Blackwell.