

MIDTERM EXAM 2020

*This is a take-home exam. As such, you are free to use your class notes and other secondary sources in answering the question. Please answer in the form of an essay. **Submit your completed exam by 8 October 2020 at 4 PM.** Have your paper uploaded onto the appropriate space on Moodle. As you complete this essay, be mindful of the Honor Code.*

GENERAL RULE

In good scholarly writing, the essential rule is to write with examples. Do not make flat statements. In this essay, always back up your claims with examples drawn from Africanist materials (course notes, readings, research notes). Be as concise and specific as possible.

Before answering any question, read carefully the instructions.

Always remember that academic writing in African Studies usually involves *narration, explanation, and interpretation*.

ESSAY PROMPT

According to Curtis Keim and Carolyn Somerville, popular culture has a tendency to reduce Africa to hollow stereotypes. But it is also the case that not all the products of popular culture represent Africa the same way.

***First**, summarize Keim and Somerville's argument about Africa in popular culture. **Then**, with examples drawn from the books and articles read as well as the films screened for this course so far, describe how some scholars and film directors have tried to push their readers and audiences to re-imagine Africa away from the notions of "Dark Continent" and/or a place without history. **Finally**, do you think these scholars and film directors were successful in challenging the legacies of the "colonial library"? Explain your position.*

Your essay must use at least four (4) sources (a balance of **books** and **peer-reviewed articles**) that we read for the course. For citations, use the [Chicago style](#). The completed essay will be between 1200 and 1500 words, including notes. [Use Times New Roman, double space, and font 12].

At the end of the essay and before your bibliography, provide your **word count**. Please follow the word limit to avoid penalty.

When your essay is done, start a new page to list all the sources you used in a bibliographic page. You must use the [Chicago style](#).

Remember: A good essay should have an introduction, a body, and a conclusion.