**FREN 4103-F: FRANCOPHONE AFRICA TODAY**    
**Fall 2011, Georgia Institute of Technology**

**MWF 1:05-1:55 pm, Swann 106**

• Instructor: Dr. Christophe Ippolito, School of Modern Languages ([www.modlangs.gatech.edu](http://www.modlangs.gatech.edu))  
• Office hours: MWF 12:00-1pm, MF 2-2:30 pm and by appointment (Office: Swann 226)

• Phone: 404-385-0190, Fax: 404-894-0955. Web <http://christopheippolito.com/>  
• Email (preferred): [christophe.ippolito@modlangs.gatech.edu](mailto:christophe.ippolito@modlangs.gatech.edu) or [cippolito6@mail.gatech.edu](mailto:cippolito6@mail.gatech.edu)

COURSE MATERIAL

• Jean-Michel SEVERINO & Olivier RAY. *Le Temps de l’Afrique* [TA] Paris: Odile Jacob, 2010. ISBN 978-2-7381-2327-5.

• Aminata TRAORÉ. *L’Afrique humiliée* [AH]. Paris: Fayard, 2008. ISBN 978-213-63590-3.  
• Web site (see above), T-square resources and links (media, docs, etc.).  
• Suggested: bilingual dictionary (Robert-Collins, Harraps…) + online: wordreference.com

COURSE DESCRIPTION / OBJECTIF ET CONTENU DU COURS

This interdisciplinary course will explore contemporary Francophone Africa and its representations in light of its modern history and culture. Focus will be on development in West Africa. Disciplines studied will include international relations, economy, sociology and anthropology. This course prepares to the new ML Senegal program.

Prerequisite: 2002 or equivalent. Changes initiated by SGA in 2011 re faculty/students conventions apply. Course Attributes: Humanities Requirement. 3 meetings a week. Credit Hrs: 3.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

At the end of this course, a student should be able to 1/ have a fair knowledge of the main issues in Francophone West Africa today and a fair understanding of its diverse cultures, 2/ discuss these issues in formal French, 3/ write essays in French at the Advanced-Mid level. Since Atlanta hosts the 4th largest African immigrant community in the U.S., and since the GT community is very active in most African countries including especially in engineering and social sciences, the final project may be an opportunity to interact in a professional manner with people from Africa / the African community and/or its diasporas here about current issues. Students may also participate to the Workshop on Africa organized on campus this year (see instructor for details).

COURSE EVALUATION / ASSIGNMENTS

**10%** Weekly Postings/comments on readings for the week on the T-square forum [10+ lines, include translations of useful vocabulary as needed; ONE T-square forum for all assignments]\*

**10%** Bi-Weekly Presentations in class [similar to blog entries] on the issues studied; prepared as 5+ Pwpt slides on the T-square forum (pics, links, videos, music, statistics, pdfs welcomed), and presented to class without reading the text on T-square (index cards allowed)\*  
**30%** 2 Essays on two different issues involving contemporary Francophone Africa (15% each)\*\*   
**10%** Active participation and in-class activities\*\*\*   
**15%** Midterm + **15%** Final Examination

**10%** Final Project= preferably “media” version of essay 2; ideally with component linked to an African community in Atlanta, Africa or elsewhere, or with service component; this may include interviews, research, non-profit work etc.). Pwpt (10+slides)/Internet. 5 mns to present it in class.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **ML PERFORMANCE GOAL #1: PROFESSIONAL COMMUNICATION** | | |
| **ML Learning Outcome 1 : Demonstrate oral and aural proficiency in the target language** | FREN 4103: Students will demonstrate oral proficiency at the Advanced level on the ACTFL scale | |
| **ML Learning Outcome 2:** Demonstrate effective presentation skills in the target language | FREN 4103: Students will demonstrate the ability to present in class for 5 minutes or more without notes on a complex topic | |
| **ML Learning Outcome 3: Demonstrate writing proficiency in the target language** | FREN 4103: Students will produce a variety of essays at the Advanced level on the ACTFL scale | |
| **ML Learning Outcome 4:**  Demonstrate proficiency in comprehension of authentic written texts in the target language | FREN 4103: Students will demonstrate comprehension of authentic texts related to complex topics about Francophone Africa | |
| **ML PERFORMANCE GOAL #2: INTERCULTURAL SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE** | | |
| **ML Learning Outcome 5: Demonstrate in-depth knowledge of a *specific* target-language country or region** | | FREN 4103: Students will **demonstrate in-depth knowledge of Francophone Africa** |
| **ML Learning Outcome 6:**  Demonstrate the ability to analyze an issue from target-culture perspective(s) | | FREN 4103: Students will analyze issues in different areas of Francophone culture in Africa |
| **ML Learning Outcome 7:**  Demonstrate critical reflection on cultural complexity and context | | FREN 4103: Students will analyze complex issues in Francophone Africa |

**All material (including the material used for the final project) has to be posted on T-square in correct French only**. Instructor will assess all that is posted (and then presented in class) and make adjustments as needed (discussion, corrections, advice, etc.). **GT Honor Code applies (no plagiarism/cheating of any sort, quote all your sources with detailed references for each).**

GT policy for ADAPTS students also applies.

\***All postings including weekly assignments, essays and project are due on Wednesday**. For the postings on the two books, please post on what you think are the main points in the pages read, give your opinion and analyze differences with the U.S. when relevant. ONE bi-weekly presentation (based on your presentation posting, on the topics presented in the 2 weeks)

\*\*Essays : Topics to be selected by student with instructor’s help; length: 5-10 pages each; format: see instructions in writing guide on T-square; 1 outline, 2 drafts for each. **Each version to be given to instructor in class AND posted on T-square (=back-up)**. Outline includes title, thesis statement, 2-3 main arguments proving your point, conclusion. 1st draft may be 4 pages only, including elements presented in the outline. Your essays may be submitted to an African journal (talk to the instructor if interested**). Essay 1 on issue(s) presented in AH before the midterm** [preferably focusing on ONE country]. **Essay 2 on issue(s) presented in TA after the midterm** + used as a basis for the final project [preferably focusing on ONE country]

**\*\*\*Active participation** **and in-class activities** : exercises assigned for a specific class; degree of knowledge of reading assigned; participation required (quantity, quality; French only in class); attendance essential and part of the grade (**one point taken off final grade for each unexcused absence after 2 absences** ; more than 10 minutes late: half an absence (more than 30: one). Only a GT / MD letter can excuse an absence. Please make a constant effort to practice your French and present your point of view/ideas to class.

**MODERN LANGUAGES PROGRAM ABROAD IN SENEGAL, JULY 2012**

If interested in going to Dakar, Senegal, with *our new 3-week ML Africa program* starting the 3rd week of **July**, please email your instructor at [christophe.ippolito@modlangs.gatech.edu](mailto:christophe.ippolito@modlangs.gatech.edu) this fall, and in any case complete the registration process and pay program fees before **March 1st , 2012**. Program includes courses in French, local and global sustainable development, economy, history, gender, popular culture, art, cultural studies, sociology, and an initiation to **Wolof** (Senegal’s main local language, French being the official language). Two tracks with different prerequisites (FREN 1002 or 2002). Tuition Credit, Program fee (airfare, transportation from the airport to the Center and back, lodging with families, food service, excursions, health insurance, cultural events and books) and application fee TBA shortly in accordance with OIE and GT regulations.

**Program location: West African Research Center** (WARC), Dakar, in a residential area on the Atlantic coast. Facilities include the large Fann residence and its nice courtyards, well-equipped classrooms, AC, internet connection, library, all that **shared with American students from other universities**. Students will be lodged in the same neighborhood by host families selected by this US-African Center (created 1993); food service provided; access to Olympic pool and fitness equipment (also at walking distance). Internships with NGOs and private companies are available before, during and after the program (till August 15th). Mandatory visits to culturally significant places. Senegal does not require visas for US citizens. As this program is an **extension of the LBAT-Paris program**, the same general conditions apply, and LBAT-Paris students have the possibility to join after completing their Paris program (**separate registration though**). It is of course possible to register for only one of these two summer programs. ML and other scholarships are available (see LBAT-Paris: <http://www.modlangs.gatech.edu/lbat/france>). And welcome to **vibrant Dakar**, home of 3 million people and capital of Senegal.

**FRENCH 4013 fall 2011: SCHEDULE**

*Assignments (always due on Wednesday) and exams* ***in bold.*****All postings including weekly & bi-weekly assignments, essays, presentations and project are due on the 2nd day of the week (Wednesday only)**. M: lecture/discussion, WF: you present your postings/presentations in class. Films: MW. MWF: debates to follow (prepare your arguments).

The following schedule is subject to changes (\* = 2-day week). Should you be absent, it is you responsibility to keep up with homework due/changes.

semaine 1: 22 - 26 août  situations, géographie économique, méthodologie            
TA 7-11 (intro), 314-7 (maps), 337-8 (index), 341-5 (contents)

AH 9-19 (préface, Cheikh Hamidou Kane)

**No postings due this week**

semaine 2: 29 août - 2 sept.  le discours de Dakar du président Sarkozy et les réactions

le discours de Dakar du président Sarkozy (web) , le discours du président Obama au Ghana

AH 21-98   
Colonialisme et néo-colonialisme (lecture + debate on this Monday)

**Posting on AH + Presentation on (neo-)colonialism or issues studied weeks 1-2**

semaine 3: 7 - 9 septembre\*  (im) migration (s) et démographie

AH 99-158

TA 17-36 (Partie I)

TA 41-67 (Partie II)

**Posting on AH and TA**

semaine 4: 12 -16 septembre  obstacles au développement

AH 159-222

Essay Preparation

**Posting on AH + Presentation on outline OR migration OR development or other issues studied weeks 3-4**

**+ essay1 outline**

semaine 5: 19 - 23 septembre  l’avenir ?

AH 223 - 289

**Posting on AH**

**+ essay1, 1st draft**

semaine 6: 26 - 30 septembre

Midterm review and preparation (including language/style)

**MIDTERM (mercredi 28 septembre) on A. Traoré’s book (open book exam, 2 short essays on 2 topics to be selected from a list of 10)**

Midterm correction in class

**No postings this week**

semaine 7: 3 - 7 octobre  histoire du « développement » en Afrique

TA 73-96 (Partie III)

**Posting on TA**

+ **essay1, final version (mercredi 5 oct.)**

semaine 8: 10 - 14 octobre  des « raisons d’espérer »

TA 101-121 (Partie IV)

**Posting on TA + Presentation on issues studied weeks 5, 7-8**

semaine 9: 19 - 21 octobre\*  West African art, movies, literature, music, architecture, rituals, myths, languages, cultural events…

**Present 1 African artist/film/architect. style/language/book/newspaper/ritual/myth/song…**

**+ essay 2/FP outline**

semaine 10: 24 - 28 octobre éléments positifs pour une croissance

TA 129-181 (Partie V)

**Posting on TA**

**+ essay 2/FP 1st draft**

semaine 11: 31 oct. - 4 nov.     formes de développement

TA 187-228 (Partie VI)

**Posting on TA + Presentation on issues studied weeks 10-11**

semaine 12: 14 -18 novembre écologie, développement durable

TA 233-270 (Partie VII)

**Posting on TA**

+ **essay 2/FP final version (mercredi 2 nov.)**

semaine 13: 21 -23 nov.\*     émergence(s) de l’Afrique aujourd’hui

TA 275-312 (Partie VIII)

**Posting on TA + Presentation on issues studied weeks 12-13**

semaine 14: 28 nov. -2 déc.  conclusions

AH 309-12, TA 267-289

Final Project Preparation

**Posting on TA+AH: give your opinion on both (and justify it)**

semaine 15: 5 -9 décembre : **Final Project** (presented in class)

Review for Final

See University schedule : **FINAL EXAMINATION on Severino/Ray book (open book exam, 2 short essays on 2 topics to be selected from a list of 10)**

While films and literary texts or excerpts of films and literary texts may be presented during the course when relevant, ML has courses titled “Francophone Literature I & II” (FREN 4101 & 4102); “Francophone Cinema” (FREN 4105) usually focuses on African cinema and is exclusively based on recent movies including documentaries. “African Diasporas in France” (FREN 4107) is an intercultural course with focus on immigration and North/West Africa.

Today, 115 million Africans in 31 countries speak French (there are about 300 million French speakers in the world). In 2050, it is projected that 650 million people will speak different varieties of French (as a 1st or 2nd language); most of them will be in Africa.

The course will attempt each time it is possible to draw on local West African material readily available on the internet, including especially videos, music, newspapers, blogs and magazines. Francophone African diasporas, inter-African and global relations including with developed countries and emergent powers (China, Brazil, India…) will also be studied including through domestic and international newspapers and sites.