French 154
African Literatures of French Expression
K. Wright (email: kwright)
519 Rhodes Tower (x3570)
Office hours: TuTh 2:00-3:15 & by appt.

Literary Texts

Léon-Gontran Damas, selection of poems from *Pigments* (*AV*)
Aimé Césaire, *Notebook of a Return to My Native Land* (extracts: *AV*)
Léopold S. Senghor, selection of poems from *Shadow Songs* (*AV*)
Birago Diop, *The Tales of Amadou Koumba* (selections, on reserve** and *AV*)
Ferdinand Oyono, *Houseboy*
Mariama Bâ, *So Long a Letter*
Ahmadou Kourouma, *Allah is not obliged!*
Werewere Liking, *It Shall Be of Jasper and Coral*

Films

Euzhan Palzy, *Sugar Cane Alley* (Martinique)
Ousmane Sembène, *Xala* (Senegal)
Daniel Kouyaté, *Keïta: The Heritage of the Griot* (Burkina Faso)
Ousmane Sembène, *Guelwaar* (Senegal)

*AV* = Academic Volume: the selections are available in electronic form for printing; please bring a copy to class

**Books and articles on reserve at Barret Library

**August 28

*Th:* Introduction to the course; Survey of French colonialism; Literary racism

**Week of 1 Sept

*Tu:* French colonization of the Antilles
  L-G Damas, selected poems from *Pigments*
  **Frantz Fanon, *Black Skin, White Masks* [Introduction, Ch. 1, Ch. 6 (pp. 141-154 to second paragraph only )]: To be discussed Thursday

*Wednesday evening: film screening* of *Sugar Cane Alley* (1984) by Euzhan Palzy, adapted from the novel by Joseph Zobel (Martinique)

*Th:* The Négritude movement
  Discussion of *Sugar Cane Alley*
  Discussion of Fanon’s *Black Skin, White Masks*
  Introduction to Aimé Césaire

**Week of 8 Sept

*Tu:* Aimé Césaire, extracts from *Notebook of a Return to My Native Land*
*Th:* Césaire, *Notebook*
Week of 15 Sept
Tu: Léopold Sédar Senghor, selected poems from *Shadow Songs* (1945)
  **Florence Stratton, “The Mother Africa Trope.” In* Contemporary African
  Literatures and the Politics of Gender,* pp. 39-55
Th: **Introduction to oral literatures in Africa** and to *The Epic of Soundjata;*
  Birago Diop, *The Tales of Amadou Koumba* (“The Humps,” “A Judgment,” “The
  Excuse,” “The Reward”)

**Sunday:** film screening of *Keïta: The Heritage of the Griot,* (1994) by Daniel
  Kougaté (Burkina Faso)

Week of 22 Sept
Tu: Discussion of *Keïta: The Heritage of the Griot
Th: The anti-colonial novel; Ferdinand Oyono, *Houseboy,* pp. 1-65

Week of 29 Sept
Tu: Oyono, *Houseboy,* pp. 65-100
Th: Oyono, *Houseboy* (complete novel)
  Essay #1 due

Week of 6 Oct
Tu: African Independence; Introduction to Ousmane Sembène and film in Africa

**Wednesday evening:** film screening *Xala,* by Ousmane Sembène, adapted
  from his novel *Xala* (1973)
Th: Discussion of *Xala*
  **Claire Andrade-Watkins, “France’s Bureau of Cinema – Financial and

Week of 13 Oct
Tu: Mid term exam
Tu: Breaking the silence: Women Writers; Mariama Bâ, *So Long a Letter

Week of 20 Oct
Tu: Fall recess
Th: Bâ, *So Long a Letter

Week of 27 Oct
Tu: Bâ, *So Long a Letter* (complete novel)
Th: **Ojo-Ade, “Still a Victim?: Mariama Bâ’s Une si longue lettre.” (to be discussed
  subsequently)
  Introduction to Amadou Kourouma and current issues in Ivory Coast
  Literary representations of war (bring Allah is not obliged to class)
Week of 3 Nov
Tu: Kourouma, Allah is not obliged
   Essay #2 due: Response paper to Ojo-Ade's article: “Still a Victim?”
   Discussion of Ojo-Ade’s article
Th: Kourouma, Allah is not obliged

Week of 10 Nov
Tu: Kourouma, Allah is not obliged
Th: Kourouma, Allah is not obliged (complete novel)

Sunday evening: film screening of Guelwaar (1992), a film by Ousmane Sembène

Week of 17 Nov
Tu: Discussion of Guelwaar
    Introduction to Werewere Liking
Th: Liking, It Shall Be of Jasper and Coral, pp. 3-39

Week of 24 Nov
Tu: Liking, It Shall Be of Jasper and Coral, pp. 40-79
Th: Thanksgiving break

Week of 1 Dec
Tu: Liking, Is Shall Be of Jasper and Coral (complete song-novel)
   **d’Almeida, “The Intertext: Werewere Liking’s Tool for Transformation and
   Renewal.” In Postcolonial Subjects: Francophone Women Writers, ed. Mary Jean
   Gould et al., 265-284.
Th: Liking and Recap
    Annotated bibliography due

Week of 8 Dec
Tu: Conclusions: language, literature and “francophonie”
   **Ngugi wa Thion’o, Decolonizing the Mind (extracts)

Final exam: TBA