

## AFRICAN STUDIES 250A – 002 – Term 2 Winter Session 2013/2014

### INTRODUCTION TO AFRICAN STUDIES: Africa through Its Writing

AFST 250 is an introductory course designed to provide students with background information and critical approaches that will enable them to participate in academic discussions and take more advanced courses in the field of African Studies. It will emphasize critical thinking and seek to foster an awareness of the conceptual difficulties involved in any attempt to understand the complexities of African Studies.

This particular section of AFST 250 will approach Africa primarily through the study of writing (non-fiction, fiction and poetry) by, and about, Africans.

AFST 250 is a prerequisite for senior courses in African Studies.

**Instructor: Dr. Suzanne James ([sujames@mail.ubc.ca](mailto:sujames@mail.ubc.ca)), Department of English, UBC**

#### **Texts:**

Adesanme, Pius. *You're Not a Country, Africa!*

John Parker and Richard Rathbone, *African History: A Very Short Introduction*

Chinua Achebe, *Things Fall Apart*

Rob Spillman, ed., *Gods and Soldiers: The Penguin Anthology of Contemporary African Writing*

Birago Diop, *Murambi, The Book of Bones*

Custom Course Pack (poetry, fiction & essays)

#### **Topics:**

Imagining Africa

Colonial Africa

The Empire Writes Back: Responding to Colonization

Négritude and its Detractors

Whose Language?: Indigenous and Colonial Languages in Africa

Post-colonial Africa

Representing the Rwandan Genocide

Post-apartheid South Africa

#### **Assessment:**

Mid-term	20%
Term Paper:	30%
Participation:	10%
Final Examination:	40%