HIST 4310, Twentieth Century African Women’s History

Time: Monday, 11:30 am to 2:30 pm
Room: 300 Tier

Instructor: J. M. Chadya
E-mail: Joy_Chadya@umanitoba.ca
Office: 345 University College
Office Hours: Thursday, 12:30 - 1:30 pm
Tel. 474 8219

Course Description
In this course we will focus on twentieth century African women’s history and the constructed nature of gender roles, using perspectives from contemporary women’s studies. We will examine how the notions of sexuality, class, race, generation, ethnicity shaped the historical experiences of African women and the historical constructions of gender in the workplace, communities, and households across time and space. How did social institutions like the family or the government maintain, enforce, and produce gender? How did gender constructions affect the lives of women and the possibilities for change and empowerment? To make this course more accessible we will employ several themes as filters for the vast body of information that constitutes African women’s history.

Required Readings -- To Be Purchased (available at the UofM bookstore)

The additionally assigned articles will be available online via JSTOR.

Assignments and Final Grade
Completed in Fall Term
Attendance and participation 10 %
Two think pieces 5 %
Research Essay # 1 35 %

Winter Term
Attendance and Participation: 10%
Two think pieces: 5%
Research Essay #2, 12-16 pages due March 28: 35%
Total 100%
Late Assignments
Late assignments will be accepted after the due dates with a penalty of one grade-point out of 100, per assignment, per day that the assignment is late, including weekends, unless a written request (with serious reasons) has been submitted in advance of the due date and written permission has been granted by the instructor.

The Letter Grade Distribution for this course is as follows

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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>96 - 100%</td>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>86 - 95%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
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Evaluative feedback will be provided to the voluntary withdrawal deadline of March 18, 2011.

Appealing Grades
Students who wish to appeal a grade given for term work must do so within 10 working days after the grade for the term work has been made available to them.

Uncollected Semester Work
If a student does not pick up term work within four (4) months following the end of the course, the assignment becomes the property of the Faculty of Arts and will be subject to confidential destruction.

Plagiarism and Cheating
The University’s regulations regarding plagiarism, cheating and impersonation can be found on page 27-28 of the 2010-2011 Undergraduate Calendar and the Faculty of Arts regulation and reads:

“The common penalty in Arts for plagiarism on a written assignment is a grade $F$ on the paper and final grade $F (CW)$ (for Compulsory Withdrawal) for the course. For the most serious acts of plagiarism, such as the purchase of an essay and repeat violations, this penalty can also include suspension for a period of up to five (5) years from registration in courses taught in a particular department/program in Arts or from all courses taught in this Faculty. The Faculty also reserves the right to submit student work that is suspected of being plagiarized to Internet sites designed to detect plagiarism or to other experts for authentication.

The common penalty in Arts for academic dishonesty on a test or examination is $F$ for the paper, $F (CW)$ for the course, and a one-year suspension from courses acceptable for credit in the Faculty. For more serious acts of academic dishonesty on a test or examination, such as repeat violations, this penalty can also include suspension for a period of up to five (5) years from registration in courses taught in a particular department/program in Arts or from all courses taught in this Faculty.”
Seminar 1, Introduction
Readings: None

Film: These Hands

Seminar 2, African Women in African History


Seminar 3, Absent Sisterhood?: African Women, Feminism and Challenges to Americanism/Eurocentricism


Seminar 4, Women, Labor and the Sexual Politics of Colonial Rule


**Seminar 5, Women, Marriage, Work and Gender in a Rural Economy**


**Seminar 6, Wicked Women: Patriarchy and Gender Chaos**

**Required Reading:** ~ Dorothy L Hodgson and Sheryl A. McCurdy, *Wicked Women and the Reconfiguration of Gender in Africa,* Portsmouth, Heinemann, 2001. Chapters: 1, 4, 8, 10, 14, 15


**Seminar 7, Victorian Domesticity: Making Dutiful Wives and Better Mothers?**


Seminar 8, Women and the City


Seminar 9, African Women and Sexuality


**Seminar 10, Performing the Nation: Rethinking Gender and African Nationalism**


**Seminar 11, African Women in Conflict Situations**


Seminar 12, African Women in in/dependent Africa


