

**Women of the African Diaspora**  
**Women's Studies 410/African American Studies 498D**  
**Spring 2011-- MW 2-3:15, 2117 Susquehanna**

Dr. Lynn Bolles

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Office Hours: Mon. 10-noon; Tues. 10-noon and by appointment

**Course Outline**

This course explores the lives, experiences, and cultures of women of sub-Saharan Africa and the African Diaspora -- African America, the Caribbean and Afro-Latin America, Canada and the UK. A variety of resources and materials will be used providing a distinctive interdisciplinary perspective.

**Format**

Lecture/Discussion

**Required Texts**

Maryse Conde. *I Tituba, Black Witch of Salem*. Ballentine 1994 ISBN 0345-38420-2

Miriam Tlali *Between Two Worlds*. Broadview Press 2004 ISBN 9781551116051

Course Reading materials available on ELMS (elms.umd.edu). This electronic blackboard will be used as **major medium for information and updates**.

**Requirements**

The major task of Diaspora studies is to discover and examine the links between cultures and then come to some understanding of the specifics that make the individual societies distinctive, but still related to the source. Attendance is taken and being prepared for class by doing the reading and participating are critical for success. There are seven written assignments: 1 in-class essay; 2 response papers; outside class event review; an annotative bibliography on materials for final paper; a research paper on a subject of your own choosing; and a self-reporting participation document handed with the final paper. **Handouts will provide details for each assignment (see ELMS.umd.edu)**. The independent research element makes this class a personally fruitful one. All written assignments must be TYPED.

**Grading**

The possible score for each assignment is based on the following basic criteria:

1. Submitted on time; 2. Meets the goals of the assignment – indicates understanding of the materials under discussion; 3. Good writing techniques (grammar, spelling, correct citation practices); 4) Demonstrate the ability to make a sound analysis/argument; and 5) Use of research skills in assignments where appropriate. Final Grade follows this rubric.

|                     |              |               |
|---------------------|--------------|---------------|
| A+ =100-97pts       | A=96-94 pts. | A-=93-90 pts  |
| B+=89-86 pts        | B=85-82 pts  | B- =81-80 pts |
| C+=79-76 pts        | C=75-72 pts. | C-71-70       |
| D+=69-67            | D=66-63 pts  | D-= 62-60     |
| F=lower than 60 pts |              |               |

**Assignments**

|   |         |
|---|---------|
| In class essay                              | 15 pts. |
| 2 Response Papers (2-3 pgs. 10pts.)         | 20 pts. |
| Annotated bibliography on Final Paper Topic | 15 pts. |
| Research Paper (10-12 pg.)                  | 30 pts. |
| Outside class Event report (1-2 pg.)        | 10 pts. |
| Self-reporting Class Participation          | 10 pts. |

**“The University of Maryland, College Park has a nationally recognized Code of Academic Integrity, administered by the Student Honor Council. This Code sets standards for academic integrity at Maryland for all undergraduate and graduate students. As a student you are responsible for upholding these standards for this course. It is very important for you to be aware of the consequences of cheating, fabrication, facilitation, and plagiarism. For more information on the Code of Academic Integrity or the Student Honor Council, please visit**

**<http://www.studenthonorcouncil.umd.edu/whatis.html>**

**1. Introduction, Women of the African Diaspora**

|         |  |
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| Jan. 24 | Welcome and Introduction<br>Where in the World???  |
| Jan. 26 | F. C. Steady “African Feminism: A Worldwide Perspective”<br>Molara Ogundipe-Leslie “African Women” |

**2. Significance of Slavery in the Americas and Colonization in Africa**

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| Jan. 31. | L. Mathurin <i>The Rebel Woman</i>         |
| Feb. 2   | M. Ramphele “My Roots”                     |
| Feb. 7   | <b>FILM “I is a Long Memored Woman”</b>    |
| Feb. 9   | Forward to <i>I Tituba</i> by Angela Davis |
| Feb. 14. | Maryse Conde <i>I Tituba</i> p. 1-86       |
| Feb. 14  | Maryse Conde <i>I Tituba</i> p. 89-186     |

**3. Identity of Being Black and Female**

|         |   |
|---------|---|
| Feb. 16 | D. Willis and C. Williams “The Colonial Conquest” |
| Feb. 21 | FILM on Saartjie Baartman                         |
|         | Info about In-class essay                         |
| Feb. 23 | P. Hill Collins “Get Your Freak On”               |

- Feb. 28 S.D. Rosado “No Nubian Knots or Nappy Locks”  
K.L. Caldwell “Look at her Hair”  
L. Jones “hair again”  
Mar. 2 **FILM “Tree Shade”**

|        |                       |
|--------|-----------------------|
| Mar 7. | <b>In Class Essay</b> |
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#### **4. Movements of Black Women -- Immigration**

- Mar.9 C. Boyce Davies “Caribbean women...”  
Lourdes Casal – Havana/NYC
- Mar. 14. J. Ifekwunige “Recasting “Black Venus in the “new” African  
Diaspora
- Mar. 16 N. Mortley “Nurse Migration”  
J. Brown “Diaspora and Desire”

#### **SPRING BREAK**

- Mar. 28 J. Burman “Deportable or Admissible?”

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| <b>Discuss Details Final Research Paper</b> |
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#### **5. Black Female and Queer**

- Mar. 30 C. Clarke “Lesbianism”  
Catherine Mckinley “Introduction”  
J. Taylor “Testimony of a Naked Woman”
- Apr. 4 G. Wekker “What’s Identity Got to Do with it?”  
J. Alexander “Remembering *This Bridge Called my Back*”
- Apr. 6 Film *Litany for Survival*

|                                       |
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| <b>Response Paper #1 Due in Class</b> |
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#### **6. Assaults on Well-being and Resources**

- Apr. 11 L. Mullings and A. Wali “Race, Class..”  
C. Mwaria “Biomedical Ethics..”  
L. Bolles “Terror of Terrorism”

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| <b>Annotated Bibliography Due in Class</b> |
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- Apr. 13 G. Pargass & R. Clarke “Violence Against..”  
I.Gunning “Cutting through..”  
N. Kristof &S. WuDunn *Half the Sky* pgs. 221-229
- Apr. 18. N. Kristof &S. WuDunn p. pg.61-66; 93-122-145  
“Congo Wounds”

**5. African and African Descent Women's Political Work**

Apr. 20 Miriam Tlali *Between Two Worlds*

Apr. 25 Miriam Tlali *Between Two Worlds*

**Sign up for African Diaspora Women Cultural Fest**

Apr. 27 J. Beoku-Betts & W. Ngaruiya Njambi “African Feminist Scholars”  
E. Barriteau “The Relevance of Black Feminist Scholarship”

May 2 L. Williams “The Civil Rights Legacy”  
M. Perkins “Inside our Dangerous.”  
A. Coleman “Michelle Obama on my Mind”

May. 4 R. Armstead “ Hip Hop in Cuba”

**Response Paper #2 Due in Class**

May 9. African Diaspora Women’s Cultural Fest –Bring in examples of music, dance moves, food, art – power point, U Tube etc.  
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**FINAL PAPERS and SELF-REPORTING PARTICIPATION DUE:**

**Monday, May 16 no later than 3:30PM**  
**Drop off to Dr. Bolles’s Office 2101N Woods Hall**