

Francophone Postcolonial Literature (M.St. Special Subject)

Michaelmas Term 2022

Students will meet for 4 sessions of 1.5 hours each. There will be a reading list of 2-3 texts to read for each session, and students are advised to have made a good start on the primary reading before term begins. At the start of term, students should have chosen two areas on which they will write essays (2500-3000 words each); they will do a short presentation (10-15 minutes) on one of the remaining two areas.

Week 2: Negritude and Resistance

Cécile Bishop, Oriel College

Set Texts:

Frantz Fanon, *Peau noire, masques blancs* (Paris: Seuil, 1995), esp. Chapter 5
'L'expérience vécue du Noir.'

Léopold Sédar Senghor, 'Chants d'ombre' and 'Ethiopiennes' in *Œuvre poétique*
(Paris : Seuil, 1990)

Aimé Césaire, *Cahier d'un retour au pays natal* (Bloodaxe books, 1995)

Recommended further reading:

Sartre, Jean-Paul, 'Orphée noir,' in Léopold Sedar Senghor, *Anthologie de la nouvelle poésie nègre et malgache de langue française* (Paris : PUF, 1948).

Selected critical reading:

Arnold, A. James. *Modernism and Negritude: The Poetry and Poetics of Aimé Césaire*. Harvard University Press, 1981.

Aimé Césaire, *Discours sur le colonialisme, suivi de Discours sur la Négritude* (Présence Africaine, 1955)

F. Abiola Irele, 'Introduction', in Aimé Césaire, *Journal of a Homecoming*, trans. By N. Gregson Davis (Duke University Press, 2017), pp.1-74.

Césaire, Aimé. *Nègre je suis, nègre je resterai: entretiens avec Françoise Vergès*. Albin Michel, 2005.

Davis, Gregson. *Aimé Césaire*. Cambridge University Press, 1997.

Gibson, Nigel, *Fanon: The Postcolonial Imagination* (Polity, 2003)

Gordon, Lewis. *What Fanon Said: a philosophical introduction to his life and thought*. Fordham University Press, 2015.

Hiddleston, Jane, *Decolonising the Intellectual: Politics, Culture, and Humanism at the End of the French Empire* (Liverpool, 2014)

Kesteloot, Lilyan. *Césaire et Senghor: un pont sur l'Atlantique*. L'Harmattan, 2006.

Jack, Belinda, *Négritude and Literary Criticism* (Greenwood, 1996)

Miller, Christopher, *Theories of Africans: Francophone Literature and Anthropology in Africa* (Chicago University Press, 1990)

Noland, Carrie. *Voices of Négritude in Modernist Print* (Columbia University Press, 2015)

Senghor, Léopold Sédar. *Ce que je crois: négritude, francité, et civilisation de l'universel*. Grasset et Fasquelle, 1988.

Gary Wilder, *Freedom Time: Négritude, Decolonization, and the Future of the World* (Durham: Duke University Press, 2015)

Week 3: Anticolonial Critique and Postcolonial Disillusion in Sub-Saharan

Literature

Cécile Bishop, Oriel College

Set texts:

Ferdinand Oyono, *Une Vie de boy* (1956)

Kourouma, Ahmadou, *Les soleils des indépendances* (c.1970)

Bâ, Mariama, *Une si longue lettre* (1979)

Selected secondary reading:

- Blair, Dorothy, *African Literature in French*
- Bush, Ruth, *Publishing Africa in French: Literary Institutions and Decolonization 1945-1967* (Liverpool: Liverpool University Press, 2016).
- Irele, Abiola, *The African Imagination*
- Julien, Eileen, 'Reading "orality" in French-language novels from sub-Saharan Africa', in Forsdick and Murphy, *Francophone Postcolonial Studies: a critical introduction*
- Murphy, David, 'Beyond tradition versus modernity: postcolonial thought and culture in Francophone sub-Saharan Africa' in Forsdick and Murphy, *Francophone Postcolonial Studies*
- Guèye, Médoune, 'La question du féminisme chez Mariama Bâ et Aminata Sow Fall', *The French Review*, 72.2 (1998)
- Hitchcott, Nikki, *Women Writers in Francophone Africa*
- Klaw, Barbara, 'Mariama Bâ's *Une si longue lettre* and Subverting a Mythology of Sex-Based Oppression', *Research in Africa Literatures*, 31.2 (2000)
- Hartkamp, Emma, 'Les Soleils des indépendances d'Ahmadou Kourouma: de la théorie au roman', *Francophone Postcolonial Studies*, 2.1 (2004)
- Borgomano, Madeleine. *Ahmadou Kourouma. Le « Guerrier » griot*. (Paris : L'Harmattan, 1998).
- Gérard Marie Noumssi, *La Créativité langagière dans la prose romanesque d'Ahmadou Kourouma* (Paris :L'Harmattan, 2009).
- Patrick Voisin, *Ahmadou Kourouma : entre poétique romanesque et littérature politique* (Paris: Classiques Garnier 2015)
- Patrick Corcoran, Oyono: *Une vie de boy and Le vieux nègre de la médaille* (London: Grant and Cutler, 2003)
- Christopher L. Miller, *Nationalists and Nomads* (Chicago UP, 1998), esp. chap. 4
- Louis J. Parascandola, "'What Are We Blackmen Who Are Called French?': The Dilemma of Identity in Oyono's *Un vie de boy* and Sembène's *La Noire de . . .*", *Comparative Literature Studies*, 46: 2 (2009), 360-378.

Week 5: History and Life-Writing in North African Literature

Jane Hiddleston, Exeter College (8.5)

Set texts:

Driss Chraïbi, *Le Passé simple* (Paris: Denoël, 1954)

Assia Djébar, *L'Amour, la fantasia* (Paris: Albin Michel, 1995)

Boualem Sansal, *Rue Darwin* (Paris: Gallimard, 2011)

Selected secondary reading:

Assia Djébar, *Femmes d'Alger dans leur appartement* (Paris: Albin Michel, 2002)

Assia Djébar, *Ces voix qui m'assiègent* (Paris: Albin Michel, 1999)

Frantz Fanon, *Les Damnés de la terre* (Paris: Gallimard, 1961, 1991)

Nicholas Harrison, *Postcolonial Criticism: History, Theory, and the Work of Fiction* (Cambridge: Polity, 2003)

Kenneth Harrow, *The Marabout and the Muse: New Approaches to Islam in African Literature*. (Portsmouth: Heinemann, 1996)

Jane Hiddleston, *Assia Djébar: Out of Algeria*. Liverpool University Press, 2006

Winifred Woodhull, *Transfigurations of the Maghreb: Feminism, Decolonisation and Literatures*. University of Minnesota Press, 1993

Debra Kelly, *Autobiography and Independence: Selfhood and Creativity in North African Postcolonial Writing in French* (2005)

Dinah Assouline Stillman, 'A Rustle in History: Conversations with Boualem Sansal', *World Literature Today* (September 2012)

Lucy Brisley, 'Melancholia and Victimhood in Boualem Sansal's *Le Village de l'Allemand: Ou Le journal des frères Schiller*', *Research in African Literatures* 44.1 (2013)

Week 6: Caribbean Literature

Jennifer Yee, Christ Church

Set Texts (marked *) and additional recommended reading:

Chamoiseau, Patrick, *Chronique des sept misères** (1986), *Solibo magnifique** (1988), *Texaco* (1994)

Condé, Maryse, *Traversée de la mangrove** (1989), *Desirada* (1997)

Selected secondary reading:

Britton, Celia, *The Sense of Community in French Caribbean Fiction* (Liverpool: Liverpool University Press, 2008)

Chamoiseau, Patrick, Bernabé, Jean and Confiant, Raphaël, *Eloge de la créolité* (Paris : Gallimard, 1990)

Chamoiseau, Patrick, Confiant, Raphaël, *Lettres créoles* (Paris : Gallimard, 1999)

Condé, Maryse, 'O Brave New World', *Research in African Literatures*, 29 (Autumn 1998) 1-7

Condé, Maryse, 'Order, Disorder, Freedom, and the West Indian Writer', *Yale French Studies*, 83: 2 (1993), 121-35

Glissant, Edouard, *Le Discours antillais* (Paris: Gallimard, 1996)

Haigh, Samantha, ed., *An Introduction to Francophone Writing Guadeloupe and Martinique*, 1st edn. (Oxford and New York: Berg, 1999)

McCusker, Maeve, "“This Creole culture, miraculously forged”: the contradictions of *créolité*", in *Francophone Postcolonial Studies: A Critical Introduction* ed. by Charles Forsdick and David Murphy (London and New York: Arnold, 2003)

McCusker, Maeve, *Patrick Chamoiseau: Recovering Memory* (Liverpool University Press, 2007)

Milne, Lorna, *Patrick Chamoiseau : espaces d'une écriture antillaise* (Amsterdam : Rodopi, 2006)

Pfaff, Françoise, *Entretiens avec Maryse Condé* (Paris: Éditions Karthala, 1993)

Sansavior, Eva, *Maryse Condé and the Space of Literature* (Oxford: Legenda, 2012)

Suk, Jeannie, *Postcolonial Paradoxes in French Caribbean Writing: Césaire, Glissant, Condé* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 2001)