

Spring 2006  
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French 6200: Francophone Literatures and Cultures  
The Sub-Saharan African Novel in French

W 2:30-5:30  
SLC 268

This course will provide an introduction to the development of the novel in French in West and Central Africa in the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. We will focus on the ways in which authors have reinvented a European genre using African narrative traditions, writing against colonial representations of Africa, Africans, and African history, and portraying complex postcolonial realities.

Required texts (at Off Campus Bookstore):

- Bamba Suso and Banna Kanute, *Sunjata*
- Ba, Mariama *Une si longue lettre*
- Camara, Laye *Enfant noir*
- Diop, Birago *Contes d'Amadou Koumba*
- Ilboudo, Monique *Le mal de peau*
- Kane, Cheikh Hamidou *L'aventure ambiguë*
- Kourouma, Ahmadou *Les soleils des indépendances*
- Labou Tansi, Sony *La vie et demie*
- Monénembo, Tierno *L'ainé des orphelins*
- Sembène, Ousmane *Les bouts de bois de dieu*

\*Another required book, Bernard Dadié's *Un nègre à Paris*, is currently out of print. You may buy a used copy on-line or make a photocopy in the library or the RL department. There will also be several additional articles available on e-reserve over the course of the semester.

Course requirements:

Each of you will sign up for a 20-30 minute oral presentation, in which you will provide background on the author and the historical context of one of the novels as well as ask questions that will begin and guide our discussion. You will also write a 15-20 page final seminar paper, due May 3, on a specific theme in one or several of the novels we have read or other relevant novel(s) of your choice. You must discuss your topic and thesis with me or submit it to me by e-mail by April 12. Your final grade will be based on your class attendance and participation (20%), oral presentation (20%), and final paper (60%).

1/11

Présentation du cours

1/18

Bamba Suso and Banna Kanute, *Sunjata* (recorded in Gambia, early 1970s)  
Birago Diop, *Contes d'Amadou Koumba* (Sénégal, 1961) – pp. 9-57, 155-187.

1/25

Laye Camara, *Enfant noir* (Guinée, 1953) – pp. 7-154

2/1

*Enfant noir* – pp. 155-221

Bernard Dadié, *Un nègre à Paris* (Côte d'Ivoire, 1959) – pp. 7-71

2/8

*Un nègre à Paris* – pp. 73-217

2/15

Ousmane Sembène, *Les bouts de bois de dieu* (Sénégal, 1960) – pp. 7-199

2/22

*Les bouts de bois de dieu* – pp. 203-379

3/1

Cheikh Hamidou Kane, *L'aventure ambiguë* (Sénégal, 1961)

3/8

Ahmadou Kourouma, *Les soleils des indépendances* (Côte d'Ivoire, 1968) – pp. 9-147

3/22

*Les soleils des indépendances* – pp. 151-196

Sony Labou Tansi, *La vie et demie* (Congo-Brazzaville, 1979) – pp. 9-73

3/29

*La vie et demie* – pp. 74-192

4/5

Mariama Ba, *Une si longue lettre* (Sénégal, 1980)

4/12 [to be rescheduled]

Monique Ilboudo, *Le Mal de peau* (Burkina Faso, 1992) – pp. 9-162

4/19

*Le Mal de peau* – pp. 163-251

Tierno Monénembo, *L'ainé des orphelins* (Guinée, 2000) – pp. 7-47

4/26

*L'ainé des orphelins* – pp. 47-157

Conclusion