

## Course Description Form

Course number and section: ENG 345B

Course Topic: AFROPOLITAN LITERATURE AND ITS GLOBAL REACH

Credits: 3

Term: 1

Instructor: SAKIRU ADEBAYO

### Course Description (aim for no more than 80 – 100 words for your course description):

This course examines the notion of Afropolitanism, a philosophical and an aesthetic concept that amplifies Africa's influence and positioning in the (post)modern world. For a long time in the European universe of reason, Africa was (mis)construed as the heart of darkness. Also, for a long time, an African classic novel like Chinua Achebe's *Things Fall Apart* was read as an anthropological – rather than a literary– work by many Western intellectuals. However, with the mass exodus of Africans to the West beginning in the 1970s, there emerged a crop of young, multicultural, multiracial, multilocal and often multilingual Africans who challenge stereotypes and spearhead the move to redefine and complicate – rather than oversimplify – what it means to be African in this age of accelerating globalization. These relatively young Afropolitans – including, for example, Wangechi Mutu, Trevor Noah, Lupita Nyong'o, Derrick Ashong, Esi Edugyan, Taiye Selasi – help us to better understand the various ways in which Africa is enmeshed into the world in the 21st century.

Tentative Reading List: (Be as concise as possible with your reading list, but please also specify the genre of each required text. See sample below)

Chimamanda Adichie's *Americanah*

Taiye Selasi's *Ghana Must Go*

Teju Cole's *Open City*

Helon Habila's *Travellers*

Other: