

**Professor Nina Zhiri**

**LTAf 120GS Literature and Film of Modern Africa -  
Summer 2023 - Session I**

**THE CONTENTS OF THIS SYLLABUS, INCLUDING THE READINGS, MIGHT BE MODIFIED DURING THE COURSE.**

This course will survey texts and films from West and North Africa, with an emphasis on the practices of migration to Western Europe over the last fifty years. These are themes and activities that resonate with contemporary events both in Europe and in the United States. While many North and West Africans target France, as the French-speaking metropole, many have more recently migrated to Spain, through the Canary Islands, the straits off of Tangier, and the Spanish territories of Ceuta and Melilla on the Moroccan Mediterranean coast. We will read some well-known literary texts written in English or translated into English that highlight African culture and the dangers and traumas of migration. We will see some films treating issues of immigration.

Readings will be posted on the Canvas site. We will watch movies during some classes.

We will have a local professor lecture on Spain and immigration, and also meet with NGOs that are active in immigration issues.

We will visit various sites in the city of Granada where recent immigrants, mostly Senegalese, live and work, often as vendors in open plazas but increasingly in other higher-paying employment. Another outing will include the Sacromonte neighborhood, where historically Roma (“gypsies”) migrants arriving from Asia, Africa and Europe for centuries, resided in cave houses. We’ll explore the Albaicín, the former Arab quarter that retains the architecture and street layouts of the days when Muslims ruled the city. The central attraction of the city is the famous fortress and palace, the Alhambra, built by a Muslim dynasty, and we will visit this wondrous site where Muslim and Christian Spain left their marks. We will attend a flamenco/Zambra performance that combines elements of European and African/Arab aesthetics in both the dance styles and singing/instrumental music.

Field trips will include a two-night visit to Morocco, to compare the contemporary Muslim culture and its ancient architecture with what we see in Granada. We will also visit with an NGO in Morocco that deals with African migrants and refugees waiting to enter Spain. Another field trip will entail two nights in Madrid where we will meet with groups that work on immigration issues as well as visit the culturally diverse neighborhood of Lavapiés.

**All sites visits are mandatory.**

Instructor: Nina Zhiri

Site Classroom

Phone: (local cell)

Email: ozhiri@ucsd.edu

Course ID:

**ALL ASSIGNMENTS MUST BE COMPLETED IN ORDER TO PASS THE COURSE.**

35% Class Participation: Most of the class will consist in discussions on the material. Each class meeting will include an introduction/analysis of the day's material by a team of students, to facilitate the lectures and discussions. Attendance, obviously, is an important component of the class and missing more than one class session will result in a reduction of the grade for this requirement. Taking part in the various local and overnight field trips are mandatory and count for the participation grade. Engagement of the students during these visits is expected, and included in the part of the grade that is based on participation.

15% Presentation in class (by teams): these short presentations on readings are expected to last about 10 to 15 minutes. Their goal is to introduce to the readings and to suggest some topics for the class discussion to follow.

30% Journal entries based on our various excursions around Granada and on our field trips to Morocco and Madrid. Format and content of these entries will be discussed in our earliest class meetings. This assignment will also count toward the final grade in the other course.

20% Term Paper: Students must write a three to five-page paper, that will be due the last day of class.

Regarding writing assignments: I will be available to help students with their writing in order to improve their research skills as well as the quality of their class essays. Students must have the topic/thesis of their paper pre-approved after consulting with me.

**Class Etiquette**

Arriving on time and leaving only when class is ended will be expected of each student. If someone has a valid reason for either arriving late, leaving early or missing a meeting, let the me know in advance or, if necessary, after class.

Laptops are to be used during class time to take notes and, if necessary, look up information pertinent to lecture topics, if I ask you to. Cell phones are not to be consulted during class.

You are required to complete reading assignments before they are discussed in class.

Finally, about writing: All UCSD students have signed a pledge of academic integrity. Any suspected cases of plagiarism will be submitted for formal investigation by the university. If writing is a problem for you, please ask me, or someone, for help in a timely manner in order to maximize your chances for success.

Because we are a Global Seminar meeting in Granada, and it is important to abide by the pledge you signed before departure, egregious and obvious deviations from the UCSD Code of Conduct, Academic Integrity Rules, and otherwise dangerous or threatening behavior could result in dismissal from the Program. On the other hand, I and the local Program staff stand ready to assist you in any way if you experience any sort of personal problems.

## Syllabus:

### Week 1:

#### Monday July 2:

9:30am. Meet outside Residence Hall for city tour, Program orientation, and Culture shock seminar

#### Tuesday July 4

9:15-10:45am. Class 1:

1. Introductory Remarks: Africa and Africans and their Representation in the West

READ: Binyavanga Wainaina "How to Write About Africa"

Laila Lalami "Why Hollywood owes me money"

11am-1pm. Survival Spanish language workshop

#### Wednesday July 5

9:15-11:15am. Class 2:

Colonial Senegal

READINGS: *Ambiguous Adventure*, Cheikh Hamidou Kane (excerpts)

Introduction: TEAM 1

#### Thursday July 6:

11AM – 2:30 PM

Meet at Plaza de la Radio for Guided Visit Alhambra & Generalife

#### Friday July 7:

9:15-11:15am. Class 3:

9:15-10:15 am. Guest Lecture:

José María Pérez Fernández, Immigration Africa-Spain

**SATURDAY 8: FREE DAY**

**SUNDAY 9: FREE DAY**

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**Week 2:**

**Monday July 10:**

9-11:30AM: Meet at Plaza de la Radio for Guided visit to Albaicin neighborhood and Arab sites

**ASSIGNMENT DUE: Journal entry 1**

Tuesday July 11:

9:15-11:15am. Class 4:

Colonial Morocco

READ: Fatima Mernissi, *Dreams of Trespass* (excerpts)

Introduction: TEAM 2

Wednesday July 12:

9-11am : Meet at Plaza de la Radio for Visit to Garcia Lorca Center

12am-2pm: Class 5.

SCREEN FILM: *La noire de...*, Ousmane Sembene (1966)

**FRIDAY 14 TO SUNDAY 16 : TRIP TO MOROCCO**

**Week 3:**

Monday July 17:

9:15-11:15am. Class 6.

Journey to Europe

READ: *Rebordering the Mediterranean: Boundaries and Citizenship in Southern Europe*, Liliana Suárez-Navaz, ch. 6

Introduction: TEAM 3

**ASSIGNMENT DUE: Journal entry 2**

Tuesday July 18:

9-11:30am: Meet at Plaza de la Radio for Visit Romani Neighborhood, Caves museum

Wednesday July 19 :

9:15-11:15am. Class 7.

SCREEN FILM: Moussa Touré, “La Pirogue” (2012)

Thursday July 20:

Guest lecture : José María Pérez Fernández, The Spanish Civil War in Granada

**FRIDAY 21 TO SUNDAY 23: FREE DAYS**

**Week 4:**

Monday July 24:

12am-2pm. Class 8.

Dreams of Europe and Spain

READ: *Hope and Other Dangerous Pursuits*, Laila Lalami (excerpts)

Introduction: TEAM 4

Tuesday July 25:

9:15-11:15am. Class 9.

Movie: *Atlantiques* Mata Diop (2019)

Wednesday 26:

10am-12:30pm: Meet a Plaza de la Radio for Granada civil war sites and cemetery

**ASSIGNMENT DUE: Journal entry 3**

**THURSDAY 27 TO SATURDAY 29: TRIP TO MADRID**

**SUNDAY 30: FREE DAY**

**Week 5:**

Monday July 31<sup>st</sup>:

9:15-11:15am. Class 10.

Mahi Binebine “*Welcome to Paradise*”

Introduction: TEAM 5

**ASSIGNMENT DUE: Journal entry 4**

Wednesday August 2<sup>nd</sup>:

9:15-11:15am. Class 11

Concluding Remarks and Review

**FINAL PAPER DUE**

7:15-9:30: Flamenco show

Thursday August 3<sup>rd</sup>:

Farewell Meal

FRIDAY AUGUST 4:

FREE DAY