Course Number: HST 496/791
Class Time & Date: Wednesdays 6:30–9:30pm.
Class Room: Powers 134
Office: Powers 231
Office Hours: Mondays 9:00am-1:30pm and by appointment
Department Phone No: 989-774-3374
Office Phone No: 989-774-3592
E-mail: getah1sa@cmich.edu
Instructor: Solomon A Getahun, Ph.D.

Course Description:
So far, African Diaspora studies have been focused on the forced migration of people from the African continent into the New World, primarily the U.S. and to some degree the Caribbean. As a result, African Diaspora studies have always been associated with the saga of slavery and the Atlantic slave trade.

While both the Diaspora and Transatlantic studies are essential in understanding the history of Africans in America and beyond, they do not explain the post-1960s migration of Africans to the U.S. and other parts of the world; and the formation of New African Diaspora identities such as Nigerian-Americans, Ethiopian-Americans, and Senegalese-Italians etc.

In this seminar, however, we will explore the historic circumstances and recent socio-economic and political developments that triggered the post-1960s African migration to the U.S. and other parts of the world.

By examining U.S. Congressional hearings, U.S. Census Bureau data, INS (the now Homeland Security) figures and reports, and by interviewing contemporary African immigrants, we will map the whereabouts of the New African Diaspora in the United States. Using the available literature on immigrants in America, we will also analyze African immigrants' relationships with the mainstream society in general and African Americans in particular.

Course Requirements:

- During the semester, each student would lead class discussion by providing context and raising critical questions that generates class discourse on the assigned reading/s

- Each student is required to write one book/article review and present his/her interpretation in class. The review must critically examine (evaluate) but not summarize the book or article. The presentation is intended to stimulate debate and discussion on the topic, the book or article. The length of each review is
between two and three pages. The reviews must be circulated to class members at least three days before class time.

- Based on U.S. Census, INS (Homeland Security), Congressional hearings (all are available online) and other relevant materials, each student is required to write an original paper on one of the post-1960s African immigrant groups (Nigerians, Somalis, Sudanese, Ethiopians etc) in the U.S. First draft is due on the XII week. Final paper is due on the XV week.

**Note:** Plagiarism is illegal and hence punishable by law. Please, refer CMU’s policy on writing ethics at [http://ethics.cmich.edu/ACADEMIC_INTEGRITY_POLICY.pdf](http://ethics.cmich.edu/ACADEMIC_INTEGRITY_POLICY.pdf)

I do not accept late papers. I also do not accept e-mail attachments. To get credit, you must submit a hard copy on the due date.

**Your final grades will be determined as follows:**

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<th>Component</th>
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<tr>
<td>Leading class discussion/presentation</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Book/Article review</td>
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<td>Semester paper</td>
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<td><strong>Total points</strong></td>
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**Grade scale:**

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Please note "Central Michigan University provides students with disabilities reasonable accommodations to participate in university activities, programs and services. Students with disabilities requiring an accommodation to participate in class activities or meet course requirements should first register with the Office of Student Disability Services (120 Park Library, telephone 989-774-3018, TDD #2568), or sds@cmich.edu and then contact the professor as soon as possible."

**Required Texts: (Some or all of them are on reserve)**

Robin Cohen, Global Diasporas: An Introduction (University of Washington Press, 1997)
Ruth Simms Hamilton (Editor) Routes of Passage: Rethinking the African Diaspora (Michigan State University Press, 2006)
Joseph E. Harris, Global Dimensions of the African Diaspora (Howard University Press; 1993)

Tentative Course Outline and Class Assignment Schedule:
This calendar may change to suit class need better

**Week I:** What is a Diaspora? Types of Diasporas and the African Diaspora formation
Robin Cohen, Global Diasporas: An Introduction (University of Washington Press, 1997)

**Week II:** What is a Diaspora? Types of Diasporas and the African Diaspora formation
Ruth Simms Hamilton (Editor) Routes of Passage: Rethinking the African Diaspora (Michigan State University Press, 2006)

**Week III:** What is a Diaspora? Types of Diasporas and the African Diaspora formation
Joseph E. Harris, Global Dimensions of the African Diaspora (Howard University Press; 1993)
Paul Tiymbe Zeleza, "Rewriting the African Diaspora: Beyond the Black Atlantic," *African Affairs, 104/414,* (2005), pp. 35-68

**Week IV:** The Indian Ocean African Diaspora

**Week V: The Mediterranean African Diaspora**

**Week VI: The Trans-Atlantic African Diaspora**

**Week VII: The New African Diaspora in the US, Causes and Context of migration**

**First draft due**

**Week VIII: The New African Diaspora in the US, Causes and Context of Migration**
Khalid Koser, *New African diasporas* (New York: Routledge, 2003), Chapter 1

**Week IX: The New African Diaspora: Patterns of Settlement & Adjustment Problems**

**Week X: The New African Diaspora: Identity Politics in the US**

**Week XI:** The New African Diaspora: Identity Politics in the US

- Mary Ann Watson, "Africans to America: The Unfolding of Identity," pp. 1-20, (copies)

**Week XII & XIII:** The New African Diaspora: The Economics of Migration


**Week XIV:** Globalization and its Discontents: The New African Diaspora and Anti-Immigration Laws