

**Central Michigan University**  
**Department of History**  
**HST 496/791: Seminar on the (New) African Diaspora**

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

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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:**

Leading class discussion/presentation	25%
Book/ Article review	35%
Semester paper	40%
Total points	100%

**Grade scale:**

93-100 A	83-86 B	73-76 C	63-67 D
90-92 A-	80-82 B-	70-72 C-	60-62 D-
87-89 B+	77-79 C+	67-69 D+	59 and below E

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](mailto:sds@cmich.edu) and then contact the professor as soon as possible"

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

Isidore Okpewho, and Nkiru Nzegwu (Editor), The New African Diaspora (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2009)

Toyn Falola and I Adebayo Oyebade (editors), The New African Diaspora in the United States (New York: Routledge, 2017)

Ian E. A. Yeboah, Black African Neo-Diaspora: Ghanaian Immigrant Experiences in the Greater Cincinnati, Ohio, Area (Lanham, Lexington Books, 2008)

Kwadwo Konadu-Agyemang, Baffour K. Takyi, and John Arthur, eds., The new African diaspora in North America: trends, community building, and adaptation (Lanham: Lexington Books, 2006)

Khalid Koser, ed., New African Diasporas (New York: Routledge, 2003)

Mary C. Waters, Black Identities: West Indian Immigrant Dreams and American Realities (Harvard University Press, 2001)

John A. Arthur, Invisible Sojourners: African Immigrant Diaspora in the United States (Praeger Publishers, 2000)

Yoku Shaw-Taylor and Steven A. Tuch, ed., The Other African Americans: Contemporary African and Caribbean Immigrants in the United States (Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2007)

Solomon A Getahun, The History of Ethiopian Immigrants and Refugees in America, 1900-2000 (LFB Scholarly Publishing LLC, 2006)

Robin Cohen, Global Diasporas: An Introduction (University of Washington Press, 1997)

Eve Troutt Powell & John O. Hunwick, The African Diaspora in the Mediterranean Lands of Islam (Markus Wiener Publishers, 2002)

Shihan De S. Jayasuriya & Richard Pankhurst (Editor), The African Diaspora in the Indian Ocean (Africa World Press, 2003)

George Reid Andrews, Afro-Latin America, 1800-2000 (Oxford University Press, USA, 2004)

Ruth Simms Hamilton (Editor) Routes of Passage: Rethinking the African Diaspora (Michigan State University Press, 2006)

Kofi K. Apraku African Emigres in the United States A Missing Link in Africa's Social and Economic Development (Praeger Publishers, 1991)

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)

Colin A. Palmer, "Defining and Studying the Modern African Diaspora," *The Journal of Negro History*, Vol. 85, No. 1/2 (Winter-Spring, 2000), pp.27-32

**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)

Martin Baumann, "Diaspora: Genealogies of Semantics and Transcultural Comparison," *Numen*, Vol. 47., No. 3, (2000), pp. 313-337

**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 Tiyambe Zeleza, "Rewriting the African Diaspora: Beyond the Black Atlantic," *African Affairs*, 104/414, (2005), pp. 35-68

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

Shihan De S. Jayasuriya & Richard Pankhurst (Editor), The African Diaspora in the Indian Ocean (Africa World Press, 2003)

Edward A. Alpers, "Recollecting Africa: Diasporic Memory in the Indian Ocean World," *African Studies Review*, Vol. 43, No. 1, Special Issue on the Diaspora (Apr., 2000), pp. 83-99

**Week V:** The Mediterranean African Diaspora

Eve Troutt Powell & John O. Hunwick, *The African Diaspora in the Mediterranean Lands of Islam* (Markus Wiener Publishers, 2002) ISBN-10: 1558762752

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

George Reid Andrews, *Afro-Latin America, 1800-2000* (Oxford University Press, USA, 2004)

Tiffany R. Patterson & Robin D. G. Kelley, "Unfinished Migrations: Reflections on the African Diaspora and the Making of the Modern World," *African Studies Review*, Vol. 43, No. 1, Special Issue on the Diaspora. (Apr. 2000), pp. 11-45

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

John A. Arthur, *Invisible Sojourners: African Immigrant Diaspora in the United States* (Praeger Publishers, 2000), Chapters 1 & 2

April Gordon, "The New Diaspora-African Immigration to the United States," *Journal of Third World Studies*, Vol. 15, No. 1 (Spr. 1998), 79-103

## First draft due

**Week VIII:** The New African Diaspora in the US, Causes and Context of Migration

Kwadwo Konadu-Agyemang, Baffour K. Takyi, and John Arthur, eds., *The new African diaspora in North America: trends, community building, and adaptation* (Lanham:Lexington Books, 2006), Chapters 1 & 2

Khalid Koser, *New African diasporas* (New York: Routledge, 2003), Chapter 1

Yoku Shaw-Taylor and Steven A. Tuch, ed., *The Other African Americans: Contemporary African and Caribbean Immigrants in the United States* (Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2007), Chapter 2

Solomon A Getahun, *The History of Ethiopian Immigrants and Refugees in America, 1900-2000* (LFB Scholarly Publishing LLC, 2006), Chapter 1 & 2

Kofi K. Apraku *African Emigres in the United States A Missing Link in Africa's Social and Economic Development* (Praeger Publishers, 1991), Chapter 1

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

Solomon A Getahun, *The History of Ethiopian Immigrants and Refugees in America, 1900-2000* (LFB Scholarly Publishing LLC, 2007)

John A. Arthur, *Invisible Sojourners: African Immigrant Diaspora in the United States* (Praeger Publishers, 2000)

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

Mary C. Waters, *Black Identities: West Indian Immigrant Dreams and American Realities* (Harvard University Press, 2001)

Yoku Shaw-Taylor and Steven A. Tuch, ed., The Other African Americans: Contemporary African and Caribbean Immigrants in the United States (Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2007), Chapters 1, 2, 3, 7

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

Khalid Koser, New African diasporas (New York: Routledge, 2003), Chapters 4 & 5

Kwadwo Konadu-Agyemang, Baffour K. Takyi, and John Arthur, eds., The new African diaspora in North America: trends, community building, and adaptation (Lanham: Lexington Books, 2006), Chapters 6, 7

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

Kofi K. Apraku, African Emigres in the United States A Missing Link in Africa's Social and Economic Development (Praeger Publishers, 1991), chapters 3 to 6

Solomon Getahun, "Brain Drain & its Impact on Ethiopia's Higher Learning Institutions, Medical Establishments and the Military Academics, 1970s-2000," *Perspectives of Global Development and Technology*, Vol. 5, Issue 3 (2006), 257-275

Yoku Shaw-Taylor and Steven A. Tuch, ed., The Other African Americans: Contemporary African and Caribbean Immigrants in the United States (Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2007), Chapter 5

E. Ike Udogu, "African Development and the Immigration of Its Intelligentsia: An Overview," 1-20 **(copies)**

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

Paul T Zeleza, "Contemporary African Migration in a Global Context," *African Issues*, Vol. 30, No. 1 (2002), pp 9-14