

Course Title: Modern African
Literature

Course Code: ENG 215

Course Lecturer: Dr Olusola Oso

Course Outline

- The course is designed to expose the students to the distinguishing features of, and fundamental issues addressed in Modern African Literature using some selected African literary texts.
- Definition of Modern African Literature
- Characteristics of Modern African Literature.
- Issues addressed in Modern African Literature.
- Analyses of Selected Literary Texts

Reading List

- The Marriage of Anansewa by Efu Sutherland
- Song of a Goat by J.P. Clark
- So Long a Letter by Mariama Ba
- Mine Boy by Peter Abraham
- The Joys of Motherhood by Buchi Emecheta
- The Trial of Dedan Kimathi by Ngugi wa Thiong'o

What is Modern African Literature

- Modern African literature has gained recognition with such classics as Chinua Achebe's *Things Fall Apart*, Ngugi wa Thiong'o's *Weep Not, Child*, and Wole Soyinka's *Death and the King's Horseman*.
- Wole Soyinka's winning of the Nobel Prize for Literature gives African literature global recognition.
- Modern African literature consists of literary works of art written in indigenous African languages and in European languages used in Africa such as English, French and Portuguese.
- It can be drama, poetry or prose fiction.

Characteristics of/Issues Addressed in Modern African Literature

- The focus of Modern African literature is on the post-independent period in African countries.
- The question of the language of Modern African literature has excited a great deal of interest among African literary scholars and critics.
- Diversity of African cultures is another major issue addressed in Modern African literature.
- Modern African literature can be written in indigenous African languages, Portuguese, English or French.
- Land is integral to Modern African literature.
- The need to create African identity is a major issue addressed in modern African literature.
- Slavery and colonialism are explored in modern African literature.

Analysis of Buchi Emecheta's The Joys of Motherhood.

- Background/Setting
- Plot
- Themes
- Characterisation

Analysis of Efua Sutherland's The Marriage of Anansewa

- Background/Setting
- Plot
- Themes
- Characterisation

Analysis of Peter Abraham's Mine Boy

- Background/Setting
- Plot
- Themes
- Characterisation

Analysis of Ngugi wa Thiong'o's The Trial of Dedan Kimathi

- Background/Setting
- Plot
- Themes
- Characterisation

Analysis of Mariama Ba's So Long a Letter

- Background/Setting
- Plot
- Themes
- Characterisation

Analysis of J.P. Clark's Song of a Goat

- Background/Setting
- Plot
- Themes
- Characterisation