

LITERATURE

An Introduction to Anglophone African Literature

- I. CRITICAL READING 15%
 - A. Purpose and Main Idea
 - B. Structure
 - C. Restatement of Information
 - D. Genres and their Characteristics
 - E. Language and Tone
 - F. Grammar and Syntax
 - G. Vocabulary in Context
 - H. Diction

- II. *THINGS FALL APART* (1958), CHINUA ACHEBE 40%
 - A. Albert Chinualumogu (Chinua) Achebe
 - 1. Timeline of Major Events and Publications
 - 2. An Anti-Colonialist Stance: The Quarrel with Joseph Conrad
 - B. The Historical Context of *Things Fall Apart*
 - 1. The Igbo World and Culture in Context
 - a. The Oral Tradition
 - 2. Domination: British Colonization in Africa: Focus on Nigeria
 - a. Indirect Rule
 - b. Examples of Indirect Rule in *Things Fall Apart*
 - 3. Nigerian Independence (1960)
 - C. Religion and Spirituality: The Gods, the Spirits, and the Notion of *Chi*
 - D. Religion and Spirituality: Ancestors, Ancestral Spirits, and *Egwugwu*
 - E. Religion and Spirituality: Christianity
 - F. Tradition and Gender Roles in *Things Fall Apart*
 - G. Key Characters
 - H. The Plot of *Things Fall Apart*
 - I. Themes
 - 1. The Community and the Individual
 - 2. The Exercise of Agency
 - 3. Resistance to Colonialism
 - 4. Tradition (African Indigenous Forms) and Modernity (Westernization)
 - 5. The Ancestors, the Gods, and the Spirits
 - 6. Governance
 - 7. Religion
 - 8. Colonization and Cultural Displacement
 - 9. Slavery
 - 10. The Oral Tradition
 - 11. Women
 - 12. Culture Conflict
 - 13. Suicide

14. Pacification, History, and Narrative

15. The Purpose of Art

J. Achebe and W. B. Yeats

K. Africa and the West: The Question of Representation (Stereotypes) and Voice

L. Contact and Conflict

M. Reception and Literary Criticism

1. Chinua Achebe, *Things Fall Apart*, and the Invention African Literature

2. *Things Fall Apart*: Criticism and Global Reception

III. SELECTED SHORTER WORKS OF LITERATURE 45%

A. The Empire Writes Back

B. Empire and Colonialism

C. Orientalism

D. Nation, Nationalism, and Resistance

E. Neocolonialism

F. Postcolonialism

G. Hybridity

H. Border Crossing and Migration

I. Literature and Social Justice: Apartheid, Anti-Apartheid, and Post-Apartheid

J. Chinua Achebe's Essays

1. "The Igbo World and Its Art" by Chinua Achebe

2. "The Writer and His Community" by Chinua Achebe

K. SELECTED WORK: "AN IMAGE OF AFRICA: RACISM IN CONRAD'S *HEART OF DARKNESS*" BY CHINUA ACHEBE

1. Analysis of "An Image of Africa: Racism in Conrad's *Heart of Darkness*"

L. SELECTED WORK: "THE DANGER OF A SINGLE STORY" BY CHIMAMANDA NGOZI ADICHIE
Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

1. Analysis of "The Danger of a Single Story"

M. SELECTED WORK: "THE RETURN" BY NGŪGĪ WA THIONG'O

1. Historical Context of "The Return" by Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o

2. Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o—Dramatist, Novelist, and Essayist

3. Analysis of "The Return"

N. SELECTED WORK: "AND SO IT CAME TO PASS" BY FUNSO AIYEJINA

1. Funso Aiyejina

2. Analysis of "And So It Came to Pass"

O. SELECTED WORK: "THE MESSAGE" BY AMA ATA AIDOO

1. Ama Ata Aidoo

2. Analysis of "The Message" by Ama Ata Aidoo

P. SELECTED WORK: "TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN" BY SIPHO SEPAMLA

1. Siphso Sepamla

2. Analysis of "To Whom It May Concern"

Q. SELECTED WORK: "COMRADES" BY NADINE GORDIMER

1. Nadine Gordimer

2. Analysis of "Comrades"

R. New Voices