



# BABCOCK UNIVERSITY

---

School: EAH  
Department: LANGUAGES AND LITERARY STUDIES  
Semester/Session: Second, 2015/2016

Course code: ENGLT 928 Oral Literature In Africa  
Day of class: Tuesday  
No of units: 3  
Lecturer: Prof. Mobolanle E. Sotunsa

Venue for class: EAH106  
Office Address: Rm 015 EAH

Telephone No: **07060947611**  
Email Address: [sotunsam@babcock.ng.edu](mailto:sotunsam@babcock.ng.edu);

## OUR VISION STATEMENT

A first-class Seventh day Adventist institution, building servant leaders for a better world.

## OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Building leadership through Christian education; transforming lives, impacting society for positive change.

To achieve our mission, we are committed to:

- Achieving excellence in our teaching, research program, and service delivery
- Imparting quality Christian education
- Instilling Christ-like character to the members of our community

## OUR CORE VALUES

- Excellence our culture
- Integrity our promise
- Accountability our moral
- Servant leadership our strength
- Team spirit our dignity
- Autonomy and responsibility our passion
- Adventist heritage our commitment

## **OUR PHILOSOPHY**

Babcock University's philosophy is anchored on the harmonious development of the intellectual, physical, social, and spiritual potential of our students, inspiring stable and notable character needed for effective leadership and service in the society.

Corporate image statement: A centre of excellence for character development and scholarship; a society responsive, responsible and accountable institution in matters of commitment and action.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This course entails an in-depth study of the major genres of African Oral Literature, especially the Prose, Poetry and Dramatic forms. The folktale, festivals and their social, religious, spiritual and cultural functions will provide the basis of both the theoretical study as fieldwork. Case studies of advanced analytical procedures applied by renowned African Oral Literary Scholars such as: J.P Clark, Ruth Finnegan, Isidore Okpewho, Oyin Ogunba, among others.

## **COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

At the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. explore the landmark writings of major African Oral Literature critics
2. carry out fieldwork in African Oral Literature
3. analyse Oral literature texts

## **REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS/JOURNAL:**

Finnegan, Ruth (1979) *Oral Literature in Africa*

*Oral Poetry in Africa*

Isidore Okpewho *The Epic in Africa*

Oyin Ogunba and Abiola Irele *Theatre in Africa*

Sotunsa M.E. and Akinloye Ojo (2014) *Fieldwork in Nigerian Oral Literature.*

*Akporobaro, F.B.O. (2012) Introduction to African Oral Literature*

*Nigerian Journal of Oral Literature*

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

Class Attendance: "Every student is required to attend classes regularly and punctually unless ill or prevented by some recognized emergency. Students who absent themselves from class more

than three weeks during the semester shall merit F grade. Authorized leave of absence from campus does not excuse the student from classes, or relieve the student of the required course work' (BU *academic Bulletin 2012-2015 p. 13*).

**Participation:** Students are to actively engage in topic discussion and sharing of idea in class.

**Tardiness/Conduct of Students in Class:** lateness to class is unacceptable; students are not allowed to operate their cell phones, iPod and other electronic mobile gargets during classes, except with the permission of the teacher. Eating and chewing of bubble gums and drinking (water exempted) is also not allowed except with the permission of the teacher. Very importantly, students are required to dress in compliance with the university dress code and wear their identity cards while in class.

**Short Devotionals/Prayer:** Spiritual nurture is a part of whole person development, and team spirit is our strength; thus, every student is required to participate in the devotional exercise and prayer in class.

**Submission of Assignment:** as the teacher wishes to receive the assignments with the regulation of the academic Bulletin

**Late Assignment:** Assignment could be turned in earlier, but not later than the deadline set by the teacher.

**Guideline for written work:** Assignments should be type written in Times New Roman 12 points, double line spacing

**Academic Integrity/Honesty:** "Babcock University has a zero tolerance for any form of academic dishonesty. Morality and spiritual, the institution is committed to scholastic integrity. Consequently, both students and staff are to maintain high, ethnical Christian levels of honesty. A transparent honest behavior is expected of every student in all spheres of life.

Academic dishonesty include such things as plagiarism, unauthorized use of notes or textbooks on quizzes and examinations, copying or spying the text or paper of another student (formal or take home), talking to another student during examination, academic matter would automatically result in a failing grade for the examination and suspense, or outright dismissal from the university. Academic dishonesty issues are referred to SPEAM (senate panel on examination and academic misconduct) who investigates and makes recommendations to senate. Penalties for examination and academic misconduct are spelt out in the *student's handbook* and in other regulations as published from time to time" (BU *academic Bulletin 2012-2015 p. 18*).

## **Grievance Procedure**

Students who believe in their academic rights have been infringed upon or that they have been unjustly treated with respect to their academic program are entitled to a fair and impartial consideration of their cases. They should do the following to affect a solution:

1. Present their case to the teacher(s) concerned.
2. If necessary discuss the problem with the head of department
3. If agreement is not reached at this level, submit the matter to the school dean
4. Finally, ask for a review of the case by the Grievance Committee
5. A fee is charged for remarking of scripts. If a student's grievance is upheld after an external examiner has remarked the script, the grade would be credited to the student. The lecturer will be given a letter of reprimand and will ask to refund the fees to the student. If the student's grievance is not sustained, the student will be given a letter and original grade retained" (BU *Academic Bulletin 2012-2015 p. 18*)

Teaching/learning methodologies: teachers are to determine their strategies for teaching their students. However, interactive strategies are encouraged, and there should be integration of faith and BU core values in the learning process.

## **COURSE ASSESSMENT/EVALUATION**

### **Paper Presentations**

Language 5%  
Content: 10%  
Methodology: 5%  
Oral Presentation: 10%  
Class participation: 10%  
Revision: 10%  
**50%**

(NOTE: For this course fieldwork paper will be 30% while other assignments will constitute 20%)

Class attendance: 5%  
Quiz/Test: 5%  
Mid semester exam: 10%  
Final Semester exam 30%  
**TOTAL: 100%**

Grade scale

Currently, the point grading system adopted by the University Senate translates as follows:

Grades	Marks- Quality	Range Points	Definition
A	80-100	5.00	Superior
B	60-79	4.00	Above Average
C	50-59	3.00	Average
D	45-49	2.00	Below Average
E	40-44	1.00	Pass
F	0-39	0.00	Fail

**Incomplete Grade:** an incomplete grade may only be assigned to a student upon request, due to an emergency situation that occurred within that semester, which prevented completion of an/some assignments, quizzes or examination. Such students would complete a contract form, obtained from the registrar, after agreement with the teacher. The form must be signed by the teacher, the student, the HOD, the dean, the registrar and the Senior Vice Chancellor (SVP) before contract begins. The original copy of the incomplete form will be sent to the registrar with copies to the teacher, the student, the HOD, the dean, and the SVP. An incomplete grade (I) reverts to the existing grade if contract is not completed by the end of the following semester. (Including summer semester, except for examinations) (BU *Academic Bulletin 2012-2015 p. 20*).

Further readings:

Students with disability

“Babcock University seeks to provide a conducive environment for optimal living and learning experience. While the university is working towards facilities that accommodate persons with disabilities, provisions will be made for students with disabilities under the following conditions. Students with disabilities are to:

1. Report to students support services for assessment, and to obtain a clearance/recommendation at the commencement of the semester or as soon as disabling incidence occurs.
2. Show the clearance/recommendations to relevant university officials at the commencement of the semester or as soon as disabling incidence occurs.
3. Maintain ongoing contact with students support services” (BU *Academic Bulletin 2012-2015 p. 20*).

**Proposed daily/weekly outline of schedule:**

Date	Topic	Class Activities	Assignments Due
------	-------	------------------	-----------------

Jan 6, 2016	Introduction	Introduction , Exposition on course outline and sharing of expectations about the course	
Jan 13, 2016	Survey of Studies on African Folklore and Oral Literature.	Note taking and discussions.	
Jan. 20, 2016	Fieldwork in African Oral Literature : Significance and Strategies	Note taking and discussions	
Jan. 27, 2016	Fieldwork in African Oral Literature : Stages of Fieldwork; Challenges of Fieldwork	Note taking and discussions; Approval of Fieldwork Projects	
Feb. 3 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Background, Genres and Sub genres of Oral Literature in Africa</li> </ul>	Note taking and discussions	Presentation/ Summary of Ruth Finnegan's Oral Literature in Africa
Feb10 2016	Oral Poetry in Africa	Note taking and discussions	Presentation/Summary of Ruth Finnegan's <i>Oral Poetry</i> and Selected Chapters in Uchegbulam Abalogun et al's <i>Oral Poetry in Nigeria</i>
Feb 17 2016	The Epic in Africa (1) <i>Ozidi Saga</i>	Note taking and discussions.	Presentations/ Summary of Isidore Okphwho's <i>The Epic in Africa</i> , and JP Clark- Bekederemo's

			<i>Ozidi Saga</i>
Feb 24 2016	The Epic in Africa (2): Sunjata and Shaka the Zulu	Note Taking and Discussions	Presentation/Summary of <i>Sunjiata: A West African Epic of the Mande People</i> . And Mazisi Kunnene's <i>Shaka the Zulu</i>
Mar 3 2016	Drama and Theatre in African Oral Literature	Note taking and discussions	Presentation and Summary of Selected Chapters in <i>Theatre in Africa</i> edited by Oyin Ogunba and Abiola Irele; and <i>Pre-Colonial and Post-Colonial Drama and Theatre</i> by Lokangaka Losambe and Devi Sarinjeive
Mar 10 2016	Folkloric Traditions in African Oral Literature	Note Taking and Discussions	Summary of <i>Forms of Folklore in Africa</i> by Bernth Lindfors
Mar 17 2016	Myth in Africa	Note taking and Discussions	
Mar 24, 2016	Presentation of fieldwork	Presentation of fieldwork. Comments, Questions, Observations	Field work presentations due.
March 31, 2016	Revision		
April 7, 2016	Exam		