#### **NIGERIA: HISTORY OF NATION BUILDING**

HIST 350 L Unique No. 39685 AFR 374C Unique No. 30475 Thursday, 3.00-6:00 PM, CBA 4.338

Instructor: Toyin Falola, GAR: 2.124 Office hours 2-3 PM, T & Th Email: Toyin.Falola@mail.utexas.edu

This course focuses on Nigeria to examine the problems of nation building in developing countries. It is designed to expose students to various materials on (i) the concept of the nation-state; (ii) the complexities of developing formations; (iii) core issues in the nation-building process, notably cultural, political and economic transformations; and (iv) the difficulties of modernization. This course will begin with an overview history of Nigeria. Students are expected to develop an interest in comparative history, theories and ideas of development, culture and nationalism. A well-focused research project teaches students how to conduct an independent study—they are expected to identify specific topics, collect primary and secondary data, and write a creative paper.

#### Goals

- i. To understand the outline history and culture of Nigeria
- ii. To understand major research themes of contemporary relevance in detail
- iii. To understand the difficulties of a modern nation-state
- iv. To understand the techniques of writing
- v. To think critically
- vi. To compare Nigeria with other countries.

### **Reading Materials**

Course Package (CP). The CP contains extensive information on all projects and assignments, and the list of weekly readings.

Films and documentaries Primary sources List of books in CP

#### Grade allocation

Students are expected to write a major research paper and two shorter pieces. This year, we will be focusing on the theme of popular culture.

Attendance, Group Participation and weekly class presentation

Research Stages—formulation, draft, sources, etc.

Evaluation of primary sources

Book review

10%

Film review

10%

Research project on either oil, globalization, or Nollywood (or a combination of all of them).

25%

10 pp. without bibliography

#### **BASIC SURVIVAL RULES**

- i.) All assignments must be submitted on due dates. 5 points per day are deducted thereafter.
- ii.) There is no option for additional credit.
- iii) Attendance will be recorded, and participation noted by the Instructor. Everybody is expected to contribute to class discussion. If you are shy, prepare a written statement to read to class. **5 points deducted for missing a class without Instructor's consent.**

## PART A, SEPTEMBER: OVERVIEW OF NIGERIAN HISTORY AND CULTURE

Objective: Students to read two books, one on history and the other on culture

Week 1 January 20

Introduction to the class

Discussion on syllabus

Organization into groups to frame issues and lead discussions. Each group has a leader. A group is expected to meet to discuss the issues and present reports to class. Members of a group start the seminar. Others participate.

Background lecture on Nigeria

Week 2 January 27: Precolonial Nigeria

Week 3 February 3: Colonial Nigeria

Week 4 February 10: The Civil War and the Rise of an "Oil" Society

Week 5 February 17: Democracy and Migrations

Week 6 February 24: Culture

PART B, March: MODERN ECONOMY AND POLITICS (Two weeks)

• Transition to monographs based on the analysis of the core components of the nation

**Week 7 March 3: Colonial Economies** 

**Week 8 March 10: Oil and Post-colonial Economies** 

# PART C, MARCH/APRIL: NIGERIA AND GLOBALIZATION (Two weeks)

Week 9 March 24: Globalization

Week 10 March 31: Oil Economy

Students to discuss bibliography and research focus.

PART D April Modernity and Modernization (Two weeks)

**Week 11 April 7: Nigeria in Comparative Perspectives (with other African countries)** 

Week 12 April 14: Nigeria in Comparative Perspectives (With Asia)

Week 13 April 21: Nigeria in Comparative Perspectives (with Latin America)

Students to announce substantial progress. Drafts may be submitted.

Weak 14 April 28: Nigeria in Comparative Perspectives (with the United States)

May 5
Research presentations and submission of final reports.