In this class we will critically consider the history, formation, and representation of several African cities: Algiers, Johannesburg, Douala, and Lagos. We will consider the forces that have produced the spatial politics of these cities over time, as well as how history and power relations are manifested and critiqued through art practices. We will consider how the various cities are imagined and represented, and consider the stakes of these representations. The course will pay particular attention to how categories of race, ethnicity, class, and gender have contributed to the development of urban forms and have been produced and mobilized in city spaces.

Key Questions
What are the different ways that various African cities are imagined, represented, and historicized, and what are the stakes of these imaginaries?
How have migration, colonialism, and globalization informed the spatial and racial politics of the different cities under discussion?
How have artists chosen to represent and critique these spaces?

Course Objectives
This course provides a critical introduction to the history and cultural production of several African cities. After the course students will:

• Have the skills and knowledge to critically engage with contemporary art, film, and literature that are produced within and/or represent these spaces.
• Be familiar with a selection of key artists and artistic movements within the cities under discussion.
• Understand key debates and issues in the production of knowledge about Africa and in postcolonial studies.
• Be familiar with some of the frameworks in human geography for thinking critically about cities, space, and urban planning, with a particular attention to the ways in which space is used to both produce and police power and categories of difference.
• Be informed about the history of these cities and be able to discuss these in relation to current events.

This class is an intermediate level HAVC course. There are no prerequisites and previous knowledge of the material is not expected.

Class Format
Class will be a mixture of lecture, discussion, watching films together, and group work. Questions are encouraged both inside and outside of class. Due to the compressed nature of the class it is important to be present at all meetings and to be on time. Any unexcused absence will result in a failing grade and consistent tardiness will result in a reduced grade. If you have any planned absences for family or medical reasons, please discuss these with me as soon as possible.
Important Deadlines
Drop: Monday, July 3
Withdraw: Friday, July 14
Summer Session does not drop students for non-attendance or non-payment. Students must drop themselves.

Class Requirements
You will be expected to complete all assignments on time and be present at all classes. Because of the condensed schedule, any unexcused absence will result in a failing grade and a late final paper will not be accepted. There is a course reader available at Bay Street Books. Please purchase it before the first class and bring it to every class.

Reading Journal: 30%
Short Paper 1: 20%
Short Paper 2: 20%
Final Paper: 30%

Reading Journal: 30% of final grade
Your Reading Journal consists of reflective writing based on the required readings for each course meeting. The Reading Journal is worth 25% of your final grade. Participation factors significantly into your Reading Journal grade and you should be prepared to present and discuss ideas from your journal during class. For each entry, please include the following:

- Identify 3-5 keywords.
- What is the main topic or argument of the text?
- Note one or more passages or quotations you find interesting and briefly discuss why.
- Do you have any questions about the text?

For the creative nonfiction and film viewing assignments, the above may not be relevant and guiding questions will be provided in class or online.

Short Writing Assignments: 20% of grade each
Two short (1000 word) papers will be due during the session. These are designed to synthesize the information from lectures and readings and should require no additional research. Guidelines and questions will be distributed a week in advance of the due date and papers will be turned in via canvas.

- Short Paper 1 due Friday July 7th
- Short Paper 2 due Friday July 21st

Final Paper: 30% of grade
One longer (2000 word) paper will be due at the end of the session. This paper will require students to develop upon the ideas discussed in the class. More details will be distributed during week 3. The final paper will be due Monday July 31st.

Late Paper Policy
Unexcused late short papers will be penalized one grade per day. An A will become an A- after one day, a B+ after two days, and so on. The Final Paper will not be accepted after the due date except for in the
case of health or family emergencies.

**Grades & Evaluation**

Overall performance translates into letter grades as follows:

A. Excellent performance: Comprehensive factual knowledge, showing independent, critical thinking and originality of insight. Papers have an original thesis, are well-organized and well-written, include citation of texts, and address the question. In class discussions student shows a careful and critical reading of the texts, with evidence of preparation. For example, student might investigate the context of the reading, have looked up key terms, or have thought about the text in relation to current events. Student’s participation in discussion includes active listening to and engagement with the comments of others.

B. Above average performance: Demonstrates control of factual material with depth, clear exposition, and coherent organization. Papers have a clear thesis, citation of texts, and address the question. Through participation in class, student demonstrates a solid grounding in the issues and debates addressed in the texts.

C. Average performance: Presentation of a reasonable amount of substantially correct factual information relevant to the topic. All assignments completed. In class discussions student demonstrates familiarity with the assigned readings.

**DRC Accommodations**

The DRC reduces barriers to inclusion and full participation for students with disabilities by providing support to individually determine reasonable academic accommodations. If you have questions or concerns about assignment accommodations, or any other disability-related matter, please contact the DRC office, located in Hahn 125 or at 831-459-2089 or drc@ucsc.edu.

**Academic Dishonesty**

Academic integrity is the cornerstone of a university education. Academic dishonesty diminishes the university as an institution and all members of the university community. It tarnishes the value of a UCSC degree. All members of the UCSC community have an explicit responsibility to foster an environment of trust, honesty, fairness, respect, and responsibility. All members of the university community are expected to present as their original work only that which is truly their own. All members of the community are expected to report observed instances of cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic dishonesty in order to ensure that the integrity of scholarship is valued and preserved at UCSC. In the event a student is found in violation of the UCSC Academic Integrity policy, he or she may face both academic sanctions imposed by the instructor of record and disciplinary sanctions imposed either by the provost of his or her college or the Academic Tribunal convened to hear the case. Violations of the Academic Integrity policy can result in dismissal from the university and a permanent notation on a student’s transcript.

For the full policy and disciplinary procedures on academic dishonesty, students and instructors should refer to the Academic Integrity page at the Division of Undergraduate Education.

**Title IX**

The university cherishes the free and open exchange of ideas and enlargement of knowledge. To maintain this freedom and openness requires objectivity, mutual trust, and confidence; it requires the absence of coercion, intimidation, or exploitation. The principal responsibility for maintaining these conditions must rest upon those members of the university community who exercise most authority and leadership: faculty, managers, and supervisors.
The university has therefore instituted a number of measures designed to protect its community from sex discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual violence, and other related prohibited conduct. Information, advice, referrals, and/or copies of the UC Policy on Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment and the UC Santa Cruz Procedures for Reporting and Responding to Reports of Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment are available to all students, faculty, and staff by contacting Tracey Tsugawa, Title IX/Sexual Harassment Officer, 105 Kerr Hall, 459-2462, or ttsugawa@ucsc.edu.

Schedule of Lectures and Readings
This schedule is provisional and subject to change. The bulleted texts are required reading.

**June 27th Thinking Cities**

Suggested Further Reading

**June 29th Algiers: Colonialism & the Politics of Architecture**

Suggested Further Reading

**July 4**
No Class
Watch Pepe le Moko (on reserve at Digital Media Desk) before July 6th.
Reading Journal questions on Canvas.

**July 6th Algiers: Revolutionary City**

Suggested Further Reading

**July 11th Johannesburg: Politics of Home**

Suggested Further Reading

**July 13th Johannesburg: Decolonizing Public Space**

- Kihato, Caroline Wanjiku. “‘Here I Am Nobody’: Rethinking Urban Governance, Sovereignty and Power.” *African Cities Reader II* Published by the African Centre for Cities & Chimurenga Magazine

Suggested Further Reading


**July 18th Douala: Violence in the Postcolony**


Suggested Further Reading


**July 20th Douala: Public Art in the Postcolony**

Suggested Further Reading

**July 25**

**Lagos: Networks, Infrastructure, Informality**

Suggested Further Reading

**July 27**

**Lagos: Nollywood & Alt-Nollywood**
Nollywood film to be watched prior to class. More information will be distributed the week prior.

Suggested Further Reading