



Choose Africa, Rethink the World!

Recommended reading list: MA African Studies

This list identifies a number of scientific books and articles that you are expected to be familiar with when you enroll as a student in the MA African Studies at Ghent University. This gives you an idea of the kind of background knowledge that is required in order to succeed in the program. If you feel that you have insufficient knowledge of these topics, we strongly recommend that you read some or all of the works listed here. You will not be tested for your knowledge on them, but your familiarity with their content is important for your success as a student in the Master's programme of African Studies.

African Anthropology

Fabian, Johannes. 1996. *Remembering the Present: Painting and Popular History in Zaire*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Evans-Pritchard, E.E. 1937. *Witchcraft, Oracles, and Magic among the Azande*. Oxford: The Clarendon Press.

Comaroff, John L.. & Jean Comaroff. 2009. *Ethnicity, Inc.* Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Comaroff, Jean, and John L.. Comaroff, eds. 1993. *Modernity and its malcontents: Ritual and power in postcolonial Africa*. University of Chicago Press.

African Linguistics

Heine, Bernd & Derek Nurse, eds. 2000. *African languages: an introduction*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Dimmendaal, Gerrit Jan. 2011. *Historical Linguistics and the Comparative Study of African Languages*. Amsterdam/Philadelphia : John Benjamins.

Brenzinger, Matthias, ed. 1992. *Language Death: Factual and Theoretical Explorations with Special Reference to East Africa* (Contributions to the Sociology of Language). Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter.

Wolff, H., ed. 2019. *The Cambridge Handbook of African Linguistics* (Cambridge Handbooks in Language and Linguistics). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Van de Velde, Mark, Koen Bostoen, Derek Nurse & Gérard Philippson (eds.). 2019. *The Bantu Languages* (Second Edition). Oxford: Routledge.

Vossen, Rainer & Gerrit J. Dimmendaal, ed. 2020. *The Oxford Handbook of African Languages*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

African History

Iliffe, John. 2007. *Africans: the history of a continent*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Reid, Richard. 2009. *A History of Modern Africa: 1800 to the Present*. Malden: Blackwell.

Beinart, William. 2001. *Twentieth-century South Africa*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Maddox, Gregory H. 2006. *Sub-Saharan Africa: An Environmental History*. Santa Barbara: ABC Clio.

Manning, Patrick. 1993. *Slavery and African Life. Occidental, Oriental, and African Slave Trades*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

African Literature

Oral literatures:

Liz Gunner 'Africa and orality' in F. Abiola Irele en Simon Gikandi (eds), *The Cambridge History of African and Caribbean Literature* (2004) pp. 1-18.

Harold Scheub, 'The oral artist's script' [2002]: reprint in: Tejumola Olaniyan and Ato Quayson, *African Literature: An anthology of criticism and theory* (2007) pp. 97-100.

Ruth Finnegan, *Oral literature in Africa* (2012 editie) pp. 327-378: Prose Narratives II: content and form.

Isidore Okpewho, *African Oral Literature: Background, Character, and Continuity* (1992) pp. 127-162: songs and chants.

Written literatures

Gerard, Albert S. 'Sub-Saharan Africa's literary history in a nutshell', [1993] reprint in: Tejumola Olaniyan and Ato Quayson, *African Literature: An anthology of criticism and theory* (2007) pp. 16-21.

Simon Gikandi, 'African literature and the colonial factor', in: F. Abiola Irele en Simon Gikandi (eds), *The Cambridge History of African and Caribbean Literature* (2004) pp. 379-397.

Derek Wright, 'African literature and post-independence disillusionment' in: in F. Abiola Irele en Simon Gikandi (eds), *The Cambridge History of African and Caribbean Literature* (2004) pp. 797-808.

Tejumola Olaniyan, 'Postmodernity, postcoloniality, and African studies', [2003] reprint in: Tejumola Olaniyan and Ato Quayson, *African Literature: An anthology of criticism and theory* (2007) pp. 637-645.

Mildred Mortimer, 'African literature in French: sub-Saharan Africa during the colonial period', in: F. Abiola Irele en Simon Gikandi (eds), *The Cambridge History of African and Caribbean Literature* (2004) pp. 530-551.

David Attwell, 'South African literature in English', in: F. Abiola Irele en Simon Gikandi (eds), *The Cambridge History of African and Caribbean Literature* (2004) pp. 504-529.

Gareth Griffiths, 'Alternatives: Contrasting themes and patterns in post-independence African English writing', 'New transcultural voices in East and West African writing', in: *African Literatures in English: East and West* (2000) pp. 109-142, 308-336.

Literary expression, popular culture and new media

Karin Barber, 'Introduction', in: Karin Barber (ed.), *Readings in African popular culture* (1997)
pp. 1-12.

Shola Adenekan, 'Transnationalism and the Agenda of African Literature in a Digital Age',
Matatu 45 (2014) pp. 133-151.

Epic

Biebuyck, Daniel P. & Kahombo C Mateene. 1969. *The Mwindo epic from the Banyanga*
(Congo Republic)

Read 1 or 2 novels of your choice:

- Achebe, Chinua, *Things fall apart* (1958).
- Adichie, Chimamanda Ngozi, *Half a yellow sun* (2006)
- Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o, *A grain of wheat* (1967).
- Mukoma wa Ngũgĩ, *Mrs. Shaw* (2015).