Name of the course: The Novel in Africa

Lecturer name: Prof. Eitan Bar-Yosef

Course number: 132-1-0260

Office hours: Mondays 14-15

Short course description (5-10 lines) with key words at the end of the paragraph

The course examines how historical, cultural, and social developments in Africa—from the European scramble for the “Dark Continent” in the late nineteenth century to postcolonialism and post-Apartheid—have been reflected in a broad range of novels. If earlier texts, mostly by European explorers, have constructed “Africa” as a space for adventure and exploitation, later writers have attempted to appropriate, rewrite and reinvent this textual tradition. By exploring how African writers have been able to challenge those former colonial representations, the course will present the novel as a discursive arena in which different African visions and voices have been articulated.

Keywords: the Novel; African Studies; Africa in literature; Colonialism; Race; Apartheid

Course requirements:
- Attendance and participation: 10%
- Short written responses (5 x 8 pts each): 40%
- Final assignment (due before the end of term): 50%

The course is taught in English. Students outside the Department of Foreign Literatures and Linguistics may submit their written work in Hebrew — but should aim, if possible, to write in English.

Detailed syllabus:

Week 1  Introduction + J.M. Coetzee, “The Novel in Africa”

Week 2  Henry Rider Haggard, King Solomon’s Mines

Week 3  King Solomon’s Mines (cont.)

Week 4  Joseph Conrad, Heart of Darkness

Week 5  Heart of Darkness (cont.)

Week 6  Heart of Darkness (cont.)

Week 7  Chinua Achebe, Things Fall Apart

Week 8  Things Fall Apart (cont.)

Week 9  Things Fall Apart (cont.)
| Week 10 | Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, “The Headstrong Historian” |
| Week 11 | J.M. Coetzee, *Disgrace* |
| Week 12 | *Disgrace* (cont.) |
| Week 13 | *Disgrace* (cont.) + Conclusion |