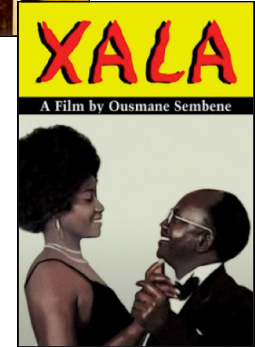


HEALTH & THE BODY POLITIC IN AFRICAN LITERATURE AND FILM

GESM 120G

FALL 2017 – T, TH, 12:30-1:50

In the contemporary U.S. and elsewhere, media representations of Africa are stuck on images of a continent repeatedly victimized by rampant disease, famine, and generalized suffering. Instead of ignoring or pitying such images, why not explore how Africans *themselves* write about, visualize, and reimagine “health” in contemporary Africa? In this GESM in Humanistic Inquiry, we will delve into various African narratives in order to examine how writers and filmmakers from across the continent have engaged with ideas of health, gender and the body to counter and to complicate those dominant images associated with Africa and Africans. In particular, we will consider portraits of: bodily and psychological maladies associated with colonization; health and (dis)ability in postcolonial nation-building; HIV/AIDS; and sexuality. Alongside these literary and cinematic texts, you will learn about the major historical and cultural threads that inform them.



BOOK AND FILM LIST

LITERATURE

The Beggars' Strike, Aminata Sow Fall (Senegal, 1975)

The Abandoned Baobab, Ken Bugul (Senegal, 1980)

Nervous Conditions, Tsitsi Dangarembga (Botswana, 1988)

Welcome to Our Hillbrow, Phaswane Mpe (South Africa, 2001)

FILMS

“Xala” (Ousmane Sembène, Senegal, 1975)

“Mapantsula” (Oliver Schmitz, South Africa, 1987)

“The Little Girl Who Sold the Sun,” Djibril Diop Mambety (Senegal, 1999)

“Dakan,” Mohammed Camara (Guinea, 1997)

DR. JULIE VAN DAM
TAPER 343C -- DEPARTMENT OF FRENCH AND ITALIAN
julie.vandam@usc.edu