

<p><b>Course Name</b> <b>Writing Lives: Black Diasporic Feminist and Women’s Writing</b></p> <p><b>Contact Hours</b></p>	<p><b>Course Instructor</b> Chichi Ayalogu</p>
<p><b>Course Description</b></p> <p>Using a blend of non/fiction and social media texts, this course considers contemporary Black diasporic women’s and feminists’ literary and creative engagement with the subjects of power and crises. It asks: What can we glean from Black women’s writing about crises? in what ways do women document their experiences of sexism, alienation and marginalization? And what are the current discourses around gender and sexuality? What are the forms of documentation that prevail amongst Black diasporic women writers? How do certain experiences, positionality, genre, and style inform the aesthetics of documentation? The course is separated into two distinct modules that attend to narratives of return and migration, with a focus on the postcolonial African nation and the US. We will attend to themes of social stratification, material access, travel and agency, consulting feminist and postcolonial scholarship. Through close reading, critical analysis, and creative assignments, we will examine how writers challenge power alongside racist and sexist institutions both in Africa and the US.</p>	<p><b>Required Course Materials</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Noo Saro-Wiwa, <i>Looking for Transwonderland: Travels in Nigeria</i> (2012)</li> <li>• Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, <i>Dear Ijeawele, or A Feminist Manifesto in Fifteen Suggestions</i> (2017)</li> <li>• Sadiya Hartman, <i>Lose Your Mother</i> (2006)</li> <li>• Dionne Brande, <i>A Map of no Return: Notes to Belonging</i> (2012)</li> <li>• NoViolet Bulawayo, <i>We Need New Names</i> (2013)</li> <li>• Awkaeke Emezi, <i>Freshwater</i> (2018)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Course Objectives</b></p> <p>By the end of this course, students will be able to critically examine contemporary forms of women’s life writing and self-representation, explore how the history of colonization and slavery emerges in Black women’s creative expressions, understand the historical, social, and political contexts that shape contemporary feminist discourses and narratives, and enhance your writing, critical thinking, and analytical skills through various assessments.</p>	<p><b>Course Evaluation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Participation (15%):</b> Attendance and active participation in class discussions and activities.</li> <li>• <b>Discussion Posts (20%):</b> Three online discussion posts reflecting on key themes and ideas from the readings and class discussions.</li> <li>• <b>Midterm Creative Assignment (25%):</b> A creative project involving a social media video or selfie, analyzing its role as a</li> </ul>

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form of life writing and self-representation.

- **Final Project (40%):** A research paper or creative project exploring a specific theme or issue related to the course.

**Topics in Course Outline**

- Crises
- Colonization and Slavery
- Forms of self-representation
- Migration and mobility
- Black diasporic formations
- Neoliberal markets
- Material access
- Black feminisms
- Black sexuality
- Cultural representation
- Black agency
- Contemporary forms of life-writing
- Social media documentary