

ENGL 3190: Contemporary African Fiction

Spring 2017, Tuesday/Thursday 9:00-10:15 am

In a 2013 talk, the novelist Taiye Selasi declared, “African literature doesn’t exist.” In this course, we will nonetheless read contemporary fiction that may or may not be read as “African,” including a few novels that could seem suspiciously “American.” We’ll discuss how African literature has addressed U.S. readers and how U.S. readers have read African literature. We’ll try to find distinctive ways of approaching writing by authors such as Yvonne Adhiambo Owuor, Teju Cole, Zakes Mda, and NoViolet Bulawayo. Readings will include novels, short stories, blog posts, and tweets.

