

**The African Bildungsroman (BBN-ANG17-218/R)**  
**ELTE, School of English and American Studies, Spring 2022**

**Instructor: Kata Gyuris**

**Time: Wednesdays 17:00-18:30**

**Venue: R 423/a**

**The main aim of the course** is to offer a glimpse into a significant tendency in the roughly speaking contemporary African novel through selected cultural products (four novels and a film) from Southern Africa and Nigeria from the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

**9 Febr. Orientation**

- Introduction to Postcolonial Studies and African literature in general

**16. Febr. Questions of Postcolonial Representation**

- Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie: "The Danger of a Single Story" (TED Talk)

[https://www.ted.com/talks/chimamanda\\_ngozi\\_adichie\\_the\\_danger\\_of\\_a\\_single\\_story](https://www.ted.com/talks/chimamanda_ngozi_adichie_the_danger_of_a_single_story)

**23 Febr. Pre-colonial Communities and Growing Up**

- Chinua Achebe: *Things Fall Apart*

Response paper 1 on *Things Fall Apart* due by 20 February

**2 March. Colonial Intervention and Bildung**

- Chinua Achebe: *Things Fall Apart*

**9 March. The African Female Bildungsroman**

- Tsitsi Dangarembga: *Nervous Conditions*

Response paper 2 on *Nervous Conditions* due by 6 March

**16 March. The African Female Bildungsroman II.**

- Tsitsi Dangarembga: *Nervous Conditions*

**23 March. Urban Bildung**

- *Tsotsi*

**30 March. Urban Bildung II.**

- *Tsotsi*

**6 Apr. The Collective and the Personal**

- Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie: *Purple Hibiscus*

Response paper 3 on *Purple Hibiscus* due by 3 April

**20 Apr. Hybridity and Mimicry**

- Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie: *Purple Hibiscus*

**27 Apr. Childhood in the Slums**

- NoViolet Bulawayo: *We Need New Names*

Response paper 4 on *We Need New Names* due by 24 April

#### **4 May. Diaspora Identities**

- NoViolet Bulawayo: *We Need New Names*

Final paper due on 4 May

#### **11 May. Summary and Evaluation**

##### **Requirements and Assessment:**

In-class participation: 40% (30% response papers + 10% participation in class discussions)

Presentation: 20%

Home Paper: 40%

Three absences will be tolerated.

All reading materials will be provided.

About the short assignments: Response papers on the compulsory reading materials (four altogether) in about 200 words, each. One of these might be skipped during the course of the semester.

About the presentation: max. 10 minutes.

About the home paper: 1500 words, cca. 5-6 double-spaced pages.

##### **Compulsory materials:**

Achebe, Chinua (1958). *Things Fall Apart*.

Adichie, Chimamanda Ngozi (2003). *Purple Hibiscus*.

Adichie, Chimamanda Ngozi (2009). "The Danger of a Single Story." *TED Talk*.

Bulawayo, NoViolet (2013). *We Need New Names*.

Dangarembga, Tsitsi (1988). *Nervous Conditions*.

*Tsotsi* (2005). dir. Gavin Hood.