

Robert Cancel



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[Winter 2014 Course Descriptions](#)

Oral Literature; Modern African Literature and Film; Caribbean Literature

Selected Publications:

"Literary Criticism as Social Philippic and Personal Exorcism: Ngg wa Thiong'o's Critical Writings," *World Literature Today*, 59.1 (1985).

"Broadcasting Oral Traditions: The 'Logic' of Narrative Variants--The Problem of 'Message,'" *African Studies Review* (Special Humanities Issue), 29.1 (1986): 60-70, co-edited with Bennetta Jules-Rosette.

"Elements of Oral Epic in Ousmane Sembene's *Ceddo*," *A Current Bibliography of African Affairs*, 18.1 (1986): 3-19.

"Three African (Oral) Narrative Versions: Text, Tradition and Performance," *The American Journal of Semiotics*, 6.1 (1988-89): 85-109.

Allegorical Speculation in an Oral Society: The Tabwa Narrative Tradition, Series in Modern Philology, 122. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1989.

"Literature in African Languages: Perspectives on Culture and Identity," *A History of Twentieth-Century African Literature*, ed. Oyekan Owomoyela. London and Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1993: 285-310.

"Nadine Gordimer Meets Ngg wa Thiong'o: Text into Film in 'Oral History,'" *Research in African Literature*, 26.3 (1995): 38-48.

"Bemba History, Religious Systems and Rituals," "Oral Performance and Literature," "Oral Narrative," "Oral Traditions " and "Dynamics of Oral Performance " *Encyclopedia of African Religions and Philosophy*, ed. V Y

Mudimbe. Forthcoming, New York: Garland Publishing.

"Ngg wa Thiong'o," *Modern African Writers*, ed. Brian Cox. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1997: 537-556.

"'Whose Africa is it, Anyway?' Or, What Exactly is Skip Gates Signifyin'?" "First Word" Review Essay, *African Arts*, 33.2: 1, 3, 6, 8, 10, 86-88, 2000.

Review of South African Fiction After Apartheid, a special issue of *Modern Fiction Studies* 46.1 (2000), in *Research in African Literatures* 33.1 (2002): 182-83.

"Gestures of Belonging and Claiming Birth Rights: Short Stories by Bessie Head and Ama Ata Aidoo." *Critical Perspectives on Bessie Head*, Huma Ibrahim, ed. Africa World Press, 2002.

"Come Back South Africa': Cinematic Representations of Apartheid over Three Eras of Resistance." A chapter in *Focus on African Film*, edited by Francoise Pfaff, forthcoming from Indiana University Press.