

## ALT 200 Eastern African Prose Fiction

### Unit Description

The purpose of this unit is to read prose fiction produced by writers from the Eastern African region. Prose fiction in Eastern Africa is rich and vibrant. It is a twentieth century phenomenon, and yet it includes works of art in English, Kiswahili, French, and African languages. Eastern Africa has been through great historical upheavals in the relatively short span of fifty years. As a result the literature reflects a multiplicity of themes and concerns that in other parts of the world took hundreds of years to become manifest. The literature of Eastern Africa therefore includes not only anti-colonial and postcolonial literature but a host of other universal themes discernible in literature from other parts of the world. We shall look at the question of identity and self-awareness, the peculiarities of style and form, and the place of Eastern African literature in world literature.

### Unit Objectives

By the end of this unit students should:

- ❖ Have studied a selection of prose works produced by writers from Eastern Africa.
- ❖ Understand and appreciate the different contexts in which the works took shape.
- ❖ Be able to write critically about the literature of Eastern Africa in relation to world literature.
- ❖ Undertake critical evaluation of selected pieces in the historical, social, economic, cultural, political and theoretical contexts in which they were created.

### References

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- ✓ Mwangi, Evan. *Africa Writes Back to Self: Metafiction, Gender and Sexuality*. Albany: SUNY Press, 2009.
- ✓ Ogude, James. "Introduction." *Rethinking Eastern African Literary and intellectual Landscapes*. Ed. James Ogude, Grace Musila and Dina Ligaga. Trenton, NJ.: Africa World Press, 2012. vii-xxvi
- ✓ Ricard, Alain. *The Languages and Literatures of Africa*. Cape Town: David Philip Publishers, 2004.