

MA ENGLISH SEMESTER 3

New Literatures in English

Course Code: ENC 030

AFRICAN LITERATURE

- refers to a comprehensive, complex and creative literature of various countries from Africa
- consists of a body of work in different languages and various genres, ranging from oral literature to literature written in colonial languages (English, French and Portuguese)

CLASSIFICATION OF AFRICAN LITERATURE

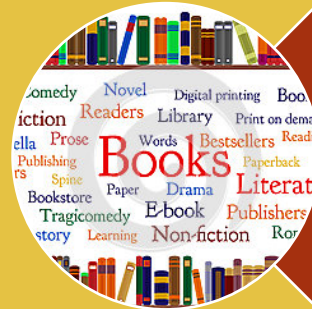
Three distinct
categories



Traditional Oral
literature / Orature



Lit in indigenous
African languages



Lit in European
languages

ORATURE



- flourished in absence of widespread literacy
- handed down the generations through memorization and recitation
- provided entertainment as well as instruction
- served as the medium to explain the creation of universe, the essence of the activities of God and creatures and their intra and inter relationships
- employed to reinstate faith in group values and discourage anti-social tendencies

LITERATURE IN INDIGENOUS AFRICAN LANGUAGES

- Yoruba, Igbo and Hausa in West Africa
- Amharic, Somali, Kikuyu and Swahili in East Africa
- Sotho and Zulu in Southern Africa

LITERATURE IN EUROPEAN LANGUAGES



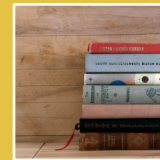
African literature in English

- Anglophone



African literature in French

- Francophone



African literature in Portuguese

- Lusophone

STRIKING FEATURES

Modern African writing

- resisting voice against the western cultural hegemony
- strain of protest
- comprehends the African psyche
- symbolizes the African intellectual response
- Expresses African imagination and creativity
- Reflects agonizing neo colonial aftermath
- promotes self-rediscovery and stimulates faith in long concealed native beliefs and traditions

MODERN AFRICAN WRITERS



Chinua Achebe



Wole Soyinka



Ngugi wa Thiong'o



Flora Nwapa



Buchi Emecheta



Chimamanda Adichie

- try to awaken the spirit of nationalism and advocate the evolution of black identity
- Play a role as spiritual and cultural guide of their communities
- highlights the trepidation of a new born nation