Course Title: Digital Journey to Non-Western Literary Worlds
ASC 137. xx

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Course Description
Literary studies, an area traditionally centered around the book, has been transformed by the digital age. The pages of primary texts and reference books are being unbound and re-packaged in digital formats, many of which can be easily retrievable via Internet search engines. While the majority of these free Web resources focus on more established literatures and writers, there is a growing number devoted to the emerging literary traditions of non-Western cultures. Many undergraduates will encounter, in their non-Western GEC courses, writers about whom they have little or no prior knowledge, and they will inevitably turn to the Web for more information. How can they evaluate the accuracy and quality of the information they retrieve?

In this course, students will explore the "digital homelands" of selected world writers. Using multiple search engines and strategies, they will: a) critically examine the results of their searches to uncover different types of free literary Web sites, b) compare free Web content with that found in library reference sources, and c) learn how to evaluate Web materials for their research value. Class sessions will include hands-on searching experience and student-led discussions.

Learning Outcomes
By the end of this seminar, students should be able to:
* Search the Web more efficiently
* Critically evaluate and use free Web materials for research purposes.
* Identify different Web-based resources for literary research.
* Understand the various information needs library and free resources meet.

Required Reading (Materials will be available electronically)
Browner, Stephanie, Stephen Pulsford, and Richard Sears. *Literature and the Internet: A Guide for Students, Teachers, and Scholars*. New York: Garland, 2000 (selected chapters).

Miall, David S. "The Library versus the Internet: Literary Studies Under Siege?" PMLA 116.5 (2001): 1405-14.

Nachimas, Rafi and Amir Gilad. "Needle in the Hyperstack: Searching for Information on the

World Wide Web." *Journal of Research on Technology and Education* 34.4 (2002): 475-86.

Prensky, Marc. "Digital Natives, Digital Immigrants." *On the Horizon* 9.5 (2001): 1-14.

Useful Reference Resources
Conteh-Morgan, Miriam. *The Undergraduate's Companion to African Writers and Their Web Sites*. Westport, CT: Libraries Unlimited, 2005.

Dean, Katharine. *The Undergraduates Companion to Women Poets of the World and Their Web Sites*. Westport, CT: Libraries Unlimited, 2004.

Dictionary of Literary Biography series. Detroit: Gale (years vary). (Selected titles).

Literary Index, *Literature Online, MLA International Bibliography* (OSUL subscription databases).

Parini, Jay. *World Writers in English*. New York: Scribner's, 2004.

Straley, Dona. *The Undergraduate's Companion to Arab Writers and Their Web Sites* Westport, CT: Libraries Unlimited, 2004.

Assignments
Students will keep a journal to record responses to the readings and their research experiences. The final project is a critical annotated bibliography of Web sites on a selected writer.

Grading
This is a 1-credit course evaluated using letter grades. The final grade is based on:

Written assignments: 40 %
Final project (annotated bibliography): 30%
Class participation: 15%
Attendance: 15%

Grade Distribution: A = 93% and above; A- = 90% - 92%; B+ = 87% - 89%; B- = 80% - 82%; C+ = 77% - 79%; C = 73% - 76%; C- = 70% - 72%; D = below 70%

Student Responsibilities
Students are required to attend every class, complete the required readings and turn in assignments on the due dates. Every unexcused absence or late assignment will result in a 3% deduction **per occurrence** from the final grade. Active participation in class discussions is highly recommended.

Academic Misconduct
Students are expected to abide by the OSU Code of Student Conduct which defines academic misconduct as "[a]ny activity that tends to compromise the academic integrity of the University, or subvert the educational process." While many people associate academic misconduct with only "cheating," academic misconduct actually includes a wider scope of student behaviors, which

include (but are not limited to): violation of course rules; violation of program regulations; knowingly providing or receiving information during a course exam or program assignment; possession and/or use of unauthorized materials during a course exam or program assignment; knowingly providing or using assistance in the laboratory, on field work, or on a course assignment, unless such assistance has been authorized specifically by the course instructor or, where appropriate, a project/research supervisor; submission of work not performed in a course… More information is available in the Code of Student Conduct: http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/resource_csc.asp.

Disability Services
Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation because of a disability should discuss the issue with the instructor and contact the Office for Disability Services, 150 Pomerene Hall (292-3307 or 292-0901) for more information about their services.

Brief Biographical Statement
Miriam Conteh-Morgan is an associate professor and bibliographer for French, African Studies and Linguistics at University Libraries. She was a lecturer in the Dept. of African American and African Studies between 1995 and 1999, teaching a GEC course in African literature (AAAS 251). Literary reference is one of her areas of research interest. Her publications include "Reading African Women Writers: The Role of Librarians in Expanding the Canon" (2004), The Undergraduate's Companion to African Writers and Their Web Sites (2005), and The Undergraduate's Companion to Women Writers and Their Web Sites (co-authored, 2003). She is currently working on an article on the classification and development of quality standards for literary Web sites.

Tentative Syllabus

Week	Topic	Assignment	Due
1	**Understanding the Web** Discussion: terms, concepts, invisible Web	Read "Digital Natives, Digital Immigrants" (Prensky)	
2	**Critique of Prensky's article** Discussion: Review of studies about Web use by undergraduates	Read "Needle in a Hyperstack…" (Nachimas & Gilad)	**Journal 1**
3	**Know Your Search Engine Better:** Google, Yahoo, MSN: Characteristics, display of results, analyze results. Search Practice	Read: "Evaluation of Sites" (Browner et al., Chapter 6) Search on selected author using any **2** search engines.	**Journal 2**
4	**Meta-search Engines** What they are, advantages of using them… Search Practice	Search on selected author using a meta-search engine. Discuss experience and results in Journal 3	**Journal 3**
5	**Comparative Search Tools** Search Practice using *jux2*	Search on selected author and compare search engine results.	**Descriptive Annotation of Web Sites**
6	**Classifying Literary Web Sites** Discussion: facets for analyzing literary sites	Read: "Kinds of Literary Sites" (Browner et al, Chap 3) Classify sites using facets	**Journal 4**
7	**Subscription literary databases** MLA, LION, Literary Index Search Practice:	Read: "The Library versus the Internet…" (Miall)	**Classification of Web Sites**
8	**Comparing Print and Digital Formats**	Read: "Literature and the Internet: Theoretical and Political Considerations" (Browner et al, Chapter 9)	**Journal 5**
9	**Google's Digital Projects** Discussion and Practice: Google Print, Google Scholar	Revise and update annotated bibliography	**Journal 6**
10	**Wrap up: Free or Fee?**		**Final project (may be submitted today or during exams week)**