New Course: Gender, Sexuality and HIV in African Literature

Professor: Dr. Christine Cynn

This course analyzes representations of HIV/AIDS in literature from Sub-Saharan African. We will pay particular attention to how authors depict the anxieties and conflicts provoked by HIV/AIDS around gender, sexualities, racism, modernity, treatment access, global inequities, and urbanization. Although the course will provide some background on the history of the epidemic in Sub-Saharan Africa, we will devote most of the class to reading fiction, autobiographies, poetry and short stories that challenge stigmatization, commemorate the lives lost, and demand that readers both bear witness and respond to the narratives.