Instead of letting the news media and films tell us about Africa, let’s explore it on its own diverse, funky, and fun terms through film, music, photography, and literature. Throughout these cultural explorations, we’ll also learn about African history and politics, all the while deepening our understandings of French, oral and written. In addition to readings, viewings, and discussions, the course will include grammar sessions that consist of formal explanations and intensive writing exercises.

Materials will include: The novel Comment Cuisiner Son Mari à l’Africaine by Calixthe Beyala (Cameroon); Poems from Léopold Sedar Senghor (Senegal) and Monique Ilboudo (Benin); Films Pièces d’Identité by Mweze Ngangura (Congo) and Faat Kiné by Ousmane Sembène (Senegal); Photography by Malick Sidibé (Mali); Music from Orchestre Baobab (Senegal) and Amadou and Mariam (Mali).