Instructions for Discussion Post on Fanon/Cabral/short story/poem, week 2, Tuesday April 7 midnight deadline.

Start at the top and proceed through the sequence.

FIRST, watch these two Zoom talks. Talk 1 is in the Zoom recordings folder in the class Canvas site; you may need to use the URL to access Talk 2:

Talk 1. Topic: ENGL 319 A Sp 20: African Literatures

Date: Apr 3, 2020 02:27 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Meeting Recording:

[https://washington.zoom.us/rec/share/y5dfFJbT1XpIRK-d6G3lGf8GGInrT6a80CcfqfNemU7u4zzJPi70JLpZTUK2f1CN (Links to an external site.)](https://washington.zoom.us/rec/share/y5dfFJbT1XpIRK-d6G3lGf8GGInrT6a80CcfqfNemU7u4zzJPi70JLpZTUK2f1CN)

Talk 2. Topic: African Literatures Talk on Tuesday Posts, part 2

Date: Apr 3, 2020 04:21 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Meeting Recording:

[https://washington.zoom.us/rec/share/yuJ8FK7Q8TpOeqvm2RDZVPEbPobZeaa8g3dPrvUKmB40bXTlsv71oE8P2sCTeG5n (Links to an external site.)](https://washington.zoom.us/rec/share/yuJ8FK7Q8TpOeqvm2RDZVPEbPobZeaa8g3dPrvUKmB40bXTlsv71oE8P2sCTeG5n)

SECOND, read the yellow highlighted sections of Fanon’s ‘On National Culture’ and Cabral’s ‘National Culture and Liberation, in the Canvas class files.

THIRD, read these three oral/traditional poems from Nigeria and Ghana (home countries of Niyi Osundare and Kofi Awoonor, whose work we are reading)

Nigeria: https://africanpoems.net/gods-ancestors/why-do-we-grumble/ (Links to an external site.)

Ghana: [https://africanpoems.net/gods-ancestors/drum-address-to-the-earth-spirit/ (Links to an external site.) (Links to an external site.)](https://africanpoems.net/gods-ancestors/drum-address-to-the-earth-spirit/)

Ghana: https://africanpoems.net/protest-satire/as-i-came-from-the-bush-i-met-a-demon/

FOURTH, read these primary texts from the Canvas files:

Mongane Wally Serote, “For Don M.—Banned”

Kofi Awoonor, “The Weaver Bird”

Niyi Osundare, “The Padlock and the Key”

Jwani Mwaikusa, “Noisy Praises”

Chenjerai Hove, “Red Hills of Home”

Short story: Yvonne Vera, “Why Don’t You Carve Other Animals”

FIFTH:

Write a discussion post, that you post, like last week, to your Small Group Discussion page. It should adhere to the specifications in the syllabus for discussion posts, ie, it contains: a minimum of 300 words; at least one quotation from every primary (literary and theoretical) text that you engage with; word count stated at the end.

You have the choice to write about one (or more) of the five class poems, or to write about the Vera short story. You may focus on the subject of colonialism, as it is treated in the literary text, or you may shift emphasis (slightly) to explore the way in which the literature expresses a form of anti-colonial consciousness, what kind of critique it makes of colonialism and in what way it affirms nationalism or resistance to domination.

Whichever you choose, you must incorporate material from Fanon’s ‘National Culture’ and/or Cabral’s ‘National Liberation’. You may use those theoretical materials to illuminate the literature, or use the literature to complicate or interrogate the theories put forth by Fanon/Cabral. Or a blend of both. I encourage you to link back to last week’s readings and make connections, contrasts, with its readings (theoretical, literary). You might consider on one or more of these concerns: violence; land; space; Manicheanism; race/continental Africa vs nation.

Whichever you choose, please be sure to engage in some way with the literariness of the selected literary text(s), by being attentive to such features as form, style, tone, rhythm, imagery, ambiguity, metaphor, subject positioning of the narrator/speaker, implied audience.

If you choose the poetry option, think about the poems in the context of the oral poems from the Africanpoems.net, considering the similarities and differences in their styles. How far, and in what ways, do the prescribed  poems illustrate a ‘nativist’ stance? How are you defining ‘nativism’ here? How far, and in what ways, do the poems illustrate an ‘assimilationist’ stance, and/or a ‘combat/fighting’ stance?

If you choose the short story option, consider it as a commentary on the politics of representing continental ‘Africa’ through its wildlife and natural landscapes; consider it as a commentary on the role of art, imagination, dream/fantasy, among colonized people; consider it as a (subtle) commentary on social inequity. Look at what Fanon says about visual arts, as specific aesthetic forms, and think about the representation of visual arts and vision more broadly in the story. How far, and in what ways, does the story illustrate a ‘nativist’ stance? How are you defining ‘nativism’ here? How far, and in what ways, does it illustrate an ‘assimilationist’ stance, and/or a ‘combat/fighting’ stance?