

Viewing Guide – *The Cinema of Africa*

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These suggested films are some that will or may come up for discussion during the first course. If you go to Netflix, you can use hyperlinks to find further suggestions. The year listed is the year of theatrical release in the US. VOD is “Video On Demand.” Note: It is not necessary to see any or all of the films, by any means. These simply serve as a guide for the discussion. You can also use IMDB.com (Internet Movie Database) to search for other works by these filmmakers. You can also keep this list for future viewing after the session, if that is what you prefer. I’ve noted in bold the films that contain scenes that could be too extreme for some viewers. In the “Additional works” lines, those titles are noted by an asterisk.

**Timbuktu** Director: Abderrahmane Sissako. 2014. Mauritania / France. 97 minutes. Rated PG-13. A cattle herder and his family who reside in the dunes of Timbuktu find their quiet lives -- which are typically free of the Jihadists determined to control their faith -- abruptly disturbed.  
*Coming to the Belcourt in early March.*

**Half of a Yellow Sun** Director: Biyi Bandele. 2013. Nigeria / United Kingdom. 111 minutes. Rated R. Sisters Olanna and Kainene return home to 1960s Nigeria, where they soon diverge on different paths. As civil war breaks out, political events loom larger than their differences as they join the fight to establish an independent republic  
*Available on Netflix DVD as of March 1 . Also available on Amazon for purchase.*

**Life Above All** Director: Oliver Schmitz. 2010. South Africa. 100 minutes. Rated PG-13. In a tiny village near Johannesburg, 12-year-old Chanda is left to care for two younger siblings when her infant sister dies and her mother becomes gravely ill. But this isn't the only challenge she faces; the town has turned against her.  
*Available on Netflix DVD . Also available on Amazon Instant (purchase only).*

**Moolaadé** Director: Ritesh Batra. 2013. India. 105 minutes. Rated PG. When Mumbai's eerily reliable lunchbox delivery service erroneously sends a meal prepared by a young housewife to a lonely widower on the brink of retirement, the mistake ignites an exchange of notes and mutual fantasy between them.  
*Available on Netflix DVD . Also available on Amazon for purchase.*

**Bamako** Director: Abderrahmane Sissako. 2006. Mali / France. 118 minutes. Not Rated. A bar singer and her unemployed husband struggle to survive amidst the overwhelming economic hardships of Africa, which are juxtaposed with a mock trial against key international financial institutions. While spokesmen from African civil society rail against the World Bank, Melé and Chaka are struggling just to keep their marriage together.  
*Available on Netflix streaming.*

**U-Carmen**

Director: Mark Dornford-May. 2005. South Africa. 122 minutes. Not rated.

Love, jealousy and deception collide in this film opera set in South Africa and based on Bizet's "Carmen." A cigarette roller in a factory near Cape Town, Carmen (Pauline Malefane) is aware of the spell she has over Jongikhaya (Andile Tshoni), a cop whose obsession with her leads him to illegal activity. But when Jongikhaya discovers that he alone does not hold Carmen's heart, his jealous rage has fatal consequences.

*Available on Netflix streaming UNTIL FEBRUARY 15, 2015!!*

**A Screaming Man**

Director: Mahamat-Saleh Haroun. 2010. Chad / France. 92 minutes. Not Rated.

Adam (Youssouf Djaoro) was a security guard at a posh Chad hotel until its new owners replaced him with his son (Dioucounda Koma). In this nation torn apart by civil war, citizens are called upon to help. But Adam only has one thing to give, forcing him to make a devastating choice.

*Available on Netflix DVD.*

**Tsotsi**

Director: Gavin Hood. 2005. South Africa. 94 minutes. Rate R.

After shooting a woman and driving off in her car, a ruthless thug is surprised to discover a crying infant in the back seat.

*Available on Netflix streaming and DVD. Also available on Amazon Instant.*