

MISSOURI SOUTHERN STATE UNIVERSITY



West Africa Semester

FILM PASSPORT

FALL 2025

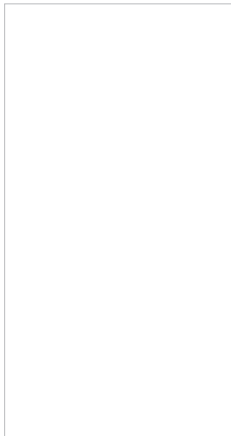
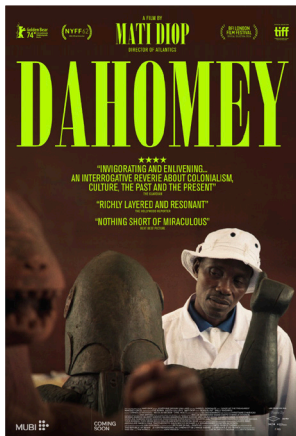
INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES



The MSSU Institute of International Studies and the Harrison and June Kash International Film Festival present a series of outstanding films from or about West Africa.

The films will be shown at 7 p.m. on Tuesdays in MSSU's Cornell Auditorium. The films are free and open to all community members.





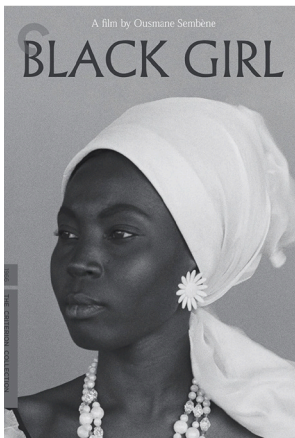
DAHOMEY

Tuesday, Sept. 2, 2025 | 7 p.m.

Cornell Auditorium in Plaster Hall

Introduction by Dr. Jody Jensen

This 2024 documentary from Senegal, Benin, and France directed by Mati Diop is a dramatized account of how 26 historical artifacts from the Kingdom of Dahomey were returned from a museum in France to their place of origin in Benin.



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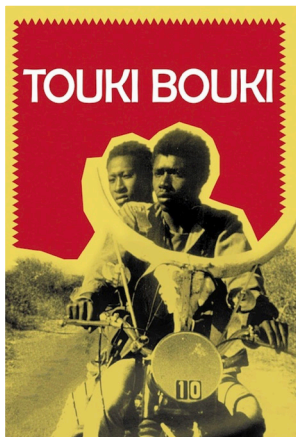
BLACK GIRL

Tuesday, Sept. 9, 2025 | 7 p.m.

Cornell Auditorium in Plaster Hall

Introduction by Melissa Thompson-Holt

This 1966 film by Senegalese filmmaker Ousmane Sembène is about a young Senegalese woman who moves to France to work as a nanny. It explores the themes of immigration, prejudice, and post-colonialism.



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TOUKI BOUKI

Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2025 | 7 p.m.

Cornell Auditorium in Plaster Hall

Introduction by Dr. Bill Fischer

This is a 1973 Senegalese film written and directed by Djibril Diop Mambéty. It tells the story of Mory and Anta, a cowherd and a student, respectively, who try to gather enough money to emigrate to France. The fast-paced editing and experimental nature of the film put it in stark contrast to other West African films of the 1970s.



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THUNDERBOLT

Tuesday, Sept. 23, 2025 | 7 p.m.
Cornell Auditorium in Plaster Hall
Introduction by Dr. Jill Greer

A 2000 film from Nigerian director Tunde Kelani combines melodrama and issues of ethnicity, gender, culture and identity in post-colonial Africa. It is a retelling of the Othello story with a supernatural twist.



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FUNMILAYO RANSOME-KUTI

Tuesday, Sept. 30, 2025 | 7 p.m.

Cornell Auditorium in Plaster Hall

Introduction by Esther Akheituame, PhD Candidate

This 2024 Nigerian film directed by Bolanle Austen-Peters and written by Tunde Babalola tells the story of the life and times of renowned Nigerian activist Funmilayo Ransome-Kuti, who also happened to be the mother of legendary musician Fela Kuti.



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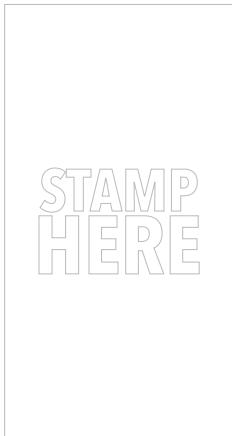
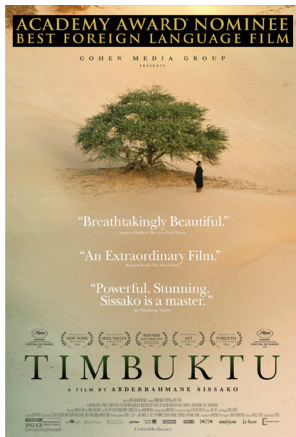
THE WOMAN KING

Tuesday, Oct. 7, 2025 | 7 p.m.

Cornell Auditorium in Plaster Hall

Introduction by Jesse Nzan, Nursing Student

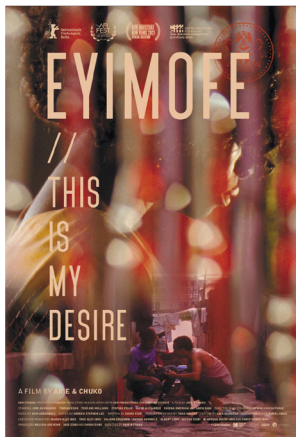
This 2022 historical action-adventure film by director Gina Prince-Blythewood tells the story of the Agojie, a woman warrior unit that served the West African Kingdom of Dahomey in the 19th century. Viola Davis was nominated for a Golden Globe for her lead performance as General Nanisca.



TIMBUKTU

Tuesday, Oct. 21, 2025 | 7 p.m.
Cornell Auditorium in Plaster Hall
 Introduction by Dr. Nii Abrahams

This 2014 co-production of Mauritania and France was written and directed by Abderrahmane Sissako. It tells the story of a cattle herder and his family in Mali whose lives are violently interrupted by jihadists.



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THIS IS MY DESIRE

Tuesday, Oct. 28, 2025 | 7 p.m.

Cornell Auditorium in Plaster Hall

Introduction by Dr. Stephanie Goad

Also known as *Eyimofé*, this 2020 Nigerian film by the twin-brother directors Arie Esiri and Chuko Esiri is about a printing shop technician and hairdresser who seek a better life on foreign shores. The film premiered at 17 film festivals around the world.



RICK STEVES | America's leading authority on European travel

The 10 **students** who attend the most West Africa Semester films in Fall 2025 will receive either a Rick Steves' \$50 gift card, or a crossbody travel bag, or a personal day pack for travel abroad. Get your passport stamped every time you attend a film, and then turn it in to the International Education office in Webster Hall 337 after **October 29**.



West Africa Semester

Name: _____

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