Biography

Dr Betty Sibongile Dlamini is a lecturer at Indiana University, USA. She graduated from the University of London, School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) with a PhD in African Languages and Cultures. She is an alumnus of the University of Sussex (Brighton) where she obtained her MA in English Literature and the University of South Africa (UNISA) where she obtained a BA Honours in English. She obtained her B. Ed degree from the University of Swaziland, where she taught English Literature in the Institute of Long Distance Learning of the University of Swaziland. She has published two academic books, three journal articles, eight encyclopaedia articles, two novels and twenty-four short stories. Her research interests diverse, including Southern African Performance Arts and Development, Women and Gender, Comparative Cultures: African American and Southern Africa, Post-Colonial Studies and Diversity in Institute of Higher Education!

Course: Drama for Development (AFRI L-400)

Drama for Development focuses on helping students develop skills and traits of communal living and engagement in dialogue to communally identify issues and problems that prevail in their community as well as identifying solutions to the problems by using performance arts, mainly drama. They write a pre-class test which they bring to class on the first day. In class students are introduced to the African continent by way of videos, pictures and lectures, followed by a discussion of the definitions of the important concepts in this discipline together with the stages of implementing Drama for Development within a community. Next, they learn how some African people used Drama for Development to address problems in their communities, which gives them a glimpse into the histories of the countries involved. After that, they learn how to conduct research to identify problems and issues within each community. Next, they engage in dialogue geared towards identifying ways of solving the problems, which leads to communally making stories that present their problems. During the story-creation process they tease out solutions in a trial and error method that strongly rests on dialogue. They work on a total of four projects per group, which they finally produce into videos.