The lectures and readings will cover modern African history while trying to answer a single central question: Why is it that African nations, having won independence in the early 1960s in what seemed a final triumph over colonialism, now seem so disappointed in what they have won? Inequality increases, poverty endures, the military rules. This recent change has led to a reexamination of all African history over the past hundred years, and a reinterpretation of the struggle for national independence. It also leads to a new understanding of the whole history of Southern Africa, and especially of current politics in that part of the continent. It shows that the real question in Rhodesia/Zimbabwe, for example, is not whether the country will be ruled by Africans, but by which Africans and in what way. This is what the Mozambiquans, Cubans, Tanzanians, South Africans, British, Russians, and Americans are struggling to influence. The shift in focus from rational independence to post-colonial society leads us to examine carefully the changes which have taken place within African society over the past hundred years.

LECTURES
Two a week, covering the whole course of modern African history, with some extra emphasis on South Africa.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS and EXAMINATIONS
Two take-home exams, each based on a few major readings together with lectures and discussions. The first will be on the history of city life for Africans in South Africa, the second contrasting two very different explanations of modern Africa's development. A final exam will be based on the lectures and the final few weeks' readings.

GRADING SYSTEM
See assignments.

REQUIRED READINGS
African History, by Curtin, Feierman, Thompson, Vansina
Philip Mayer, Townsmen or Tribesmen, on city life in South Africa
Arrighi and Saul, Essays on the Political Economy of Africa
Kwame Nkrumah, Autobiography, for a personal view of the triumph of nationalism
Two novels (Kongi's Harvest, and A Man of the People) to get an intimate feeling for life in modern Africa