History 443  
Spring 1994  

W.A. Brown  
Office: 5108 Humanities  
Hours: Tuesday, 3-5 p.m.  

WEST AFRICA SINCE 1800  

Description:  
In this course we will survey the political and social evolution of West Africa from ca. 1750 to about 1980. The richness and complexity of West African history will compel us to focus on a few major developments: religious and commercial change in the early nineteenth century; the European invasions and occupation; colonialism and the rise of nationalism; independence followed by economic stagnation and the continuing quest for democracy.  

Course Requirements:  
There will be no distinction between three- and four-credit workloads. The following requirements apply to all undergraduates:  

1. A short paper (ca. 1200 words) on an assigned topic, due on MONDAY, MARCH 7. (20% of grade)  
2. A review of Mary Smith’s Baba of Karo (ca. 1500 words), discussed and due on FRIDAY, MARCH 25. (20% of grade)  
3. Participation in a class debate, or submission of a critique of the debate, on FRIDAY, APRIL 22. The critique should be ca. 1200 words, due on MONDAY, APRIL 25. (20% of grade)  
4. A final exam on MONDAY, MAY 16. (40% of grade)  

The requirements for Honors and Graduate students will be individually negotiated, but will include reading all optional assignments and taking the final exam. Negotiations should be completed by FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 4.  

Assigned Readings:  
The following books should be purchased:  


Mary F. Smith, Baba of Karo: A Woman of the Muslim Hausa. Yale University Press. 1981.  

Other assigned readings will be found in the College Library Reserve Room.
I. INTRODUCTION
Jan. 24-28

II. RELIGIOUS REVOLUTION IN THE SUDAN
Jan. 31-Feb. 4
Assignment: WEBSTER & BOAHEN, 1-54


III. "COMMERCIAL REVOLUTION" IN GUINEA
Feb. 7-11
Feb. 14-18

Assignment: M.D. McLEOD, Asante, 1-111. DT/507/M35.


IV. THE EUROPEAN INVASIONS
Feb. 21-25
Feb 28-Mar 4


**ESSAYS ARE DUE ON MARCH 7**

V. COLONIALISM
Mar 7-11
Mar 14-18
Mar 21-27

**MAR 27: DISCUSSION: REVIEW OF BABA OF KARO

SPRING RECESS MAR 28-APR 3

VI. NATIONALISM
Apr. 4-8
Apr. 11-15
Apr. 18-22


April 22: DEBATE: What should be history's final judgment on colonialism in West Africa?

VII. INDEPENDENCE OR NEO-COLONIALISM?
Apr. 25-29
May 2-6
May 9-13