GENERAL: Readings

Except for the first week, required reading assignments should be completed the week before the classes to which they pertain.

Credits and examinations

3 credits normal. The midterm exam can be replaced by a paper under conditions as follow (a) the topic must be submitted to the instructor and be approved before the end of week 3 and (b) the paper must be submitted on the date of the midterm exam (Friday week 8).

Texts: Required:


K. Fields, Revival and Rebellion in Central Africa, Princeton 1985 (hardback)

J. Conrad, Heart of Darkness (pap.) various editions.


Optional:

L.H. Gann, P. Duignan, The Rulers of Belgian Africa: 1884-1914, Princeton 1979 (hardback)

R. Slade, King Leopold’s Congo, London (OUP) 1962 (hardcover)

R. Anstey, King Leopold’s Legacy, London (OUP) 1966 (hardcover)

V. S. Naipaul, A Bend in the River, New York (vintage) 1966 (pap)

SYLLABUS.

PRELUDE

Week 1: Introduction

N. goal and plan; geography

W. background to the nineteenth century.

F. slides: geography and ways of life (xix th c)

Reading. Encyclopedia Britannica, Vol. 19, entry Zaire 1119-1126

Ajayi, J. A., Crowder M., Historical Atlas of Africa, maps 1-5, 37, 47
H. M. Stanley, *Through the Dark Continent*, Chapters XIX-XXIV (my ed.)
London 1890: 326-449

Optional Reading. Ibdem, Angola, Zambia, Congo, Gabon, Cameroun, Equatorial Guinea.

Week 2: **Trade and Space by the 1870's**

M. The West Atlantic Trade in Forest and Savanna

W. Zanzibari and *Jallaba*: Trade from the Nile and the Indian Ocean.

F. slides: The Late Slave Trade in Gabon, 'Explorers'


**VIOLENCE AND BIRTH OF AN UNDERCAPITALIZED COLONY (1877-1920)**

Week 3: **Creating Colonial Space**

N. The scramble for Central Africa

W. The furnace of war.

F. slides. Conquest and transport.


Week 4: **The human cost of primitive capital accumulation.**

N. Looting Forests and the Downfall of the Congo State.

W. Work, Famine, Epidemic, Death.
F. Slides: Raubwirtschaft: Rubber.


Week 5: The new dispensation.

M. A new state

W. A new rural order.

F. slides Zambia, colonial order.


Week 6: A clash of civilizations:

M. Mission, school and town.

W. Europeans seen by Congolese, Congolese by Europeans.

F. slides: The arts to 1920.


THE MODEL COLONY IN THE AGE OF NATIONAL CAPITAL. 1920-1960

Week 7: Chronicle of a Colony

M. War, Boom, Bust, War: 1920-1945


F. Slides. The Belgian Congo.


Week 8: Poles and Backwaters?

M. The Mining Economy

W. The Agricultural Economy

F. MID TERM EXAM

Reading J.-L. Vellut, Mining in the Belgian Congo - HCA:126-162;


Week 9: Colonial Society

M. A Tale of Two Worlds: Town and Village


F. slides: Elites and cities.

Week 10: Cultural Aspirations.

M. Churches: European and African

W. Education and Urban Leisure.

F. Slides: Tourist art, as a commentary on society.


INTERNATIONAL CAPITAL CONGO AND ZAIRE.: 1960-1986

Week 11: Neocolonialism

M. Congo Cauldron: 1960-1965


Graduate Reading: C. Young, T. Turner, *The Rise and Decline of the Zairian State* Madison, 1985, 3-77; 363-395

Week 12: Development: Wealth for Some and Debts for All.

M. The formal economy.

W. The informal economy: How to survive.

F. slides: New Wealth, New Disruptions.


Week 13: Patrimonial Society.

M. The National Bourgeoisie.

W. And the others.

F. Art as social critique.


Week 14: Authenticity

M. Church, School, and Health.

W. Leisure and Work.

F. slides: Modern Art


Week 15: What Now?

M. Zaire and Central Africa in the Colonial Century

W. What of the Future?

F. Discussion.