History 751  History of East Africa  Steven Feierman

Course Requirements:

You may choose between two options:

OPTION 1: Write two discussion papers in addition to the take-home final exam.

OPTION 2: Write one research paper in addition to the take-home final exam.

(1) DISCUSSION PAPERS:

Discussion papers are normally between 5 and 8 pages. They are meant to provoke discussion. It is clearly impossible to give all the relevant facts on a major problem in five pages, but it is possible to ask some challenging question, and to give the most significant evidence. In addition, you are expected to provide a brief annotated bibliography, not as a scholarly display, but as a service to members of the class, so that they can find the most useful works when they return to the topic themselves.

Each paper must be duplicated and distributed to the class at the meeting preceding the scheduled discussion time.

(2) RESEARCH PAPERS:

You are to choose the topic of the research paper in consultation with the instructor, and to present the paper for class discussion during the session in the syllabus most closely related to your topic. Papers must, of course, be duplicated and distributed at the meeting preceding the scheduled discussion time.

(3) TAKE-HOME FINAL:

You will be required, on the take-home final, to offer your own arguments on general issues in East African history. Each question will ask for a synthesis of materials drawn from a
number of weeks of reading. The issues will be the central ones, and you are likely to do well if you have done the reading week by week. If you have not been doing weekly readings, the final will seem very difficult.

(4) CLASSROOM PARTICIPATION:

Classroom participation will be taken into account on the final grade -- not as a careful judgement on the precise quality of the contributions, but as a rough indication of whether students appear to have done the readings and participated regularly.

Week 1

September 3. Introduction.

Week 2

September 8. Lecture: Language and History in Early East Africa. In what sense do groups, linguistically defined, have cultures and histories?
September 10. Lecture: The Early History of Domestication. Can you outline steps in the movement towards domestication in East Africa?

Browse in Ehret's Southern Nilotic History (Graduate Reading Room). Read a chapter superficially, without worrying about learning the content, just to familiarize yourself with Ehret's way of approaching history.
Supplementary Readings:


Browse in Azania, which publishes a wide range of research on early East Africa.


Peter Schmidt, Historical Archeology: A Structural Approach in an African Kingdom.


Look at successive publications of new radiocarbon dates in JAH.

W.S.A. Payne, "The Origin of Domestic Cattle in Africa," Empire Journal of Experimental Agriculture


Christopher Ehret, Ethiopians and East Africans, Nairobi,
1974.
Article by Vansina on Bantu origins, JAH, to appear soon.

Week 3

September 15. Discussion Paper: How pure was Maasai pastoralism, and how did it shape interaction with the neighbors of the Maasai?

Readings: Jacobs, "The Irrigation Agricultural Maasai of Pagasi." Handout.

Supplementary Readings:

Maasai:

For a very different set of interactions, see the case of the Lwo:
David W. Cohen, "The River-Lake Nilotes," ch. 7. in Zamani, B.A. Ogot (ed.).
Crazzolara, The Lwoo
Aidan Southall, Alur Society
Southall, "Nuer and Dinka are People," Man, n.s. 2.
Margaret Trowell and K.P. Wachsmann, Tribal Crafts of Uganda,
can be used as a source for understanding interaction and
the borrowing of material culture.
Tarikh, issue on "The Peoples of Uganda in the 19th Century,"
1970.
David William Cohen, The Historical Tradition of Busoga
Godfrey Lienhardt, "Getting Your Own Back: Themes in Nilotic Myth."
Ade Adefuye, Ph.D. dissertation on the history of the Palwo.
John Lamphear, The Traditional History of the Jie of Uganda
J.B. Webster, works on chronology in Uganda, to be used with
the greatest caution.

Week 4

September 22. Discussion Paper: What are the potential
historical uses of the early historical traditions of
Bunyoro?
September 24. Discussion Paper: How do you explain the link
between pastoralism and political authority in the Great
Lakes kingdoms? You may, if you wish, limit yourself to
Nkore, or (with adequate advance warning) to Rwanda.

Readings:
Iris Berger, "Deities, Dynasties, and Oral Tradition: The
History and Legend of the Abacwezi," pp. 61-81 in Joseph
A6195.
Ruth Fisher, Twilight Tales of the Black Baganda [actually
about Bunyoro], pp. 84 - 110. Handout.
Michael Twaddle, "Towards an Early History of the East African
Martin R. Doornbos, Not All the King's Men, pp. 17-60.
STRONGLY RECOMMENDED BUT NOT REQUIRED: Beattie, "Group Aspects
of the Nyoro Spirit Mediumship Cult," Rhodes Livingstone

Supplementary Readings
The person writing on the Cwezi must read parts of Renee
Tantala's drafts on the subject, and will need to
summarize some key elements in Tantala's analysis for the
class.


On myth and history, read the following two works if you can possibly find the time. Both are on H.C. White reserve:


(2) Feierman, The Shambaa Kingdom, chapters 2 and 3. H.C. White Reserve,


Jan Vansina, L'evolution du royaume rwanda des origines a 1900.


Marcel d'Hertefelt, Les Clans du Rwanda Ancien. MRAC, no. 70.


Luc De Heusch, Le Rwanda.


J. Maquet, The Premise of Inequality in Rwanda.


John Beattie, The Nyoro State.

A.R. Dunbar, A History of Bunyoro-Kitara


J.W. Nyakatura, Anatomy of an African Kingdom (Bunyoro).


Audrey Richards, East African Chiefs.


Cook and Kajubi, "Tribal Incidence of Lactase Deficiency in

**Week 5**

**September 29.** Discussion Paper: "The fertile cities of the Eastern Coast were not strange foreign jewels on a mournful silent shore." Discuss this dictum for coastal history before 1700. You may, if you wish, limit yourself to some part of this long stretch of history.

**October 1.** Discussion Paper: What conclusions can you draw about the history of the coast by examining the Swahili language?

**Readings:**

**Supplementary Readings**
Thomas Spear, *The Kaya Complex*.
J. Strandes, *The Portuguese Period in East Africa*.
J. Sutton, "Early Trade in Eastern Africa" (Historical Association of Tanzania Pamphlets).
Allan Villiers, *Sons of Sinbad*. (A description of a sailing trip between Arabia and East Africa in the 1930s.)
George Hourani, *Arab Seafaring in the Indian Ocean*.
J. De Vere Allen, "Traditional History and African Literature:
Chittick on Manda and Kilwa, Azania 1967 and 1966 respectively.
G.S.P. Freeman-Grenville, Mombasa Rising against the Portuguese.

Week 6

October 6. Discussion Paper: What role did Zanzibar play in the increase of East African trade in the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, and what role was played by changes in the world market?
October 8. Discussion Paper: How did the characteristic forms of the organization of labor on Zanzibar and the coast of Kenya change between the third quarter of the nineteenth century and the first quarter of the twentieth?

Readings:
F. Cooper, Plantation Slavery, pp. 38-79.
F. Cooper, From Slaves to Squatters, pp. 69 - 124.

Supplementary Readings
On Zanzibar's economic role:
Remaining chapters of Cooper, Plantation Slavery
Edward Alpers, Ivory and Slaves
C. S. Nicholls, The Swahili Coast
John Gray, History of Zanzibar
R. Coupland, East Africa and its Invaders
For understanding coastal society see A. el Zein, The Sacred Meadows,
Hugh Tinker, A New System of Slavery
Eric Wolf, Europe and the People without History.
On slavery:
For general approach look at collections edited by Neillassoux, and by Suzanne Miers and Igor Kopytoff. See also Claire Robertson and Martin A. Klein (eds.), Women
and Slavery in Africa.
Look at Sheriff dissertation, as above.
Read remaining chapters of both Cooper books.
Hugh Tinker, A New System of Slavery

Week 7

October 13. Discussion Paper: What were the most important changes in Shanbaa production, trade, and local social organization in the nineteenth century?
October 15 Discussion Paper: Discuss the evolution of Nyamwezi or Kimbu or Sukuma society in the nineteenth century.

Readings:
Iliffe, Modern History, pp. 1-87.
Burton, Lake Regions of Central Africa, pp. 218 - 256.
Andrew Roberts, "Nyamwezi Trade." Handout.
Collection of sources on Nyamwezi history-- Handout.
Feierman, The Shambaa Kingdom, pp. 17-39, 120-204.

Supplementary Readings:
On the Shambaa:
Abdallah bin Hemedi 'lAjjemy, The Kilindi
Feierman, "Concepts of Sovereignty," D.Phil. in Memorial Library.
Krapf, Travels. Please note that the German edition is more complete, but that the most complete edition of Krapf is in the CMS archives, on microfilm in Memorial Library.
For the 1880s, Central Africa, the mission magazine, is especially interesting.
On Central Kenya:
Ogot, Kenya Before 1900;
Ogot, Hadith 7, Ecology & History
Godfrey Muriuki, A History of the Kikuyu: 1500-1900
Articles on the Kamba and the Nyamwezi in Richard Gray and David Birmingham, Pre-Colonial African Trade
G. Lindblom, The Akamba in British East Africa
J. L. Krapf, Travels, Researches and Missionary Labours
Lewis Leakey, The Southern Kikuyu Before 1903
Kenya: Facing Mt. Kenya
On Western Tanzania:
Excellent account by J.B. Kabeya, Mtemi Mirambo, for anyone who reads Swahili.
Hans Cory, The Mtemi
More of Burton than appears in the handout.
Aylward Shorter, Chiefship in Western Tanzania
Andrew Roberts, article on Uvinza as a salt producing area, Azania
R. G. Abrahams, The Political Organization of Greater Unyamwezi
F. Bosch, Les Banyamwezi
W. Blohm, Die Nyamwezi
Maisha ya Hamed bin Muhammed el Murjebi, yaani Tippu Tib, tr. W.H. Whiteley,
East African Literature Bureau, Johari za Kiswahili, no. 8.
Please note that this book has both Swahili and English versions.
Norman Bennett, Mirambo
Aylward Shorter, Chiefship in Western Tanzania.
Andrew Roberts, chapter on Nyamwezi history in Andrew Roberts (ed.), Tanzania before 1900.

Week 8
October 20. Discussion paper: What does the evidence on slave women show about gender, insecurity, and the boundaries of local social groups in the pre-colonial period?

October 22. Lecture: Trypanosomiasis and control over the environment in the period of conquest.

Readings:
Introduction to *Women and Slavery in Africa*, pp. 3-25.
Iliffe, 123-134.
In preparation for next week, read Iliffe 135-167, 240-272, 318-341.

Supplementary Readings:
The rest of Robertson and Klein.
John Ford, *The Role of Trypanosomiasis*.
Hartwig and Patterson, *Disease in African History*.

Week 9

October 27. Discussion Paper: Contrast the economic roles assigned to Tanganyika in the German empire, Tanganyika in the British empire, and Kenya under the British.

Readings:
Feierman, Introduction and intellectual history in book on hegemony.
Iliffe 135-167, 240-272, 318-341.

Supplementary Readings:
Tanganyika and Kenya in the Colonial Economy.
The rest of Brett.
Iliffe, Tanganyika under German Rule.
D.M. Low, Lion Rampant
Richard D. Wolff, The Economics of Colonialism: Britain and Kenya
On indirect rule, use the footnotes of Iliffe's chapter.
For an excellent brief interpretation of British imperial policy see Kenneth Robinson, The Dilemmas of Trusteeship.
Gavin Kitching, Class and Economic Change in Kenya
On Both Indirect Rule and the Colonial Economy
Dennis McCarthy, Colonial Bureaucracy and Creating Underdevelopment.
On Indirect rule
***Sir Donald Cameron, My Tanganyika Service and Some Nigeria.
For a vivid personal picture of Tanganyikan intellectuals in this period see Mang' enya, Discipline and Tears.
Anthony Low, Lion Rampant.
Ralph Furse, Aucuparius: Recollections of a Recruiting Officer.
For an excellent brief interpretation of British colonial policy, see Kenneth Robinson, The Dilemmas of Trusteeship.
John Cell, By Kenya Possessed.
B. Chidzero, Tanganyika and International Trusteeship.
Sir Philip Mitchell, African Afterthoughts.

**Week 10**

November 3. Discussion Paper: What have been the crucial changes in women's work and women's solidarity as related to stratification in Central Kenya over the past century?


**Readings:**


Gavin Kitching, *Class and Economic Change in Kenya*, 200-311.

**Supplementary Readings:**


Margaret Strobel, *Muslim Women in Mombasa, 1890 - 1975*.

Margaret Strobel, "From Lelemama to Lobbying," pp. 183 - 211 in Nancy Hafkin and Edna Bay (eds.) *Women in Africa*.


For Tanzania, see Ophelia Mascarenhas and Marjorie Mbilinyi, *Women in Tanzania, an Analytical Bibliography*.


Margaret J. Hay, in Hafkin and Bay, *Women in Africa*
Marja Liisa Swantz, Ritual and Symbol
Marja Liisa Swantz, recent book on Women in Development.
Ph.D. dissertations by Kathy Staudt and M.J. Hay about western Kenya, both in Memorial.
Ph.D. dissertation by Luise White about the history of prostitution in Nairobi -- needs to be ordered.

Week 11

November 10. Discussion Paper: Discuss the place of Christianity and Kikuyu political nationalism in the political and economic struggles of central Kenya before Mau Mau.
November 12. Discussion Paper: Discuss the role of Islam in the evolution of Tanganyikan political relations and stratification under colonial rule.

Readings:
Donald Barnett and Karari Njama, Mau Mau from Within, 77-78, 102-105.
Iliffe, 203-239.

Supplementary Readings:
On Mau Mau, read more of Barnett and Njama.
Rosberg and Nottingham, The Myth of Mau Mau, especially the chapter on the circumcision crisis.
For the enormous literature on Mau Mau see Kennell Jackson and Marshall Clough, A Bibliography on Mau Mau.
F. Welbourn, East African Rebels, on the role of independent churches.
James Ngugi (Ngugi wa Thiong'o), The River Between
Jocelyn Murray, "The Kikuyu Spirit Churches," Journal of


*T.O. Ranger, Peasant Consciousness and Guerrilla War in Zimbabwe, comparative chapters on Kenya.

Week 12

November 17. Discussion Paper: What was the timing and significance of the stabilization of labor in Kenya and Tanganyika?

November 19. Discussion Paper: Outline the stages by which workers' movements emerged in Tanganyika, giving special attention to their place in the larger Tanganyikan class structure.

Readings:

Readings to be assigned from Issa Shivji's new book on Tanganyikan labor history.

Begin reading Iliffe for next week which has a heavy list of readings: pp. 405-435, 485-520.

Supplementary Readings:
Martin Kaniki, Tanzania under Colonial Rule.
Article by Iliffe in Sandbrook and Cohen volume on African labor history.
***Iliffe, Agricultural Change in Modern Tanganyika (Handout)
Mascarenhas, UCLA Ph.D. on the history of sisal.
C. W. Guillebaud, An Economic Survey of the Sisal Industry of Tanganyika


Lionel Cliffe (ed.), Rural Cooperation in Tanzania, articles by Lawrence, article on Mbambara

Materials from week 10 are also relevant

Martin Kaniki, Tanzania under Colonial Rule.
P.H. Gulliver, Labour Migration in a Rural Economy.
Anthony Clayton and Donald Savage, *Government and Labour in Kenya*


Sharon Stichter, *Migrant Labour in Kenya*


**Week 13**

November 24. Discussion Paper: What was the historical place of the resistance movements in Tanganyikan history as a whole?


**Readings:**


Browse through the full set of Maji Maji documents collected by members of the history department at the University of Dar es Salaam. On reserve at H.C. White.

Cliffe, Paper on Enforced Agricultural Improvement.

**Supplementary Readings:**

****Allen Isaacman, *The Tradition of Resistance in Mozambique.*

Iliffe, article on Maji Maji, *JAH*, 1967.

On Nationalism in Tanganyika, follow Iliffe's footnotes.


Allen Isaacman, "Social Banditry in Zimbabwe and Mozambique,***
Fritz Ferdinand Muller, Deutschland, Zanzibar, Ostafrika
Graf von Gotzen, Deutsch-Ostafrika in Aufstand
Resistance in Kenya:
A. T. Matson, Nandi Resistance to British Rule
For Kikuyu resistance see Muriuki, History of the Kikuyu, last chapter.
On the Giriama uprising, book by Cynthia Brantley.
B.A. Ogot, War and Society in Africa (articles on resistance movements)

Week 14

December 1. Discussion Paper: Was Mau Mau an ethnic revolt or a movement towards social revolution?
December 3. Discussion Paper: What has been the relationship between accumulation and politics in Kenya since 1955?

Readings:
Robert Buijtenhuis, Mau Mau Twenty Years After, pp. 43-86.

Supplementary Readings:
For both these topics, refer back to the supplementary readings for week 10.
For accumulation and politics, refer back to week 11.
Steven Langdon, "The State of Capitalism in Kenya," ROAPE No. 8
S. Langdon & N. Godfrey, "Partners in Underdevelopment, the Transnationalisation Thesis in the Kenya Context," Journal of Commonwealth and Comparative Politics
Article by Peter Anyang Nyong'o in the Bordeaux Africanist journal. Title?
R. Kaplinsky, Readings on the Multinational Corporation in Kenya
Gary Wasserman, The Politics of Decolonization in Kenya

Week 15

December 10. Discussion Paper: Describe the shifting balance of power between country and city in Tanzania during the period of independence.

Readings: To be assigned.