

## **Health, Healing and Hunger in Modern Africa**

Steven Feierman  
Department of History  
Office Hours:  
Weds. 1-2:00; Thurs. 4-5:00

5115 Humanities  
263-3945  
History 328

### **Course Requirements:**

Students are required to work on three assigned special topics -- the history of Zulu healing (with a brief paper due in week 5), the relationship between colonial conquest and disease ecology in East Africa (to be examined in a blue book during week 8), and the history of spirit possession cults, infertility, and malnutrition in Zambia (covered in a short paper due in week 13). While students are studying special topics in detail, the lectures are meant to cover the whole history of health, healing, and hunger in Africa during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The end of term exam, with questions to be distributed in advance, will ask students to make a broad synthesis based mainly on the lectures.

### **Course Outline**

Lecture Topics are Tentative

Week 1. January 24, 26.

Lectures: Introduction. Plural Therapies.

Readings: "The Last Safari to Pagak," from song of lawino, by Okot p'Bitek, 149-175.

H. Callaway, Religious Traditions of the Amazulu, pp. 140-165.

### **Part I**

#### **Readings for the Exercise on Zulu Healing.**

Week 2. January 31, February 2.

Lectures: Kinship Authority over Therapy.  
Nineteenth Century Zulu Healing.

Readings": H. Callaway, Religious Traditions of the Amazulu, 1-13, 16-21, 30-33, 168-171, 183-185, 260-267, 280-299, 318-323, 344-347, 374-379, 402-403.

Week 3. February 7, 9.

Lectures: The differentiation of South Africa's Population.  
Changing Household Structure and Healing: Northern Tanzania.

Readings: Omer-Cooper, "Shaka and the Rise of the Zulu," in Klein and

Johnson Perspectives, pp. 126-137.  
 Fage, A History of Africa, 348-354.  
 Luli Callinicos, A People's History of South Africa vol. 1, 8-10, 22-31  
 Harriet Ngubane, Body and Mind in Zulu Medicine, 77-99.  
 Harriet Ngubane, "Aspects of Clinical Practice and Traditional Organization of Indigenous Healers in South Africa." Social Science & Medicine, 1981, 361-365.  
 Bengt Sundkler, Bantu Prophets in South Africa, 53-59, 106-117.

Week 4. February 14, 16.

Lectures: Changing Household Structure and Healing: Northern Nguni. Pre-colonial Food Security.

Readings: Bengt Sundkler, Bantu Prophets in South Africa, 180-294.  
 Martin West, Bishops and Prophets, 91-124.

Week 5. February 21, 23.

Tuesday session. Film: The Long Search, Zulu Zion.

Thursday, class cancelled for work on papers, due Friday February 24 at history office front desk by 1:30 PM

## Part II

### Readings for the Exercise on Conquest and Disease Ecology

Week 6. February 28, March 2.

Lectures: Conquest: Maji Maji and the Women's War.  
 Trypanosomiasis and Loss of Control over the Environment.

Readings: Iliffe, Tanganyika under German Rule, 9-29.

Maji Maji Documents.

Iliffe, A Modern History of Tanganyika, 123-125, 163-167.

Helge Kjekshus, Ecology Control and Economic Development in East African History, 126-179.

Week 7. March 7, 9.

Lectures: Changing Networks of Food Security.

Conquest and Health: the Regions of Africa.

Readings: Cruickshank et al, Epidemiology and Community Health in Warm Climate Countries, 295-301. Use a medical dictionary, available at most libraries under call number R 121, and then a sub-number. The medical dictionary in Memorial Library Reference (2nd floor) is R121 T47 1967. There is also a medical dictionary shelved with the foreign language dictionaries in the Graduate Reading Room, 420 Memorial Library. Use the John Ford maps for lecture reference.

Leroy Vail, "Ecology and History: the example of eastern Zambia."

Journal of Southern African Studies, 1977, 129-155.

Week 8. March 14, 16.

Lecture: The Rise of Population: Health Conditions.  
Thursday: Blue Book on Disease Ecology.

Week 9. March 28, 30.

Lectures: Malaria.  
Art and Health.

Hiram Dutta and Ashok Dutt, "Malarial Ecology: A Global Perspective."  
Social Science & Medicine 1978, 69-84.

### Part III

#### Readings for the Exercise on Women's Cults of Affliction

Week 10. April 4, 6.

Lectures: Community Organization and Cults of Affliction -- Lemba,  
Ndembu and Luvale Cults in Historical Perspective.

Readings: Andrew Roberts, A History of Zambia 174-194.  
Victor Turner, The Forest of Symbols, 1-16.  
Victor Turner, Schism and Continuity in an African Society, 288-317.

Week 11. April 11, 13.

Lectures: Indirect Rule and Food Supplies.  
The Rise of Population -- Birth Spacing.

Readings: Victor Turner, "Chihamba the White Spirit," pp. 37-45,  
102-114, 119-145, 159-203.  
I.M. Lewis, Ecstatic Religion, 18-36.

Week 12. April 18, 20.

Lectures: Colonialism, Health Care, and Social Costs.  
Female Circumcision.

Readings: Anita Spring, "Epidemiology of Spirit Possession among the  
Luvale of Zambia," pp 165-190 in Women in Ritual and Symbolic  
Roles, edited by Judith Hoch-Smith and Anita Spring.

K.L. Standard, "Infections and Malnutrition -- Child Mortality," 38-49  
in Cruickshank et al, Epidemiology and Community Health in Warm  
Climate Countries.

Week 13. April 25, 27.

Lectures: The Expansion of Health Care.  
Famine and Entitlements.

April 25. Paper due on Possession.

Week 14. May 2. 4.

Lectures: The Professionalization of Popular Healing.  
AIDS

Readings: Steven Feierman. "Struggles for Control: The Social Roots of  
Health and Healing in Modern Africa." African Studies Review.  
June/Sept. 1985. 73-147.

Week 15. May 9. In-class exam.

May 11. Health in Africa Today.