

University of Wisconsin-Madison
Department of History
FALL 2011

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O. H.: Thursday 2:30-3:30 PM
and by appt.

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O.H.: M 9:30-10:30AM
and by appt.

378--History of Africa since 1870
TR 1:00 pm-2:15 pm
168 Noland Hall

Welcome to History 378. This course is an introductory survey of the history of Africa south of the Sahara from the eve of the European colonization to the present. Because there is so much to learn about Africa and Africans during this period, we cannot strive for exhaustive coverage. Instead, we will consider a variety of case-studies from diverse perspectives to highlight the epochal changes people confronted. Though we will cover nearly every major region and subperiod within these case-studies, some will receive particular attention in an effort to balance breadth of historical knowledge with depth. Ending the course in the present time will allow us to discuss some of the major challenges and hopes Africans experience today.

The first part of the course (Unit I) focuses on African societies at the end of the nineteenth century after the abolition of the slave trade and before the beginning of European conquest. This material will provide you with insight into Africa's rich pre-conquest history. However, it will be a challenging part of the course, as you will be required to study an abundance of unfamiliar information. In Unit II, we will discuss the European conquest and the colonial era, and examine how Africans confronted colonialism. In doing so, we will try to complicate the 'colonial encounter' beyond a mere dichotomous clash between oppressors and victims. Unit III will complete the course with an examination of Africans' struggles for freedom from the colonial powers, and the new challenges they faced during decolonization and, later, formal independence. In the process, we will investigate to what extent long-term historical dynamics determine the present.

Readings:

Course readings should be completed before the lecture for which they are assigned and knowledge of them will be assumed. The following books are available at the University Book Store, and available on reserve at the College Library. The first is recommended, the three others are required.

E. Gilbert & J. T. Reynolds, *Africa in World History* (2008) [AIWH]
Mariama Ba, *So Long a Letter* (1981)
Ngugi Wa Thiongo, *Grain of Wheat*
Stephanie Nolen, *28: Stories of AIDS in Africa* (2007)

I have also collected a set of readings that are available for purchase at the Humanities Copy Center. Two hard copies will also be on reserve at the College library (Helen C. White).

Grading:

- (1) Attendance and Participation in discussion sections: 20%
- (2) Take-Home Paper 1: 20%
- (3) Mid-term: 20%
- (4) Take-Home Paper 2 (this paper will engage with issues of gender discussed in Units II and III): 20%
- (5) Final: 20%

Graduate students should consult with Prof. Bernault for specific requirements. Students with disabilities should consult T.A. Ben Cross and Prof. Bernault early in the semester so we can better ensure all students an equal opportunity for success.

*****SCHEDULE OF CLASS MEETINGS*****

Unit I: Africa at the End of the 19th Century

Week 1: East Africa and the Great Lakes at the end of the 19th century

Readings: If you do not purchase AIWH, familiarize yourself with the geography of Africa
[AIWH, 190-200, 214-220]
E. Alpers, "The Story of Swema"

- 09/06 Introduction -- East Africa: Slaves and Plantations
09/08 Great Lakes: Kings, Cattle, Bananas and Caravans

Music: Mahmoud Ahmed, Tandiswa Mazwai

Week 2: South Africa

Readings: [AIWH 244-264]
J. Peires, "The Central Beliefs of the Great Xhosa Killing"

- 09/13 South Africa: European Expansion in the Nineteenth Century
09/15 South Africa: Diamonds and Gold

Music: Doctor Sithole, Julius Nkuna

Week 3: West Africa

Readings: R. Law, "De Souza's Ouidah," and E. Bay "Wives of the Leopard"
Primary source: Clapperton on Kano market (Read for course 09/20)

- 09/20 Jihad and Modern Stateship—The Sokoto Caliphate
09/22 Coastal Bourgeoisies, Ouidah and Dahomey *****PAPER 1 DUE in class*****

Music: Cesaria Evora, Salif Keita

Unit II: The Colonial Era

Week 4: The Colonial Conquest

Readings: [AIWH, 265-286]
Primary source: Lugard: "Indirect Rule"
J. Vansina, "Company Rule and Its Consequences"

09/27 Conquest and Resistance
09/29 Racial and Ethnic Order

Music: Kandia Kouaté, Amadou and Mariam

Week 5: Social Transformations

Readings: [AIWH, 316-334 + Land Act, 336-338]
J. Livingston, "Male Migration"

10/04 Labor and Environmental Degradation
10/06 Intimate Colonialisms

Music: Vusi Mahlasela, Lady Jay Dee

Week 6: Spiritual Battlegrounds: Christianity and Islam

Readings: [AIWH, 57-60 & 344-351]
J. Vansina, "In Pursuit of Harmony"
Start *So Long a Letter* (Mariama Ba)

10/11 African Christianity
10/13 Islam: French and British West Africa

Music: Meïway, Youssou N'Dour

Week 7: Mid-Term

Readings: Mariama Ba, *So Long a Letter*

10/18 No Class (prepare for mid-term)
10/20 **MID-TERM** (in class)

Week 8: Gender Conflicts

Readings: [AIWH, 306-308]
K. Hansen, "Dressing Dangerously"

10/25 African Women and Colonialism
10/27 Gender Wars

Music: Franco, Lady Jay Dee

Unit III: Independence and Beyond

Week 9: Struggles for Independence

Readings: [AIWH, 335-341, 363-370, & 382-383]
Fanon "On Violence"

11/01 Urban Cultures

11/03 Negritude and Pan-Africanism

Music: Koffi Olomide, Awilo Longomba

Week 10: Independence I

Readings: [AIWH 370-373]
Ngugi Wa Thiongo, *Grain of Wheat*

11/08 Mau Mau (movie)

11/10 Kenyan Independence

Music: Holland and Kenya's Red Nose District

Week 11: Independence II

Readings: [AIWH, 365-370]
E. Akyeampong, "What's in a Drink?"

11/15 Ghana

11/17 No Class: African Studies Association Annual Meeting *****PAPER 2 DUE at Location TBA before 2:15 pm*****

Music: Fela Kuti

Week 12: Independence III

Readings: [AIWH, 380-382, 391-393]

11/22 South Africa: Segregation Era

11/24 Thanksgiving: no class!

Music: Miriam Makeba

Week 13: South Africa

Readings: [AIWH 374-380, & 396-398]
L. Thomas, "The Modern Girl"
N. Mandela, Long Walk To Freedom

12/06 Apartheid

12/08 From Apartheid to the New South Africa

Music: Doctor Sithole, and TBA

Week 14: HIV-AIDS

Readings: [AIWH, 413-416]
S. Nolen, 28: *Stories of AIDS in Africa*

11/29 HIV-AIDS: The Epidemic
12/01 HIV-AIDS: Responses

Music: Thomas Mapfumo, and TBA

Week 15: Conclusion

No reading [the movie *Tee Shirt Travel* will be shown at a convenient time]

12/13 Debt and Development

Music: Abd El Malik

12/xx *****FINAL EXAM*****