

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON  
Department of History  
Semester I, 1989-90

History 377

AFRICA SINCE 1800

Mr. Brown

This course is an introduction to the history of the African continent since 1800. Africa south of the Sahara receives the greatest emphasis; developments since 1880 receive major stress. The course is organized around three principal themes: revolutionary change in Africa between ca. 1780 and 1880; European invasions and conquests resulting in Colonialism, between 1880 and 1960; and, the struggle to regain independence and overcome poverty since 1960.

Ordinarily, there will be two lectures and a discussion session each week. Readings are assigned so that they will be completed before each week's topic. Three examinations are scheduled: a six-weeks exam in class on October 13; a one-hour mid-term essay exam on November 17; and, the two-hour final exam is scheduled for December 23. In addition, each undergraduate is asked to read a contemporary African novel and write a brief review of about 5-8 pages explaining the historical context of each novel's themes. The review is due by December 15. Graduate students and Honors students are excused from the six-weeks exam, but are expected to write term essays on topics approved by the instructor; they are also due on December 15.

Six Weeks Exam	= 20%
Mid-Term Exam	= 20%
Final Exam	= 50%
Book review	= 10%

These are the texts used in the course; they are on sale at People's Bookstore:

A.E. Afigbo, et al. The Making of Modern Africa, 2 vols.

John L. Esposito, Islam - The Straight Path

Stephanie Urdang, And Still They Dance

John Ya-Otto, Battle Front Namibia

WEEK 1: Sept. 5-8 Introduction to Course and Topics

Assignment: Afigbo, et al. Making of Modern Africa, Vol. I; pp.1-33, 80-93  
Mervyn Hiskett, Sword of Truth, chapter on "The Vision"  
David Robinson, Holy War of Umar Tal, chapt. on "The Pilgrimage"  
John L. Esposito, Islam-The Straight Path, pp. 3-41; 57-123

WEEK 2: Sept. 11-15 Muslim Revolutions in West Africa

Assignment: Afigbo, Modern Africa, I. 129-150; 317-329.

WEEK 3: Sept. 18-22 Muhammad Ali, Seyyid Said, and the Drive for Modernization

Assignment: Afigbo, Modern Africa, I. 37-77; 96-112; 115-125.

WEEK 4: Sept. 25-29 Commercial Revolution on West African Coasts

Assignment: Afigbo, Modern Africa, I: 211-244  
Leonard Thompson, Survival in Two Worlds  
Thomas Mofolo, Chaka the Zulu

WEEK 5: Oct. 2-6 Nguni, Revolution and the Mfecane in Southern Africa

Assignment: Afigbo, Modern Africa, I: 340-364; 115-125.  
Daniel Headrick, The Tools of Empire, 58-128  
William Hynes, Economics of Empire, 57-108

WEEK 6: Oct. 9-13 Revolution and Recovery Among the Yoruba and Emergence of the "New" Imperialism

Assignment: Michael Crowder, West African Resistance

SIX-WEEKS EXAM - October 13

WEEK 7: Oct. 16-20 Beginning of the Scramble for Africa - Northern and Central Africa - The Conquest of West Africa

Assignment: Afigbo, Modern Africa, I: 93-95; 306-337; 150-170.

WEEK 8: Oct. 23-27 Conquest in East and Central Africa  
Muslim Resistance in the Nilotic Sudan

Assignment: Afigbo, Modern Africa, I, 244-300.

WEEK 9: Oct. 30-Nov. 3 The Partition of Southern Africa

Assignment: Afigbo, Modern Africa, Vol. II. pp 1-middle of 21; 294-312

WEEK 10: Nov. 6-10 Establishment of Colonial Rule in West and East Africa

Assignment: Afigbo, Modern Africa, II. 106-middle of 112; 119-123.  
Robert L. Hess, Modernization of an Autocracy

WEEK 11: Nov. 13-17 Rise of the Ethiopian Empire and Partition of the Horn of Africa

Assignment: Afigbo, Modern Africa, II: pp. 165-198

ONE-HOUR EXAM - November 17.

WEEK 12: Nov. 20-22 Minerals and the Transformation of Southern Africa

Assignment: Afigbo, Modern Africa, II. pp. 21-76; 124-137; 138-164.  
Esposito, ISLAM, Review, pp. 116-middle of 123; 127-161.

THANKSGIVING RECESS - Nov. 23-24.

WEEK 13: Nov 27-Dec 1 Collapse of Old Colonial Order in West and North Africa

Assignment: Afigbo, Modern Africa, II. pp. 233-293; 124-137.  
Fred Halliday and M. Molyneux, The Ethiopian Revolution.

WEEK 14: Dec. 4-8      Collapse of Old Colonial Order in Horn and Central Africa

Assignment:    Afigbo, Modern Africa, II. pp. 199-232; 264-293.  
Stephanie Urdang, And Still They Dance, (all)  
John Ya-Otto, Battlefront Namibia. (all)

WEEK 15: Dec. 11-15    Continuing Struggles Against the Old Order: Southern Africa

Assignment:    Afigbo, Modern Africa, II. pp. 80-105; 313-364.  
Esposito, Islam, pp. 102-202.

FINAL TWO HOUR EXAMINATION    DECEMBER 23, 1989.