

University of Wisconsin-Madison
 Department of History
 Spring 2009

Florence Bernault
 4131 Humanities
 263-5424
 O. H.: Tues. 3:45-5:15 pm
 and by appointment

Lacy Ferrell
 4268 Humanities
 263-1867
 O.H.: Tues. 1:00-2:00 pm

378--History of Africa since 1870

TR 2:30-3:45 am
1101 Humanities
Hist.378 at Learn@UW



Luanda, Angola

This course is an introductory survey to the history of Africa south of the Sahara from the eve of the European colonization to decolonization. Given the vast geographical breadth of the African continent, the diversity of its people and the divergent trajectories of colonial rule, we will not attempt to give a comprehensive overview of Africa between 1870 and the present. Instead, we will consider a variety of perspectives and case-studies to highlight the diversity of Africa at the end of the nineteenth century, and major historical processes at work in the twentieth century.

The course will primarily foreground African actors and the strategies of African individuals, households, and communities. In so doing, we will move beyond notions of the monolithic and all-powerful colonial and postcolonial state, and the nameless, faceless victimized African masses. This is not to discount the oppressive and exploitive measures employed by the colonial state, nor the constraints of violence and poverty in present-day Africa. Rather, it is to emphasize how Africans actively participated in inventing their own history.

Course Requirements and Grading: (1) Participation in discussion sections, including participation in and presentation of one food group (30%), (2) a map quiz (not graded), (3) a 3-page (double spaced) essay on the movie by Henry Louis Gates, *Slaving Kingdoms* (10%), a 3-page (double spaced) on the novel by Tsitsi Dangaremba, *Nervous Condition* (10%), and a 1 to 2-page (double spaced) response paper on Ngugi Wa Thiongo, *Grain of Wheat* (part of discussion section's grade) (4) one take-home paper (5-page, double spaced) due in class on 03/03. The topic for the paper will be handed out in class ahead of time and will address course contents from weeks 1-6 (30% total), (5) a final exam on course contents and material discussed in weeks 8-16 (20%). (6) Extra credit can be earned by writing an essay one of the other movies presented in class.

Graduate students should consult with instructor for special requirements.

Readings: Lectures and discussion sections will presume knowledge of the readings. They should be completed before the class for which they are assigned. Readings marked with [for background] are recommended but not required. All readings are available in the course packet, and at Helen C. White. The reading packet is on sale at the Copy Center, 1650 Humanities building, and on reserve at Helen C. White. The following books are also available at the University Book Store:

E. Gilbert & J. T. Reynolds,	<u><i>Africa in World History</i></u> (2008) [AIWH]
Tsitsi Dangaremba,	<u><i>Nervous Conditions</i></u> (1989)
Ngugi Wa Thiongo,	<u><i>A Grain of Wheat</i></u> (1967)



The Battle of Adowa (1896), Ethiopian Representation

Unit I: Africa at the end of the 19th century

Week 1. Introduction (I)

AIWH, xvii-xx, 4-36, photo essay I (between 120-121), and 162-74 on Atlantic Trade [recommended for background: 37-62]

01/20 Introduction & Locating Africa in time and space

01/22 East Africa at the end of the 19th century

Week 2. : Slaves, Kingship, and Trade

AIWH, 223-43, & 214-222 [for background: 183-200]
 Reading packet: Marcia Wright, Mama Meli
 Martin Klein, Slavery in French West Africa

01/27 Slavery [East Africa and West Africa]

01/29 **Movie: Henry L. Gates Jr., Wonders of the African World—*The Slaving Kingdoms***

Week 3. A Revolutionary Century: Southern Africa

*** HAND IN MAP QUIZ in Discussion Section, 02/02***

AIWH, 245-64 & 304-6 on the mining industry
 Reading packet: Patrick Harries, Work, Culture and Identity

02/03

02/05

Week 4. Conquest and Resistance

***HAND-IN 3-PAGE PAPER ON GATES' SLAVING KINGDOMS in Discussion Section
 02/09***

AIWH, 197-200 & 265-86

02/10

02/12

Unit II: Africa Under Colonial Rule



Kuba Dancers and Governor's Wife (Belgian Congo, 1920)

Week 5. Ruling: the New Political and Racial Order

AIWH, 316-31
 Reading packet: Lord Lugard, Indirect Rule & John Iliffe, The Creation of Tribes

02/17

02/19

Week 6. South Africa to 1948

AIWH, 331-34 & 374-78. Also read document on 1913 Land Act: 336-8

- 02/24 Industrial South Africa until 1948
02/26 No Class—work on paper

Week 7. Work on paper & novel

- 03/03 ***5-PAGE PAPER DUE in class***
Movie: Djibril Diop Mambety *La petite vendeuse de soleil* (Senegal)
03/05 No Class—start reading *Nervous Conditions* and work on essay

Week 8. Environment: Physical and Social

AIWH, 287-306
Reading packet: Gregory Maddox, Mtunya

- 03/10 Labor and Social Disruptions
03/12 Environmental Degradation

Week 09. Spring break –No class**Week 10. Gender Conflicts**

AIWH, 307-08
Tsitsi Dangaremba, *Nervous Conditions*, all book

- 03/24 Double Patriarchy
03/26 Women's Initiatives

Week 11. Christianity and Islam

*** 3-PAGE PAPER ON NERVOUS CONDITIONS DUE in Discussion Section 03/30***

AIWH, 59-60 & 344-51 [read also 82-106 & 113-6 for background]

- 03/31
04/02

Week 12. Struggles For the City

AIWH, 306-7 & 309-10. Also 335-41 on elites and anti-colonialism
Reading packet: Emmanuel Akyeampong, *Wo pe tam*

- 04/07 Colonial Urbanism
04/09 African Towns

Unit III: Independence and Beyond



De Klerk and Mandela, 1994

Week 13. Independence and Beyond

AIWH, re-read 334-41 [363-93 recommended for background]
Ngugi wa Thiongo: Grain of Wheat, all book

04/14 Mau Mau and Kenyan Independence
04/16

Week 14. The Mid-1990s: the Rwandan Crisis & The End of Apartheid in South Africa

AIWH, 394-411
Reading packet: David Newbury, Understanding Genocide

04/21 From Apartheid to the New South Africa
04/23 The Rwandan Genocide (1994)

Week 15. HIV-AIDS

AIWH, 413-19
Reading packet: Caroline Bledsoe, The Politics of AIDS

04/28
04/30

Week 16. Conclusions

AIWH, 309-15, 351-62 on culture, 411-413, and photo essay II (between pp. 312-313)
Reading packet: Paul Johnson, "Colonialism's Back"

05/05 Structural Adjustment Programs: Documentary: *Tee Shirt Travels*
05/07

*****FINAL EXAM:** May 14, 2009 – 10:05 am to 12:05 pm -- Location TBA***



Ousman Sow (Senegal): West African Fighters, 2002

Course Regulations

- Attendance is mandatory. Three and more unexcused absences will result in a lower grade.
 - No make-ups for being absent, late, or late in turning assignments. Missed exams will only be excused with doctors notes or other formal documents.
 - Late research papers will be marked down a grade (e.g.: from a “B” to a “C”) for each school day missed, and will not be accepted after three school days after the due date (thus marked “F”). Papers put under instructors’ office door will not be graded. Papers turned late can be put in instructors’ mailbox ONLY if signed, dated and timed by administrator at History Department front desk.
 - The length of research papers is mandatory. Any paper more than ½ page shorter or longer than the assigned number of pages will be marked down. Characters should be no larger than 12, and the margins no wider than 1” (top and bottom), and 1.2” (left and right).
 - Written assignments are individual. No collaborative work allowed. If you are unsure about what is considered plagiarism, check with instructors.
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