

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
Department of History
Semester I, 1976-77

History 573 --- MASS MOVEMENTS AND SOCIAL CHANGE IN ISLAMIC AFRICA - Mr. Brown

AIMS

The main aim of this course is to identify sources of renewal and reform in Muslim Africa. Therefore, it is designed as a comparative examination of a recurrent aspect of history: the rise and fall of Muslim mass movements and their lasting impact on society. We will examine a number of such movements rather intensively, with the intention of developing concepts which are of use for the understanding of social change in Islamic Africa. At the same time, we will try to set the data in the wider perspective of African and world history.

FORMAT

This section of History 573 is organized as a conference course or proseminar. Most of the sessions will be devoted to discussion of reading assignments or papers. The first several sessions will be set aside for getting into the literature, outlining the issues, and examining model cases. In subsequent sessions, students will present brief essays for critical evaluation. There are no examinations in the course. Grades will be based on the papers and the student's contribution to the work of the course.

ESSAYS

Each student is expected to prepare one or two short essays on one or more mass movements (number of essays to be determined at the first meeting) during the semester. The papers are meant to be brief, to stimulate discussion, and to raise fundamental questions about mass movements in Islamic and world history. These essays, about 3,000 words in length, can be based on secondary authorities wherever necessary. They should be analytical, concentrating narrowly and rigorously on the

topic as defined. Class members presenting essays in any week are entitled to assign about fifty pages of reading to the class. This reading should be of a background nature designed to provide essential background information for the other class members.

The essays must be duplicated and distributed in advance of the meeting at which they are to be discussed. The papers are distributed by putting them in Mr. Brown's mail box on the fifth floor of the Humanities Building, where they can be picked up by other class members by 4:00 P.M. on the day before the class meeting at which the essay is to be discussed.

In order to achieve an element of comparability between the essays, each one should attempt to answer these questions (among others):

- a) What was the socio-political structure of the state or society?
- b) What were the ideological and class origins of the movement?
- c) What were the economic base and the body of methods employed by the movement?
- d) Was the movement related to other forms of protest or discontent that may have preceded or followed it?
- e) What were the end results--the lasting achievements and significant failures of the movement? How are these results to be explained?

TOPICS

A few characteristic movements are suggested below; however, the list is neither exclusive nor exhaustive. Because of the uneven quality and quantity of the literature, members are urged to consult with the instructor on topic proposals at an early date.

Muridiyya (Senegal)	Tijaniyya (North and West Africa)
Sanusiyya (Libya)	Ikhwan al-Muslimun (Egypt)
Ahmadiyya (Ghana)	Hasaniyya (Somalia)
Salafiyya (Morocco)	Mahdiyya (Sudan)
Alaliyya (Morocco)	Qadiriyya-Fudiyya (Nigeria)
Rif Republic (Morocco)	Qadiriyya-Bakkaiyya (Mali)

READING

At the first several sessions we will discuss material contained in these texts:

R. A. Nicholson, The Mystics of Islam

J. S. Trimingham, Sufi Orders in Islam

M. J. Hiskett, The Sword of Truth

Copies are available for purchase in the University Bookstore.