

THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN  
Department of History

Semester II Year 1979

<u>COURSE NO.</u>	<u>COURSE TITLE</u>	<u>INSTRUCTOR</u>
573 - 001	Women's Riots in Colonial Africa Section of Undergraduate Studies in the History of Africa Asia or Latin America	Mr. Steven Feierman

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The purpose of this course is to teach students how historians create history--especially the history of women and the family in the Third World. No background in African history is necessary.

The entire course focuses on a single event: a series of riots in southeastern Nigeria in 1929, in which women attacked British colonial offices, tore up railroad tracks, destroyed telegraph wires, and beat up local chiefs. The event has been chosen for three reasons. First, because of its intrinsic interest. Second, because a wealth of primary materials is available at Memorial Library, including records of testimony by many of the women who took part, household budgets listing income and expenditures for men and women, descriptions of informal women's organizations, and much more. Third, a study of the women's riots draws us into broader questions about the evolution of the family and of the local economy under colonialism, and also about the role of women in social and political movements around the world.

The class, which will be limited in size, will meet once a week. Each week students will be given a set of documents to read, and to interpret themselves, without any guidance from the works of historians or lectures by the instructor. As the semester progresses the members of the class will create their own interpretations of what happened, why it happened, and how it fits into the history of the region. Students will read accounts by historians late in the semester, only once the students' own positions have become clear. At two points during the semester students will write papers on questions which will either be set by the instructor, or decided on through class suggestions and discussion.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS and EXAMINATIONS

GRADING SYSTEM

REQUIRED READINGS