

THE EMERGENCE OF AFRICAN CAPITALISM

Aim:

The African History Undergraduate seminar examines the evaluation of capitalism in Africa over the past two centuries. Through theoretical writings, case studies, and literary works we attempt to grasp aspect of this phenomenon - clearly the most crucial single development in recent African history. We will be concerned with the transformation of merchants, the formation of a semi-proletariat the evolution of subsistence farmers, and the rise of a petite and moyenne bourgeoisie. We will also consider Africa's developing role in the international division of labor. We will conclude by reflecting on the current Great Depression on the continent.

Format:

The seminar meets weekly for two-hour sessions. Roughly the first third of the semester will be devoted to case studies of the rise of capitalism under colonialism in various countries; then we will develop a profile of the broad characteristics of African Capitalism and consider some of the interpretive studies by theorists; finally, we will write short essays on selected topics and turn to readings of contemporary works on the impact of capitalism on African society.

Grades:

There will be no examinations. All necessary grades will be based upon classroom participation and projects:

- Presentation and discussion of case studies - 40%
- Reading and discussion of interpretations - 30%
- Short essays and novels - 30%

Attendance at all class sessions is required to earn credit for the course. Any absence must be excused by the instructor.

Interviews:

The instructor will interview perspective candidates for this seminar in 5108 Humanities between 4-5 pm.m on Tuesdays and Thursdays.