

University of Wisconsin-Madison  
 Department of History  
 FALL 2010

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 263-5424  
 O. H.:Wed. 5:15-6:15 pm  
 and by appt.

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**378--History of Africa since 1870**  
**WF 4:00pm-5:15 pm**  
**1651 Humanities**

Welcome to History 378. This course is an introductory survey to the history of Africa south of the Sahara from the eve of the European colonization to the present. Because there is so much to learn about Africa and Africans during this period, we cannot strive for exhaustive coverage. Instead, we will consider a variety of perspectives and case-studies to highlight the major changes people experienced and confronted. Though we will visit nearly every major historical region within these case studies, some will receive particular attention in an effort to balance breadth of historical knowledge with depth. Ending the course in the present time will allow us to discuss some of the major challenges and hopes Africans face today.

The first part of the course (Unit I) focuses on African societies at the end of the nineteenth century after the abolition of the slave trade and until the beginning of European conquest. This will provide you with unique insights on Africa's rich history prior to the European conquest. However, it will be a challenging part of the course, as you will need to study unfamiliar and abounding information. Unit II will discuss the conquest and the colonial era, and examine how Africans confronted colonialism. In doing so, we will try to complicate the 'colonial encounter' beyond a mere dichotomic clash between oppressors and victims. Unit III will complete the course by examining independence from colonialism, and the challenges Africans faced in struggling for decolonization (not quite the same thing as formal independence), and in engaging new challenges. In doing so, we will ask to what extent long-term historical dynamics can determine the present.

**Readings:**

Course readings should be completed before the lecture for which they are assigned and knowledge of them will be assumed. The following books are available at the University Book Store, and available on reserve at the College Library. The first is recommended, the three others are required.

E. Gilbert & J. T. Reynolds, *Africa in World History* (2008) [AIWH]  
 Adu Boahen *African Perspectives on Colonialism* (1987)  
 Mariama Ba, *So Long a Letter* (1981)  
 Stephanie Nolsen, *28: Stories of AIDS in Africa* (2007)

I have also collected a set of readings that are available for purchase at the Humanities Copy Center. Two hard copies will also be on reserve at the College library (Helen C. White).

**Grading:**

- (1) Attendance and Participation in discussion sections: 20%
- (2) Take-Home Paper 1: 20%
- (3) Mid-term: 20%
- (4) Take-Home Paper 2 (this paper will engage with issues of gender discussed in Unit II and III): 20%
- (5) Final: 20%

Graduate students should consult with Prof. Bernault for specific requirements.  
Students with disabilities should consult Johanna Lanner-Cusin and Prof. Bernault early in the semester so we can better ensure an equal opportunity for success for all students.

## \*\*\*\*\*SCHEDULE OF CLASS MEETINGS\*\*\*\*\*

**Unit I: Africa at the End of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century****Week 1**

Readings: [AIWH, xvii-xx & photo essay I- between 120-121, and 15-36]  
If you do not purchase AIWH, get familiarized with the geography of Africa  
R. Law, “De Souza’s Ouidah”

09/03 Introduction

**Week 2: West Africa at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century**

Readings: [AIWH, 190-200, 214-220]  
I. Sulaiman, “The Theory of Government”

09/08 Coastal Bourgeoisies

09/10 Jihads and Modern Stateship—The Sokoto Caliphate

Music: Cesaria Evora, Salif Keita

**Week 3: The Congo Basin and the Great Lakes**

Readings: H. Hanson, “Kabaka’s Struggles to Hold the Center”

09/15 Congo Basin: Stateless Societies

09/17 Great Lakes: Kings, Cattle, Bananas and Caravans

Music: Efe Pygmies, Kelele

**Week 4: East and South Africa**

Readings: [AIWH 244-264]  
A. Boahen: *African Perspective on Colonialism* [hereinafter APC], 1-26  
J. Peires, “The Central Beliefs of the Great Xhosa Killing”

09/22 East Africa: Slaves and Plantations \*\*\***PAPER 1 DUE**\*\*\*  
 09/24 South Africa: European Expansion

Music: Mahmoud Ahmed, Tandiswa Mazwai

## Unit II: The Colonial Era

### Week 5: The Colonial Conquest

Readings: [AIWH, 265-286]  
 A. Boahen, APC, 27-57  
 J. Iliffe, "The Creation of Tribes"

09/29 Conquest and Resistance  
 10/01 Racial and Ethnic Order

Music: Kandia Kouaté, Amadou and Mariam

### Week 6: Social Transformations

Readings: [AIWH, 316-334 + Land Act, 336-338 ]  
 P. Harries, "Kimberley"

10/06 Labor and Environmental Degradation  
 10/08 Intimate Colonialisms

Music: Vusi Mahlasela, Lady Jay Dee

### Week 7: Mid-Term

Readings: Start *So Long a Letter* (Mariama Ba)

10/13 No Class (work on mid-term)  
 10/15 **MID-TERM** (in class)

### Week 8: Spiritual Battlegrounds: Christianity and Islam

Readings: [AIWH, 57-60 & 344-351]  
 Mariama Ba *So Long a Letter*

10/20 African Christianity  
 10/22 Islam: French and British West Africa

Music: Meaway, Youssou N'Dour

### Week 9: Gender Conflicts

Readings: [AIWH, 306-308]  
 E. Schmidt, "Patriarchy, Capitalism"

10/27 Women and Colonialism

10/29 Gender Wars

Music: Franco, Lady Jay Dee

### Unit III: Independence and Beyond

#### Week 10: Struggles for Independence

Readings: [AIWH, 335-341, 363-370, & 382-383]  
A. Boahen, APC, 58-93  
L. Thomas, "The Modern Girl"

11/03 Urban Cultures

11/05 Negritude and Pan-Africanism

Music: Koffi Olomide, Awilo Longomba

#### Week 11: Independence I

Readings: [AIWH 370-373]  
D. Peterson, "Writing in Revolution"

11/10 Mau Mau (movie) \*\*\*PAPER 2 DUE \*\*\*

11/12 Kenyan Independence

Music: Holland and Kenya's Red Nose District

#### Week 12: Independence II

Readings: [AIWH, 365-370]  
E. Akyeampong, "What's in a Drink?," and "Alcohol, Popular Culture"  
K. Nkrumah, "Return to the Gold Coast"

11/17 Ghana

11/19 No Class: African Studies Association Annual Meeting

Music: Fela Kuti

#### Week 13: Independence III

Readings: [AIWH, 380-382, 391-393]  
A. Boahen, APC, 94-112  
E. Akyeampong, "A Living Death"

11/24 A Dream Differed?

11/26 Thanksgiving: no class!

Music: Magic System

#### Week 14: HIV-AIDS

Readings: [AIWH, 413-416]

S. Nolen, 28: *Stories of AIDS in Africa*

12/01 HIV-AIDS: The Epidemic

12/03 HIV-AIDS: Responses

Music: Bonga, Vuyo Mokoena,

### **Week 15: South Africa**

Readings: [AIWH 374-380, & 396-398]  
N. Mandela, Long Walk To Freedom

12/08 Segregation Era and Apartheid

12/10 From Apartheid to the New South Africa

Music: Thomas Mapfumo, Miriam Makeba

### **Week 16: Conclusion**

No readings [the movie *Tee Shirt Travel* will be shown at a convenient time]

12/15 Debt and Development

Music: Abd El Malik

\*\*\*FINAL EXAM: Saturday 12/18/2010, 10:05 am-12:05 pm\*\*\*