History 271: African History since 1800

M/W/F 9:30am Denny 311

Professor	Office	Email	Office Hours
Jeremy Ball, Ph.D.	Denny 019	ballj@dickinson.edu	Thursday 1-4pm

Course Overview

In this course we will study the political, social, economic and ecological forces that have shaped African societies since 1800. Europe's colonization of Africa and Africans' responses will be a major focus of the course. Specifically, the course will deal with the following issues:

- The Atlantic Slave Trade
- African societies before the European partition and conquest of Africa
- European justifications for colonizing Africa
- African responses to conquest
- The nature of the colonial state
- The psychological aspects of African Westernization under colonialism
- African nationalism
- The Rwandan Genocide

Course Readings:

This course will have weekly discussion sections involving the close reading of a variety of primary sources, historical accounts, and novels. Electronic Reserve readings are organized by week, and must be printed and brought to class.

<u>Required Books</u>

Chinua Achebe, *Things Fall Apart*. London: Heinemann, 1987.

Olaudah Equiano, *The Life of Olaudah Equiano, or Gustavus Vassa the Africa*. Edited by Paul Edwards. Longman, 1988.

Adam Hochschild, *King Leopold's Ghost: A Story of Greed, Terror, and Heroism in Colonial Africa*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1998.

Immaculée Ilibagiza, *Left to Tell: Discovering God amidst the Rwandan Holocaust*. Carlsbad: Hay House, 2006.

D. T. Niane, *Sundiata An Epic of Old Mali*.

Kevin Shillington, *History of Africa*. Revised 2nd Edition. New York: MacMillan, 2005.

<u>Recommended</u>

Frantz Fanon, *The Wretched of the Earth*. Any edition.

<u>On Reserve</u>

The Cambridge History of Africa. Volumes VI-VIII. Edited by J. D. Fage and Roland Oliver. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1975-1986.

Film and Multimedia
Blooms of Banjeli
Amandla!
Living Memory Six Sketches of Mali Today [15 minute profile of great mosque at Jenne]
Secrets of the Dead: Day of the Zulu
African Underground: Democracy in Dakar
A couple of the best websites about Africa include:
• The Stanford University African Studies Center:
www-sul.stanford.edu/depts/ssrg/africa/guide.html
• The African Studies Center at the University of Pennsylvania:
www.africa.upenn.edu/
• The Dickinson College Africana Resource Guide:
http://lis.dickinson.edu/Library/Research/Subject%20Guides/Africana%20Studies/
• Africa Facts
http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/interactive/2008/sep/03/interactive.map.africa

Grading
All graded work received on time will be returned as promptly as possible. Late work will receive a reduced grade (1/3 of a letter grade a day) unless you make arrangements with me well in advance. Any student who receives a "C" or below on an essay is required to do a re-write. For information about how to cite sources using *The Chicago Manual of Style* format consult Diana Hacker, *A Writer's Reference*, or library.dickinson.edu/courses/frseminars/bombaro/johnstonwelty.htm.

Essay #1 (Due Friday March 6). 6-8 pages. 20% of course grade. Your paper must cite a minimum of one primary source. Choose one of the following:

a. How has the spread of Islam impacted a particular African region or political entity?
b. Explain the goals and assess the accomplishments of the pan-Africanist movement prior to the Second World War.

Essay #2 (Due Friday May 1) 8-10 pages. 25% of course grade. Choose one of the following:

a. How has the HIV-AIDS pandemic impacted a particular African region or country? Explain the causes and response to the pandemic.
b. Explain the goals and methods of a nationalist movement in one African country.

Mid-Term Exam (10%), Friday 20 March
Final Exam (20%), Tuesday 5 May

Weekly Questions/Quizzes/Discussion/Debate (15%): Lectures will be informal and interactive, requiring active engagement on the part of students. On Fridays you will either submit responses to weekly questions or write a quiz. Good participation means participating in class discussions and asking questions of texts and lectures.

Book Review. 10% of course grade. Choose one. [Guidelines will be distributed.]

a. Hochschild Book Review. *Due in class Monday 2 March*.
b. Ilibagiza Book Review. *Due in class Friday 24 April*.

Accommodations for Disabilities

In compliance with the Dickinson College policy and equal access laws, I am available to discuss appropriate accommodations than may be recommended for students with disabilities. Requests for academic accommodations are to be made during the first three weeks of the semester (except for unusual circumstances) so that appropriate arrangements can be made. Students are required to register with Academic Resource Services in the Advising Office on the first floor of Biddle House (contact ext. 1080 or waybranj@dickinson.edu) to verify their eligibility for appropriate accommodations.

Academic Honesty

Students are expected to do their own work. Work submitted in fulfillment of academic assignments and provided on examinations is expected to be original, by the student submitting it, and for the course. Collaboration must be noted in writing and requires the consent of the professor. Normally, a paper may be submitted in fulfillment of an assignment in only one course. Exceptions require permission from the instructors. Violations of the standards include cheating and plagiarism. Academic dishonesty may result in an "F" in the course or other additional disciplinary actions. For clarification and details of the official College statement on cheating and plagiarism, please see the Dickinson Writing Program's website:
www.dickinson.edu/departments/writing/plagiarism.html

Course Schedule

WEEK 1: Africa circa 1800

Jan. 19: People, Ecology, and Food
Introduction

Jan. 21: Iron Production & Cosmology
B. Wainaina, "How to write about Africa," *Granta*, 92, 2006.
http://www.granta.com/Magazine/92/How-to-Write-About-Africa/1
•Kevin Shillington, *History of Africa*, pp. 35-60.
Film: *Blooms of Banjeli*

Jan. 23: Islam and the Sudanic states of west Africa
• *National Geographic Magazine* website – look up the 2005 issue that featured Africa, and browse the representations of the environment. Come ready to talk about what you see. http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/ngm/0509/feature1/zoomify/
•Kevin Shillington, *History of Africa*, pp. 88-105.
Map Quiz

WEEK 2: The *Epic of Sundiata* and West African states and societies to the eighteenth century
Jan. 26
•D. T. Niane, *Sundiata An Epic of Old Mali*.
Map Quiz (make-up)

Jan. 28: States of West Africa
•Kevin Shillington, *History of Africa*, pp. 179-194.

Jan. 30: The Atlantic Slave Trade
•Kevin Shillington, *History of Africa*, pp. 169-178.
•Olaudah Equiano, *The Life of Olaudah Equiano, or Gustavus Vassa the African*, Chpts. 1-2.
•View revolt scene from the film *Amistad*.
Weekly Quiz

WEEK 3: Abolition in the West, and trade in the East
Feb. 2
•Olaudah Equiano, *The Life of Olaudah Equiano, or Gustavus Vassa the Africa*, Chpts. 3-12.
Electronic Reserve:
•Herbert Klein, *The Atlantic Slave Trade*, Chpt. 8, pp. 183-206.

Feb. 4: West Africa
•Kevin Shillington, *History of Africa*, pp. 224-239.

Feb. 6: East Africa
•Kevin Shillington, *History of Africa*, pp. 240-255.
Weekly questions due in class.

WEEK 4: The Zulu, Afrikaners, British, and Xhosa in Southern Africa
Feb. 9
• Lecture: "Trade, states, and colonization in southern Africa"
Electronic Reserve
•Julia C. Wells, "Eva's Men: Gender and Power in the Establishment of the Cape of Good Hope, 1652-74," *Journal of African History*, 39 (1998), pp. 417-437.

Feb. 11: Zulu Culture
• Lecture: "Zulu Culture & Assessing Primary Sources"
Electronic Reserve
•Nathaniel Isaacs, *Travels and Adventures in Eastern Africa Descriptive of the Zoolus, Their Manners, Customs*.
•Anna Steenkamp, "The Great Trek," first published in *Cape Monthly Magazine*, September 1876.

Feb. 13: The Xhosa
Sept. 22: Millenarian protest and the Xhosa cattle killing
Electronic Reserve
•"Christianity and Cattle Killing", in Worger, Clark, and Alpers, Eds., *Africa and the West*, pp. 152-155.
•J. B. Peires, "The Central Beliefs of the Xhosa Cattle-Killing," *Journal of African History*, 28 (1987), pp. 43-63.
Weekly Quiz

WEEK 5: Colonialism
Feb. 16
•Kevin Shillington, *History of Africa*, pp. 301-316.
Electronic Reserve:
•"The Berlin Conference," in Worger, Clark, and Alpers, Eds., *Africa and the West*, pp. 196-197.

Feb. 18: *Things Fall Apart* discussion.
•Chinua Achebe, *Things Fall Apart*.

Feb. 20: Zulu Resistance
Film: *Secrets of the Dead: Day of the Zulu*
Weekly questions due in class.

WEEK 6: Colonialism in Congo & Ethiopia
Feb. 23:
• Adam Hochschild, *King Leopold's Ghost*, Part I, pp. 1-100.

Feb. 25
Lecture "Italy's failed attempt to colonize Ethiopia"

Feb. 27
• Adam Hochschild, *King Leopold's Ghost*, Part I, pp. 101-181.
Weekly Quiz

WEEK 7: The Congo & Pan-Africanism
March 2
•Adam Hochschild, *King Leopold's Ghost*, Part. II, pp. 185-306.
Hochschild Book Review Due in class.

March 4: Pan-Africanism
Electronic Reserve:
•"W. E. B. Du Bois Describes an Atlantic World Bounded by Racial Exploitation", in Worger, Clark, and Alpers, Eds., *Africa and the West*, pp. 255-259.
•"An Appeal for the Equal Treatment of Africans and People of African Descent", in Worger, Clark, and Alpers, Eds., *Africa and the West*, pp. 259-260.

March 6
•Lecture: "The Consolidation of Colonial Rule"
Essay #1 Due by 5pm via email attachment.

WEEK 8
SPRING BREAK

WEEK 9: Industrialization in the south
March 16: Diamonds, Gold and Migrant Labor
•Kevin Shillington, *History of Africa*, pp. 317-331.
Electronic Reserve
•Luli Callinicos, "The Change To Wage Labor" in Callinicos, *Working Life 1886-1940*. Johannesburg: Ravan Press, 1987, pp. 11-36.

March 18: African rights and political mobilization
Electronic Reserve
• "The Natives Land Act, South Africa, 1913," in Worger, Clark, and Alpers, Eds., *Africa and the West*, pp. 250-253.
•"The ANC in South Africa" in Worger, Clark, and Alpers, Eds., *Africa and the West*, pp. 253-255.

March 20
Mid-Term Exam

WEEK 10: African Nationalism and Winning Independence
March 23
•Kevin Shillington, *History of Africa*, pp. 376-399.
Electronic Reserve
• "Freedom! Freedom! Freedom!" in Worger, Clark, and Alpers, Eds., *Africa and the West*, pp. 325-328.
• Kwameh Nkrumah, "I Speak of Freedom," in Worger, Clark, and Alpers, Eds., *Africa and the West*, pp. 344-347.
• "Patrice Lumumba on the Independence of the Congo, 1960"

March 25: African nationalism and the Cold War
Lecture: "Delayed Independence in southern Africa"
•Nelson Mandela, "A New Menace in Africa," March 1958,
www.anc.org.za/ancdocs/history/mandela/1950s/nm55-56.html#Meance
•African National Congress, "Manifesto of Umkonto we Sizwe"
www.anc.org.za/ancdocs/history/mk/manifesto-mk.html
Electronic Reserve
•"Verwoerd Reaffirms South Africa's Commitment to White Supremacy", Worger, Clark, and Alpers, Eds., *Africa and the West*, pp. 328-331.

March 27:
Lecture: "Saying 'Non' to neo-colonialism: The case of Guinea"
Electronic Reserve
• Elizabeth Schmidt, "Defiance and Retribution: The Referendum and Its Aftermath, 1958-60," in Schmidt, *Cold War and Decolonization in Guinea, 1946-1958*, pp. 157-179.
• Frantz Fanon, "Concerning Violence," in *The Wretched of the Earth*, pp. 35-106.

Weekly questions due in class.

WEEK 11: Cultural resistance to colonialism and neo-colonialism
March 30:
Lecture: "*Négritude* and Black Consciousness Philosophies"
Electronic Reserve
• Steve Biko, "White Racism and Black Consciousness," *in Student Perspectives of South Africa*, edited by H. Van Der Merwe and David Welsh, pp. 190-202.
• Frantz Fanon, "The Fact of Blackness" in *Black Skins White Masks*, pp. 109-140.

April 1
Electronic Reserve
• Julius Nyerere argues for African democracy, self-reliance, and socialism," in Worger, Clark, and Alpers, Eds., *Africa and the West*, pp. 347-355.
• James C. Scott, "Compulsory Villagization in Tanzania: Aesthetics and Miniaturization," in *Seeing Like a State*, pp. 223-261.

April 3:
Film: *Amandla!*
Weekly questions due in class.

Extra Credit: Professor Marcus Rediker Keynote for the Africana Studies Conference "Teaching the Atlantic Slave Trade, Saturday April 4, 10am, Weiss 235.
For a full schedule of events see:
http://www.dickinson.edu/departments/africana/events.html

WEEK 12: Assessing Colonialism
April 6
Electronic Reserve
•L.H. Gann and Peter Duignan, *Burden of Empire: An Appraisal of Western Colonialism in Africa South of the Sahara*, pp. 360-382.

April 8:
•Kevin Shillington, *History of Africa*, pp. 417-430.
Debate
Resolved: *On balance, colonialism left a positive legacy in Africa*.

April 10:
Open

WEEK 13: Rwanda
April 13
Electronic Reserve
•Alison Des Forges, "The Ideology of Genocide," *Issue: A Journal of Opinion*, Vol. XXIII/2, 1995, pp. 44-47.

April 15
Electronic Reserve
• Mahmood Mamdani, "The Origins of Hutu and Tutsi" and "The Racialization of the Hutu/Tutsi Difference under Colonialism," pp. 41-102.

April 17
• Immaculée Ilibagiza, *Left to Tell: Discovering God amidst the Rwandan Holocaust*, pp. 1-135.

WEEK 14
April 20
Lecture: "Justice in Rwanda: The ICR & *Gacaca* courts"
• Immaculée Ilibagiza, *Left to Tell: Discovering God amidst the Rwandan Holocaust*, pp. 139-213.

April 22
Electronic Reserve
• Zine Magubane, "Globalization and Gangster Rap: Hip Hop in the Post-Apartheid City," in *The Vinyl Ain't Final" Hip Hop and the Globalization of Black Culture*, pp. 208-229.
• Sidney J. Lemelle, "'Ni Wapi Tunakwenda': Hip Hop Culture and the Children of Arusha," in *The Vinyl Ain't Final" Hip Hop and the Globalization of Black Culture*, 230-254.

April 24: Cosmology
Electronic Reserve
• John S. Mbiti, "Specialists: Medicine-men, Rainmakers, Kings & Priests," in *African Religions & Philosophy*, pp. 166-193.
<u>Ilibagiza Book Review Due in class.</u>

WEEK 15: Cosmology & the Occult
April 27
Electronic Reserve
• Peter Geschiere, "Introduction: Witchcraft as Political Discourse," in *The Modernity of Witchcraft Politics and the Occult in Postcolonial Africa*, pp. 1-25.
• John S. Mbiti, "Mystical Power, Magic, Witchcraft and Sorcery," in *African Religions & Philosophy*, pp. 194-203.

April 29: African Hip Hop
Film: *Democracy in Dakar*

May 1: Conclusions & Final exam review.
Essay #2 Due by 5pm.

Final Exam: Tuesday 5 May, 9am, Denny 311