

Department of History, YORK UNIVERSITY
2009-2010
AS/HIST 2750 6.0A
African History From 1800 to the Present

Lectures: Monday 12:30 - 2:30, CLH M
Lecturer: Professor José C. Curto
Office (223 Founders) Hours: Mondays 10:00 - 11:00; Tuesdays 10:00 – 11:00

Tutorials	01	Monday	14:30-15:20, SC 220 (Nadine Hunt)
	02	Monday	14:30-15:20, CC 318 (Caroline Butt)
	03	Monday	15:30-16:20, MC 109 (Nadine Hunt)
	04	Monday	16:30-17:20, MC 215 (Caroline Butt)

This year-long course deals with the history of the entire African continent from earliest times the present. The course concentrates on the abolition of the slave trade and slavery, the development of legitimate commerce, precolonial production, the partition of Africa, the entrenchment of colonial rule, African reactions to European imperialism, the political economy of colonialism, the rise of nationalism, socio-economic change during the colonial period, the decolonization of the continent, and the post-independence search for new socio-economic and political structures.

The course is equally divided into lectures and tutorials. The lectures will present students with overviews of the major economic, social and political changes that Africa has undergone since the beginning of the 19th century. The tutorials, on the other hand, will involve detailed discussions on specific topical problems in African History, including discussions of the videos presently during the lecture slots. NB: Lectures and tutorials are complementary: students will not benefit from lectures without attending tutorials and keeping up with the readings. Consequently, attendance at lectures and tutorials, which will make up a significant part of your final mark, is mandatory.

The work requirements for this course are as follows. **First**, there is no textbook as such. Instead, a number of electronic journal articles AND videos will be the basis for tutorial discussions. ALL of the electronic journal articles can be accessed through JSTOR.

Second, students will write two (2) book reviews from the titles listed below available at the York University Bookstore: one book review for FALL Semester and a second book review for WINTER Semester. The titles have been pre-selected so as to ensure uniformity. Book Reviews should be around 1000 words each, describe the main arguments made by the author(s), and conclude with a personal assessment of the major points advanced. More information on the Book Reviews is found at the end of this outline.

Third, students will write a research essay divided into two parts: a first draft (Fall Semester) of around 3000 words and a second, final draft (Winter Semester) of about 4000 words. The

objective here is, instead of writing two different essays, for students to reflect upon the initial draft graded (content, grammar, style, etc) by the tutorial leaders and later submit an improved final assignment. You are strongly advised to have your research essay topic approved by your tutorial leader no later than mid-October. All written work must conform to standard annotation and bibliographic forms. Written work containing excessive errors in grammar and/or spelling will be penalized in grading. **A minimum of 10 journal articles/book chapters AND 10 books is required** for the first draft of the research, with additional journal articles and books included in the final draft as required by your respective TAs. **NB: a copy of the graded first draft must be handed in along with the final version.**

There will be a final exam, the date for which will be announced in due course. This exam will have a number of essay and identifying questions. The precise format will be addressed in-class as we move closer to the end of the academic year.

BOOKS FOR REVIEW

Fall Semester

Kristin Mann, *Slavery and the Birth of an African City: Lagos, 1760-1900*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2007.

Winter Semester

Catherine Coquery-Vidrovitch, (Trans. Beth Raps) *African Women: A Modern History*
Boulder: Westview Press, 1997.

COURSE WORK:

DUE DATE

Book Review # 1	10%	Oct. 26, 2009
Essay 1st draft	20%	Dec. 07, 2009
Book Review # 2	10%	Feb. 08, 2010
Essay 2nd draft	20%	Mar. 29, 2010
Final Exam	20%	TBA
Participation	20%	

LECTURE-TUTORIAL SCHEDULE

(FALL): AFRICA TO THE NINETEENTH CENTURY

SEPT. 14 Introduction to the Course

Tutorial: Get acquainted with Teaching Assistants

Sept. 21 The Rise of Modern African History

VIDEO - *The Africans. The Nature of a Continent*

Tutorial – discussion *The Africans. The Nature of a Continent*

Sept. 28 Ancient Civilizations of Africa

VIDEO - *Africa: The King and the City*

Tutorial – discussion *Africa: The King and the City*

OCT. 05 Environmental and Demographic Changes

Tutorial - Required Reading:

Joseph C. Miller, “The significance of drought, disease and famine in the agriculturally marginal zones of west Central Africa,” *Journal of African History* 23 (1982): 17-61.

José C. Curto and Raymond R. Gervais, “The Population History of Luanda During the Late Atlantic Slave Trade, 1781-1844,” *African Economic History* 29 (2001): 1-59; “The Population History of Luanda During the Late Atlantic Slave Trade, 1781-1844: Addenda,” *African Economic History* 30 (2002): 155-162.

Oct. 12 NO LECTURE or Tutorials

Oct. 19 Political Mutations

VIDEO - *The West African Slave Trade*

Tutorial – discussion *The West African Slave Trade*

Oct. 26 Cultural Changes: Islam and Christianity

Book Review # 1 DUE

VIDEO - *Africa: The Bible and the Gun*

Tutorial – discussion *Africa: The Bible and the Gun*

**NOV. 02 Economic Transformations: Agriculture, Mining, Manufacturing,
Local/Regional Commerce and International Trade(s)**

Tutorial - Required Reading:

Stanley B. Alpern, “The European Introduction of Crops into West Africa in Precolonial Times,” *History in Africa* 19 (1992): 13-43.

Gwyn Campbell, “An Industrial Experiment in Pre-Colonial Africa: The Case of Imperial Madagascar, 1825-1861,” *Journal of Southern African Studies* 17 (1991): 525-559.

Nov. 09 Women in Society (I)

Tutorial - Required Reading:

John K. Thornton, "Legitimacy and Political Power: Queen Njinga, 1624-1663," *Journal of African History* 32 (1991): 25-40.

Judith E. Tucker, "Problems in the Historiography of Women in the Middle East: The Case of Nineteenth-Century Egypt," *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, 15 (1983): 321-336.

Nov. 16 Women in Society (II)

VIDEO - *Asante Market Women*

Tutorial – discussion *Asante Market Women*

Nov. 23 The New Imperialism & Partition

VIDEO - *Africa: This Magnificent African Cake*

Tutorial – discussion *Africa: This Magnificent African Cake*

Nov. 30 Resistance and Accommodation

Tutorial - Required Reading:

Allen Isaacman and Barbara Isaacman, "Resistance and Collaboration in Southern and Central Africa, c. 1850-1920," *International Journal of African Historical Studies* 10 (1977): 31-62.

George L. Simpson, "British Perspectives on Aulihan Somali Unrest in the East Africa Protectorate, 1915-18," *Northeast African Studies* 6 (1999) (New Series): 7-43.

DEC. 07: REVIEW Essay 1st draft DUE

WINTER TERM: AFRICA IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

JAN. 04 The Rise of Colonial States and Administrations

Tutorial - Required Reading:

Dmitri van den Bersselaar, "Missionary Knowledge and the State in Colonial Nigeria: On How G. T. Basden Became an Expert," *History in Africa* 33 (2006): 433-450

Aran S. MacKinnon, "Of Oxford Bags and Twirling Canes: The State, Popular Responses, and Zulu Antimalaria Assistants in the Early-Twentieth-Century Zululand Malaria Campaigns," *Radical History Review* 80 (2001): 76-100

Jan. 11 Creation and Consolidation of Colonial Economies

VIDEO - *Tools of Exploitation*

Tutorial – discussion *Tools of Exploitation*

Jan. 18 Colonial Agriculture & Industry
VIDEO - *New Conflicts*

Tutorial – discussion *New Conflicts*

Jan. 25 Social and Cultural Changes

Tutorial - Required Reading:

Odile Goerg, “Chieftainships between Past and Present: From City to Suburb and Back in Colonial Conakry, 1890s-1950s,” *Africa Today* 52 (2006): 3-27.

Cati Coe, “Educating an African Leadership: Achimota and the Teaching of African Culture in the Gold Coast,” *Africa Today* 49 (2002): 23-44.

FEB. 01 The Rise of African Nationalism
VIDEO - *The Rise of Nationalism*

Tutorial - discussion *The Rise of Nationalism*

Feb. 08 The Post-Colonial State Book Review # 2 DUE
VIDEO - *In Search of Stability*

Tutorial – discussion *In Search of Stability*

Feb. 15 NO LECTURE or TUTORIALS: READING WEEK

Feb. 22 Post-Independence Economies
Struggles for Democracy

Tutorial - Required Reading:

Peter Arthur, “The State, Private Sector Development, and Ghana's ‘Golden Age of Business’,” *African Studies Review* 49 (2006): 31-50.

Wa’Njogu J. Kiarie, “Language and Multiparty Democracy in a Multiethnic Kenya,” *Africa Today* 50 (2004): 55-73.

MAR. 01 South Africa: The Rise & Fall of Apartheid
VIDEO - *Spear of the Nation: The Story of the ANC*

Tutorial – discussion *Spear of the Nation: The Story of the ANC*

Mar. 08 Women in Development
Africa and the New World Order

Tutorial - Required Reading:

Dorothy Louise Hodgson, “Women's Rights as Human Rights: Women in Law and Development in Africa (WiLDAF),” *Africa Today* 49 (2002): 3-26.

Jo Manchester, “Hope, involvement and vision: reflections on positive women's activism around HIV,” *Transformation: Critical Perspectives on Southern Africa* 54 (2004): 85-103.

Mar. 15 **A Persistent Crisis?**
VIDEO - A Garden of Eden In Decay
Tutorial – discussion *A Garden of Eden In Decay*

Mar. 22 **Canada and Africa: An Overview**
Tutorial - Required Reading:
Peter J. Henshaw, “Zimbabwe and Canada: Historical Struggle Meets Historical Vacuum,” *Canadian Journal of African Studies* (2007) 41: 507-526.

Mar. 29 **REVIEW** Essay 2nd draft DUE

AS/HIST 2750, African History: Guidelines for Book Reviews

- 1) Intent: What are the major objectives (themes/arguments/ideas) of the book?
- 2) Sources: What are the sources used: primary and/or secondary, written and/or other?
- 3) Methodology: a) How do the sources used impact the major themes, arguments, ideas advanced?;
b) What techniques (quantitative history, oral history, etc.) does the author use to bring out the most of the sources; c) Was this the most appropriate method?
- 4) Effectiveness: Does the author get his/her themes, arguments, and ideas across successively?
- 5) Your Informed/Educated Opinion: Why is your response to this book (ie., the author's themes, arguments, and ideas) positive OR negative?

On top of these guidelines, you are also strongly encouraged to read a few professional book reviews in leading periodicals of the field: *Journal of African History*, *Cahiers d'Études Africaines*, *International Journal of African Historical Studies*, *African Economic History*, *Canadian Journal of African Studies*, and/or *Journal of Modern African Studies*.

Important dates and deadlines

It is YOUR responsibility to be aware of all of the important drop dates and University deadlines, as well as the dates for the submission of course work listed in this outline.

Statement on Plagiarism

Academic Honesty: Violations of the York Senate Policy on Academic Honesty will be treated severely. Recent penalties have included failure in the course, suspension from the University, and withholding or rescinding a York degree, diploma, or certificate. Cheating during in-class or take-home examinations, collaborating on written assignments, failing to use quotation marks and citations when using or paraphrasing the printed or electronically-transmitted work of others, submitting work purchased from or written by someone else, reproducing work submitted in another course, aiding or abetting academic misconduct, and violating any other part of the Policy on Academic Honesty will result in penalties. For further information, see:

<http://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/legislation/senate/acadhone.htm>