

**HIST 2JJ3
AFRICA SINCE 1900**

Department of History, McMaster University
Fall 2009



Instructor:	Dr. B. Ibhawoh	Class Time:	Tue. 3:30-5:20
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Course Overview

This course explores the history of Africa from the period of European colonial incursion at the beginning of the twentieth century to the present. We will investigate political and social developments as well as the mechanisms for economic change in the continent. The course addresses major themes such as the impact of colonial administrative policies and social changes on African societies. We will also examine the initiatives and responses of African peoples to colonial rule and the decolonization process. Key questions include: What changes did European colonialism bring about in Africa? How have the legacies of colonial rule shaped present day African societies? How have African states and societies grappled with contemporary nation building challenges such as political changes, economic development, conflicts and democratization? The course will also address key thematic questions concerning the nature of the African state -- the relevance of identities along ethnic, class, religious, and gender lines, and patterns of state-society engagement.

The objective of this course is to inculcate in students the values of critical, objective and balanced examination of facts relating to modern African history. The course is also intended to provide students with an understanding of African historiography and the ability to conduct independent research in history. Particular attention will be placed on understanding the sources and methods of African history and locating Africa history within the broader framework of world history. This course is based on a combination of lectures, seminar readings and discussions. It will also draw on literary works and films about Africa.

Required Texts

- Erik Gilbert and Jonathan Reynolds, *Africa and the World: From Prehistory to the Present* (2nd ed., Pearson, 2008).
- Ngugi wa Thiong'o, *Weep not, Child* (Heinemann)
- Courseware package
- For a list of recommended supplementary texts see p.5.

Internet Resources

- African History at McMaster - <http://www.humanities.mcmaster.ca/africanhistory/>
- African History Sourcebook - <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/africa/africasbook.html>
- Story of Africa - <http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/africa/features/storyofafrica/>

Course Requirements

Tutorial attendance and participation	20%
Class Test	20% - October 16
Essays	30% - Due November 6
Final Exam	30% - TBA

Course Policies

E-Learn@Mac

This course will use the McMaster Learning Management System E-Learn@Mac (ELM) to make announcements, post lecture outlines and tutorial comments, and facilitate the tracking of student grades. You must be officially enrolled in the course in order to access this website. For further instructions, see the E-Learn@Mac login page at <https://elm.mcmaster.ca>

Tutorial attendance and participation

Students are expected to do all assigned readings as examinations will cover all course materials. Tutorial group discussions offer a forum to examine topics and issues in greater detail than is possible during lectures. Discussion will focus on both the lecture readings and the tutorial readings assigned for each week. Each student will be required to lead at least one tutorial class and pose questions for the class to discuss. For each reading, you should determine the author's argument and the evidence presented to support that argument. Tutorial participation is a required part of the course. Marks will be given for attendance at tutorials, evidence of preparation and understanding of the material, clarity of thought and expression, frequency and quality of discussion/questions, and time management. It is strongly recommended that you come to class with written notes on the assigned readings. **Weight: 20%**

Mid-term Class Test

The test is designed to assess your understanding of the processes by which colonial rule was established in Africa and the changes brought about by colonial policies. Emphasis will be placed on how well students are able to provide specific examples and references in their answers.

Weight: 20%

Research Essays

Essays should address any of the topics listed below. They should be based on scholarly sources indicated in the references and bibliography. Endeavour to use both primary and secondary sources where possible. Primary sources provide first-hand testimony or direct evidence concerning a topic under investigation. They are created by witnesses or recorders who experienced the events being documented. They may include newspaper articles, autobiographies, memoirs, and oral histories recorded later. If you conduct oral interviews, your interview transcripts (no more than 5 pages) must be included in your essay.

Papers should be no more than 15 pages, typed originals in 12-point font, double-spaced. The student should keep a back up electronic and paper copy to guard against loss or computer malfunction. Assignments are to be handed to the instructor in class on the due date. Clearly indicate the name of your TA on the front page of your essay. Assignments by fax or e-mail are not acceptable. Assignments submitted after the due date will be reduced by 5 percent per day (including weekends). For a basic guide on how to write scholarly papers in history, I strongly recommend Rampolla, [A Pocket Guide to Writing History](#). Also see "How to Read a Historical Document" in the African History at McMaster Website.

<http://www.humanities.mcmaster.ca/africanhistory/>. **Weight: 20%**

Essay Topics:

1. An critical appraisal of Colonial administrative policies in Africa
2. An examination of nationalist movements for independence and decolonization in a particular African country or region.
3. An examination of processes of modern Nation building in Africa (e.g Economic Developments; Political Changes; Conflicts etc). Essays must focus on a particular country, region or event.

Final Exam:

Students will take a final exam at the end of the semester. This exam will consist of essay questions and will require students to think analytically about the course material and to integrate

information from readings, lectures, tutorials and classroom discussions. Students will be required to answer two questions out of three. **Weight 30%. TBA**

Changes and Modifications

The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check their McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.

E-mail Policy

It is the policy of the Faculty of Humanities that all email communication sent from students to instructors (including TAs), and from students to staff, must originate from the student's own McMaster University email account. This policy protects confidentiality and confirms the identity of the student. Instructors will delete emails that do not originate from a McMaster email account.

Academic Integrity:

Statement of Academic Integrity and Dishonesty:

McMaster University and the Department of History state unequivocally that it demands scholarly integrity from all its members. Academic dishonesty, in whatever form, is ultimately destructive of the values of higher learning; furthermore, it is unfair and discouraging to those students who pursue their studies honestly. Academic dishonesty consists of misrepresenting by deception or by other fraudulent means and can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: "Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty"), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university. It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various kinds of academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, specifically Appendix 3, located at: <http://www.mcmaster.ca/univsec/policy/AcademicIntegrity.pdf>

Course Schedule and Tutorial Readings

Week 1: (Sept. 15)

Introduction/ Historical Notions of Africa

No Tutorials this week

Week 2: (Sept. 22)

Africa at the Dawn of the Twentieth Century

- Adu Boahen, "The Eve of Colonial Conquest and Occupation" in *African Perspectives on Colonialism*

Tutorial: Introduction/ Historical Notions of Africa

- Gilbert and Reynolds, "Preface," pp. xvii-xx (This reading is central to our historiographical discussion)
- Larson, Pier M. Larson, "Myths about Africa"
- Kevin Shillington, "Prelude to Empire in Tropical Africa" in *History of Africa*.

Week 3: (Sept. 29)

Colonial Incursion and African Responses

- Gilbert and Reynolds, "Colonialism and African Resistance," pp. 265-286

Tutorial: The European Scramble for and Partition of Africa

- A. Adu Boahen, "European Partition and Conquest of Africa: An Overview," in *Africa under Colonial Domination*

- Kevin Shillington, "The European Scramble, Colonial Conquest and African Resistance in East, North Central and West Africa," in *History of Africa*

Week 4: (Oct. 6)

The Colonial Economy

- Gilbert and Reynolds, "Economic Change in Modern Africa: Forced Integration into the World System." pp. 287-315.

Tutorial: Colonial Incursion and African Responses

- A. Adu Boahen, "African Initiatives and Resistance in the face of Partition and Conquest," in *Africa under Colonial Domination*

Week 5: (Oct. 2)

Colonial Politics and Administrative Policies

Film Clip: *Tools of Exploitation (Examines the legacies of colonial rule in Africa)*

- Gilbert and Reynolds, "Political Change in the time of Colonialism" pp. 316-341.

Tutorial: *The Colonial Economy*

- Michael Crowder, "The Economic Impact of Colonial Rule in West Africa," in *Historical Problems of Imperial Africa*.
- David Birmingham, "Colonialism in Africa: Kinyama Experience," in *Portugal and Africa*.

Week 6: (Oct. 13)

Social and Cultural Transformations

Film Clip: *New Gods (Examines religion in Africa)*

- Gilbert and Reynolds, "African Culture in the Modern World" pp. 342-362.

Tutorial: *Colonial Administrative Policies*

- Shillington, "Africa between the Wars: The High Tide of Colonial Rule," in *History of Africa*.
- Martin D. Lewis, "One Hundred Million Frenchmen: The Assimilation Theory in French Colonial Policy," in *Historical Problems of Imperial Africa*.

[Primary Source]

- John Frederick Lugard, "Principles of Native Administration," in *Historical Problems of Imperial Africa*.

Week 7: (Oct. 20): Class Test – Tutorials: Test discussions

Week 8: (Oct. 27)

Nationalism, Pan-Africanism and Decolonization

Film Clip: *Film Clip: The Rise of Nationalism (on independence struggles in Africa)*.

- Gilbert and Reynolds, "Politics in the Era of Decolonization and Independence," pp. 363-393.

Tutorial: *Social and Cultural Transformations*

- Robert Collins and James Burns, "The Colonial Legacy" in *A History of Sub-Saharan Africa*.
- Walter Rodney, "Education for Underdevelopment," in *Historical Problems of Imperial Africa*.

Week 9: (Nov. 3)

Settler Societies and Apartheid in South Africa

- Patrick Furlong, "South Africa," in *Understanding Contemporary Africa*.

Tutorial: *Nationalism, Pan-Africanism and Decolonization*

- Ngugi wa Thiong'o, *Weep not, Child* (read entire novel)

[Primary Source]

- Kwame Nkrumah, "What Must be done," in *Readings in African Political Thought*.

- Ndabaningi Sithole, "African Nationalism after World War II" in *Readings in African Political Thought*.

Week 10: (Nov. 10)

The Challenges of Nation Building 1: Economic Development and Underdevelopment

- Bill Freud, "The Age of Structural Adjustment," in *The Making of Contemporary Africa*.

Tutorial: Apartheid in South Africa

- Bill Freud, "South Africa in Crisis," in *The Making of Contemporary Africa*

[Primary Sources]

- Nelson Mandela, "Black Man in a White Court," in *Readings in African Political Thought*.
- "Truth and Reconciliation Commission, Amnesty Hearing: The Testimony of Jefferey T. Benzein," in *When sorry isn't enough*.
- "Truth and Reconciliation Commission, Amnesty Hearing: Affidavit and Testimony of Bassie Mkhumbuzi," in *When sorry isn't enough*.

Week 11: (Nov. 17):

The Challenges of Nation-Building 2: Crises and Conflicts

- Robert Collins and James Burns, "Cold War Africa," in *A History of Sub-Saharan Africa*.

Tutorial: Nations Building: Economic Development and Underdevelopment

- Basil Davidson, "Wrestling with the Imported Model: Anger and Frustration," in *Africa in Modern History*.
 - Basil Davidson, "New Departures,: Towards an African Model," in *Africa in Modern History*
- [Primary Source]***
- Julius Nyerere, "Ujamaa: The Basis of African Socialism."

Week 12: (Nov. 24)

Africa in the Age of Globalization

Film Clip: Long Nights Journey into Day (About Post Apartheid Transition in South Africa)

- Gilbert and Reynolds, "Contemporary Africa," pp. 394-420

Tutorial: Nation Building: Challenges and Prospects

- Catharine Newbury, "Background to Genocide: Rwanda", *Issue*
- Alison Des Forges, "The Ideology of Genocide", *Issue*
- Robert Collins and James Burns, "Africa at the beginning of the Twenty-first Century," in *A History of Sub-Saharan Africa*.

Week 13: (Dec. 1)

Course Review

Recommended Supplementary Texts

- Achebe, Chinua. *Things Fall Apart*
- Boahen, Adu *African Perspectives on Colonialism*,
- Dallaire, Roméo. *Shake Hands with the Devil: The Failure of Humanity in Rwanda*
- Davidson, Basil. *Modern Africa: A Social and Political History*
- Freund, Bill. *The Making of Contemporary Africa*
- Gordon, April and Donald Gordon. *Understanding Contemporary Africa*
- Gourevitch, Philip. *We wish to inform you that tomorrow we will be killed with our families: Stories from Rwanda*
- Hochschild, Adam. *King Leopold's Ghost: A Story of Greed, Terror, and Heroism in Colonial Africa*
- Illife, John. *Africans: The History of a Continent*.
- Mandela, Nelson. *Long Walk to Freedom*

- Oliver, Roland & Anthony Atmore. *Africa since 1800*.
- Shillington, Kevin. *History of Africa*.

