

HISTORY 310/AFR310K: INTRODUCTION TO MODERN AFRICA

UTC 3.134

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Class Venue: 3.134

OBJECTIVES

This course introduces students to the modern history of Africa, beginning from the nineteenth century to the present. The course starts with an overview analysis of the great changes of the late nineteenth century, notably the partition of the continent. The twentieth century forms the major concern, divided into two phases: the colonial and post-colonial. In the first phase, the imposition of colonial rule, the changes of colonial rule, and decolonization are the three principal themes. The second phase examines a variety of issues dealing with independence, the management of modern states, and the international environment.

As most of these issues are new to students, books have been carefully selected, and the lectures are organized in such a way that the students may follow. At regular intervals, films and documentaries will be used as illustrations.

At the end of the course, students will

- i) be familiar with all the broad themes in the history of modern Africa;
- ii) understand the nature of academic production with an emphasis on a conference;
- iii) understand some issues in depth through an engagement with research monographs;
- iv) think creatively and critically;
- v) write well; and
- vi) think comparatively by being able to relate Africa to their experiences and other parts of the world.

BOOKS AND RESOURCES

Course Package (CP). **The CP contains the weekly reading list**

Gordon and Gordon, *Understanding Contemporary Africa*
Kwame Appiah, *In My Father's House: Africa in the Philosophy of Culture*
Peter Lewis, *Africa: Dilemmas of Development and Change*
Kwame Gyekye, *Tradition and Modernity*
F. Cooper, *Decolonization and African Society*

Distribution of Grades

*** The weight is distributed to ensure success for all students, balancing the various needs to participate, interact, engage, think critically, and write well. Not all students seek the A/B grades, but those meaning to are expected to do the maximum required. Grades to be adopted: A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, C-, etc.*

Detailed instructions for exams and projects are discussed in class.

1. Mid-term exam March 8	25%	
2. Book Review	20%	March 24
3. First Project (March 31-April 3) Submit April 7	20%	
3. Second Project Submit April 14	10%	
5. Final Examination May	25%	

Class rules

See Blackboard

COURSE OUTLINE

Note: This class is organized by big themes, and by weeks and short topics. Students who routinely miss classes will definitely lose the thread, trends, and the big picture.

Materials to be read are specified in the CP

PART A: COLONIALISM

January 18

Introduction to Africa: The Continent and External Influences

January 20

The European Powers in Africa

January 25

Davidson Video, The Magnificent African Cake VIDCASS 1663 V. 3
Discussion of the video

January January 27

The European Powers in Africa

February 1

The Colonial Impact: Politics

February 3

The Colonial Impact: Education and Culture

Knowledge Update: Students should be able to evaluate the impact of colonialism and identify the role of imperialism in the making of modern Africa.

PART B: NATIONALISM

February 8

Nationalism: Context and Significance

February 10

Davidson Video, Tools of Exploitation VIDCASS 1663 V. 34
Discussion of the video

February 15

Ethnic Nationalism

February 17

Guest Lecturer: Charles Thomas, “Secessionist Conflicts in Africa”.

PART C: MODERN ECONOMIES

February 22

Culture of Underdevelopment

February 24

Ideologies

March 1

Agriculture and food Production

March 3

Development Issues

Exam Review

Review Questions for mid-term exam. on March 8.

Questions will be drawn on colonialism, nationalism and modern economies

March 8

Mid-term examination

PART D: POLITICS

March 10

Military Regimes and the culture of political authoritarianism

March 22

Violence and Politics

PART E SOCIAL AND CULTURAL ISSUES

March 24

Kinship and Families

March 29:

Women and Modernization

March 31

Youth and Sport

April 5

Modernizing and Globalizing Cultures

April 7

Urbanization and Cities

April 9 Clashes of Modernities

April 12

Christianity

April 14

Guest Speaker: Segun Obasa: Sports in Modern Africa

PART G CONTEMPORARY POLITICS

April 19

Globalization

April 21

Africa In World Politics, 1

April 26

Africa in World Politics, 2.

April 28

Guelwaar Vidcass 9216.

May 3

Seminar: The Relevance of Africa to the United States
Exam review

May 5

Final Examination (to be based on Parts D, E, F, & G).

APPENDIX 1: BOOK REVIEW

Posted on Blackboard

APPENDIX 2: SAMPLE QUESTIONS

Posted on Blackboard

APPENDIX 3: PROJECT

Posted on Blackboard