

HISTORY 310/AFR310K: INTRODUCTION TO MODERN AFRICA

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Class Venue: UTC 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

- 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.

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| 1. Attendance | 10% |
| 2. First Book Review <i>Colonialism and Violence in Nigeria</i> February 21 | 15% (3-5 pp.) |
| 1. Mid-term exam, March 6 minimum) | 20% (6 pp.) |
| 3. Report (March 30-April 1) | 20% (3 pp. minimum) Submit April 3 |
| 3. Second Book Review April 17 | 15% (3 pp. minimum) |
| 5. Final Examination May 3 | 20% (6 pp. minimum) |

I will prepare an alternative week-by-week reading list based on the 5 books. Reviews and critical thinking will be based on Appiah's and Gyekye's.

Class rules

- i.) All assignments must be submitted on due dates. 5 points per day are deducted thereafter.
- ii.) Except on medical ground or permission from the Dean's office, there is no make-up examination.
- iii.) There is no option for additional credit.
- iv.) Failure to read the books, which will be detected in projects and examinations, will incur negative grading and treated as an evidence of cheating.
- v) Attendance is necessary to make sense of the lectures. It is expected that lectures and class discussions will be reflected in all projects. The Instructor will not use office hours to repeat class lectures but to clarify points. Also, the Instructor and the TA will not give lecture notes to those who miss classes. Class lectures will not be posted on BB.

COURSE OUTLINE

PART A: COLONIALISM AND THE FOUNDATION OF CONTEMPORARY MODERNITY

January 17

Introduction to Africa: The Continent And Its Environmental History

Reading: *Africa 3*, chapter 7 & *Africa 5*, chapter 2.

All reading assignments are mandatory (best to read them before class in order to seek clarifications)

Review Questions to be posted on Blackboard

January 19

Historical Perceptions of Africa

Reading: *The Power of African Cultures*, Introduction

January 24

The European Powers in Africa, 1

Reading: *Africa*, 3, Introduction, chapters 1 & 2.

January 26

The European Powers in Africa, 2

Reading: *Africa*, 3, chapter 13.

Review Questions to be posted on Blackboard

January 31

African Resistance to Imperialism

The Power of African Cultures, chapter 2

Review Questions to be posted on Blackboard

February 2

Davidson Video, The Magnificent African Cake VIDCASS 1663 V. 3

Discussion of the video

February 7

The Colonial Impact: Overview

Reading: *Africa*, 3, chapter 5 (shows the various aspects of change).

February 9

The Colonial Impact: Economy

Reading: *Africa*, 3, chapter 6

Review Questions to be posted on Blackboard

February 14

Davidson Video, Tools of Exploitation VIDCASS 1663 V. 34

Discussion of the video

Reading: *Colonialism and Violence in Nigeria*

February 16

Class Seminar on *Colonialism and Violence in Nigeria*

February 21

Submit Book First Book Review on *Colonialism and Violence in Nigeria*

PART B: MANAGING THE COLONIAL LEGACIES AND NATIONALISM

February 23

Colonial Legacies and the Cold War

Reading: *Africa 5*, chapter 1.

Review Questions to be posted on Blackboard

February 28

Nationalism And State Building

Reading: *Africa 5*, chapters 8 and 9.

Review Questions to be posted on Blackboard

March 1:

Class seminar and exam review

March 6

Mid-term Exam

PART C: POST-COLONIAL AFRICA: ECONOMIES

March 8

Economic Development and Ideologies

Reading: *Africa 5*, chapter 18.

Review Questions to be posted on Blackboard

SPRING BREAK

March 20

Economic Ideologies

Power of African Cultures, chapter 4.

Review Questions to be posted on Blackboard

March 22

Agriculture and food Production

Reading: *Africa, 5*, ch. 19.

Review Questions to be posted on Blackboard

March 27

Women and Modernization

Reading: *Africa 3*, chapter 12,

Africa 5, chapter 21.

Power of African Cultures, chapter 10

Review Questions to be posted on Blackboard

March 29

Economies and Migrations

PART D: POST-COLONIAL AFRICA: POLITICS

April 3

Politics and Society in Contemporary Africa

The Power of African Cultures, Chapter 5

***Submit Conference Report

Review Questions to be posted on Blackboard

April 5

Military Regimes and the culture of political authoritarianism

Africa, 5, chapter 11

April 10

Africa in World Politics

Africa 5, Chapter 17

Review Questions to be posted on Blackboard

PART E: POST-COLONIAL AFRICA: SOCIAL AND CULTURAL ISSUES

April 12

Documentary: Chef, Chef, Chef VIDCASS 8158

A Mouth Sweeter Than Salt

April 17

Kinship and Families

Reading: *Africa 5*, chapter 25

***Submit book review, *A Mouth Sweeter Than Salt*.

Review Questions to be posted on Blackboard

April 19

Modernizing and Globalizing Cultures

The Power of African Cultures, Chapter 11.

April 24

Urbanization and Cities

Reading: *Africa 3*, chapter 11

&

Africa, 5, chapter 29

Review Questions to be posted on Blackboard

April 26

Islam and Christianity

Reading: *Africa*, 5, chapters 27 & 28,

& *The Power of African Cultures*, Chapter 7.

Review Questions to be posted on Blackboard

May 1

Globalization

Exam review

May 3

Final exam. (to be based on Parts C, D, & E).

APPENDIX 1: BOOK REVIEW

Reviews should be no less than 3 pp. and no more than 4 pp., typed and double-spaced.

Book reviews should be analytical, and not just a retelling of the narrative. The best way to do this is by synthesizing the narrative in your own mind and then critically examining such things as the historical content, style and the overall impression the book/film had on you. You will probably want to assess how the book fits in with particular topics or themes we are developing in the course. Feel free to express your own opinion, but do so clearly. Organize and develop the main points you wish to make and re-emphasize them in a conclusion.

Do not simply reiterate the story line, but discuss the context, style and perspective, and how the book helps to define topics and themes of our course. By all means, express your own opinions (“two thumbs up”!) and perceptions, but do so clearly and objectively.

Proofread your review before submitting it.

Turn your review in on time (that means at the beginning of class), because late reviews will be penalized.

Assignment Guidelines:

- Follow the no. of pages as instructed.
- Don't just summarize but analyze what you have read. Assume that I have read the book and move quickly to your analysis.
- Relate this to what you are learning in and outside of class. “Express your own opinions and perceptions (two thumbs up!”)
- See course syllabus for a more elaborate discussion as well.

Tips:

- Organize your paper well. I highly recommend organizing by major points or themes that you want to raise about the work.
- Balance your review with what was good and what was bad about the book.
- Talk to the TA if you have any questions.

General Nuts and Bolts for Writing

- No need for “I think” and “I believe” because it is your work, so it is assumed that

these are your thoughts.

- Use 11pt Times New Roman when you type your paper. Double-spaced. 1” margins. Black ink.
- Staple the pages together.
- Do not use too many block quotes. In fact, avoid using long quotes all together. It makes your paper strong when you can interpret what the author is saying in your own words. Remember that when you paraphrase or quote to cite the author and page number ie: (Falola, 17).
- **Allow time for revisions and editing before submitting the final draft. Every writer gets to the end and realizes what they *really* wanted to say, so allow yourself the time to make the necessary changes.**

In grading a book review project, points are allocated to

The understanding of the contents
Analysis (did the student think ?)
Organization
Style

APPENDIX 2: SAMPLE QUESTIONS

1.
 - i. What factors contributed to the lack of success of missions during the 19th century?
 - ii. What role did Sierra Leone and Liberia play in the rejuvenation and success of missions after ca. 1800?
 - iii. Explain the motivations involved in the formation of independent churches.
 - iv. Using documents provided in class, make your own assessment of the following statement, "A missionary's first priority was to religion."

2.
 - i. Define Pan Africanism. Discuss the emergence and contribution of this idea in relation to the development and growth of modern West African nationalism.
 - ii. Examine the impact of the Second World War on nationalism.
 - iii. The decade of the 1960s has been described as 'a decade of optimism' in African history. Discuss and analyze the achievements of political independence in west Africa.

3.
 - i. Why did European powers in West Africa change their approach from informal to formal colonial rule? How did they effect this change and what conflicts between European powers and between Europeans and Africans occurred as a result of this change in approach?

 - ii. What types of administration did Europeans establish in West Africa and how did those systems undermine African social and economic structures? What mechanisms did West Africans use to resist the implementation of these systems?

4. Drawing from the kingdoms of Ghana, Mali and Songhai, relate the Africa's past to its present by reflecting on how indigenous institutions have survived and how they can be modified for contemporary needs.

5. In a coherent essay, explore how the themes of nation building and dependence have occupied the attention of African intellectuals and government in the second half of the 20th century.

6. Drawing from *Nationalism and African Intellectuals*, examine power as an agency of change and discuss how the civil society has responded to attempts to change their lives.