The Making of Modern Africa, 1820-Present

HIST 4385
TTR 9:30-10:50
Pafford 206

Contact Information & Office Hours:
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Office Hours: Tues/Thurs 11:00-1:30, Tues 3:30-5:00, by appointment

Course Objectives and Overview: This course is a survey of the major historical developments in sub-Saharan Africa from the end of the slave trade to the present. We will examine the nature of colonial rule, the process of decolonization, and the challenges facing contemporary Africa. Students will examine the ways in which historical discourses surrounding race, ethnicity, power, resistance, violence, and development have shaped the continent and current politics. We will explore both broad historical issues such as empire, decolonization, and globalization as well as the specific ways in which these trends played out in specific contexts as they interacted with local circumstances. This course will introduce students to key historiographical debates, modern African literature, and critical theorists. By the end of the course, students should have a clear understanding of modern African history and an appreciation for the complex factors that continue to influence Africa and Africans today.

Policies

Participation & Attendance: This course is a mixture of lecture and discussion, both of which require your presence in class and your participation. You are permitted TWO absences, except under extenuating circumstances. Exceeding two absences will negatively impact your grade. Please let me know ahead of time if you know you will be absent. You are responsible for all missed work. I do not give out lecture notes. I will be happy to meet with you to discuss anything about which you have questions.
Late Work: Except under extenuating circumstances, I do not give extensions on assignments. Late work will be penalized 1/3 of a letter grade for each 24 hour period it is late. All assignments must be completed to pass the class.

Re-scheduling: I do not reschedule quizzes or exams unless you have a legitimate need. Quizzes and exams should be rescheduled BEFORE the exam date. Make-up quizzes and tests after the set date will only be given in extreme circumstances.

Technology: using your phone in class is not acceptable. Computers should be used to take notes and look at readings on Course Den. Surfing, chatting, shopping, and doing work for other classes are not acceptable and may result in the loss of your privilege of using your computer in class.

UWG Email Policy: University of West Georgia students are provided a MyUWG e-mail account. The University considers this account to be an official means of communication between the University and the student. The purpose of the official use of the student e-mail account is to provide an effective means of communicating important university related information to UWG students in a timely manner. It is your responsibility to check your email.

Email: Please only email me in Course Den.

Assignments – All assignments should be turned in as word .doc or .docx attachments on Course Den, if possible

Pledging & Honor Code: All work must be pledged with a statement at the top affirming that you have abided by the honor code. The UWG Honor Code is in force at all times. All work must be completely original, correctly cited, and pledged. Work produced for other courses may not be turned in for credit in this course. Each student is responsible for understanding the nature of, and rules regarding, plagiarism. As an academic offense, plagiarism is plagiarism, regardless of whether or not it was “intended.” Plagiarism will result in a failing grade for the course.
Grading: All work is graded according to the following criteria:

- **Thesis** – Does your work have a clear thesis statement in the introductory paragraph which clearly and succinctly explains a) your argument b) the significance of your argument c) the way you are going to support your argument?

- **Analysis & Argumentation** – How are you interpreting and combining information to reach new and insightful conclusions? How clearly and effectively are you laying out your argument to create a cogent paper?

- **Source Use** – How effectively are you using examples, quotes, and arguments from the various readings to support your point?

- **Writing Style** – Are you a clear and concise writer? Does your writing support your argument or does it hinder it?

- **Spelling & grammar** – Spelling and grammar always count. You should always avoid passive voice, sentence fragments, run-on sentences, contractions, and ending sentences or clauses with prepositions.

- **Formatting** – All papers should have a heading with your name, date, and assignment at the top. All papers should be pledged. All papers should have page numbers, use Times New Roman 12 point font, be double spaced, and have 1-inch margins

- **Notation** – All work should be properly cited using Chicago-style footnotes or endnotes.
You must wait 24 hours from the time you received your grade before discussing it with me. I do not change grades except in cases of mathematical error. No Exceptions. It is against university policy to discuss grades via email. If you would like to discuss your grade, please come see me in person.

**Required Texts:**


Philip Gourevitch, *We Wish to Inform You that Tomorrow We will be Killed with Our Families: Stories from Rwanda*. (New York: McMillan, 1999).

All books are available for purchase in the bookstore. Used copies are also widely available on amazon and half.com. Many of these books are also available as e-books. Copies of the books are also available on reserve at the Library circulation desk.

Additional readings will be available on Course Den

**Assignments:** There are two kinds of assignments in this class – Reading Responses and Current Event Blogs.

**Reading Responses:** There will be five reading responses due over the course of the semester for each of the books we will read during class. Response papers should:

- Be 3-4 pages in length
- Respond to a specific question or topic on the reading.
  - Prompts will be provided.
- Be analytical considerations of the selected prompt, not book reports or whether or not you liked the book.
Not provide background information or a synopsis.

Judiciously use quotes from the book and other class readings to support your argument.

Reading Responses are due on the following dates:

King Leopold’s Ghost, Pt. 1: Jan. 28
King Leopold’s Ghost, Pt. 2: Feb. 6
Devil on the Cross: Mar 11
Mukiwa: Mar. 27
We Wish to Inform You: Apr. 10

* Responses should be turned in via the dropbox on course den by 9:15am

Current Event Blog: Students will sign up to write a blog post providing a historical analysis of a contemporary issue in Africa. The Student should provide a link to a current (within the last calendar year) news article on the topic, briefly provide a critical summary of the issue and the article, and provide their own analysis on the situation based on the historical perspectives we’ve covered in class. Articles must come from reputable news sources. Responses should be between 600 and 1000 words.

Map Quizzes: There will be two map quizzes over the course of the semester. The first quiz will ask you to identify geographical features and biomes, colonies, and the colonizing powers. The second quiz will require you to name the countries and capitals of modern postcolonial Africa. The first quiz will be on Jan. 23 and the second quiz will be on Mar. 6.

Exams: There will be two exams over the course of the semester – an in-class midterm and a final exam. These exams will consist of short answer identifications, short answer questions, and essay questions. The ID’s and short answer questions on the final will not be cumulative. However, essay questions will ask you to examine broad historical trends and changes over the colonial and postcolonial periods. The midterm is Feb. 18 and the final is Apr. 24.
Grade Distribution

- Participation & Attendance: 15%
- Reading Responses: 25% (5% each)
- Quizzes: 10%
- Blog Post: 10%
- Mid-Term: 15%
- Final: 25%

Schedule

Week 1

Jan. 7 – Introduction to course & Africa ca. 1800

Jan. 9 – The End of the Slave Trade & Dislocations in West Africa –
  - Reader – Ch. 39 “The Aftermath” & Ch. 40 “The Climactic Context”

Week 2

Jan. 14 – Settlers in Southern Africa
  - Reader – Ch. 41 “Settlers” & Ch. 42 –“Black & White Frontiers”

Jan. 16 – Mfecane, Great Treks, & Anglo-Zulu Wars–
  - Reader – Ch. 43 “Zulu Myths and Reality” & Ch. 44 “The Afrikaners”

Week 3

Jan. 21 – Mining & Migrant Labor in Southern Africa
  - Reader Ch. 45 “Diamonds and Gold”

Jan. 23 – The Scramble for Africa
  - Reader Ch. 46 “An Imperial Ambition” & Ch. 48 “Drawing the Line”

*Geography Quiz 1
**Week 4**

**Jan. 28 – The Congo Free State**

- *King Leopold’s Ghost* Chs. 1-8

*Reading Response 1 Due*

**Jan. 30 – Resistance & Rebellion**

- Reader – Ch. 49 “Resistance” & Ch. 50 “Rebellion”
- Iliffe & Gwassa – “Records of Maji Maji” – Course Den

**Week 5**

**Feb. 4 – Legitimate Commerce & Colonial Economies**

- Walter Rodney – “How Europe Under Developed Africa” – Course Den
- D.K. Fieldhouse – “The Myth of Economic Exploitation” – Course Den
- Sol Plaatje – “The 1913 Natives Land Act” – Course Den

**Feb. 6 – Red Rubber**

- *King Leopold’s Ghost* Chs. 9-19
- **Response Paper 2 Due**

**Week 6**

**Feb. 11 – Direct & Indirect Rule**

- Reader Ch. 51 “The Invention of Africa”
- Lord Lugard “Indirect Rule in Tropical Africa” & “The Principles of Native Administration” – Course Den

**Feb. 13 – Missionaries & Medicine**

- Michael Mahoney – “The Mission Comes to Mapumulo: Popular Christianity in Rural Natal” - Course Den
- Nancy Rose Hunt – “Le Bebe en Brousse” – Course Den
Week 7

Feb. 18 – Midterm Exam

Feb. 20 – Early Anti-Colonial Resistance
- Reader Ch. 52 “The Emergent Elite”
- Leopold Senghor “On Negritude” – Course Den

Week 8

Feb. 25 – WWII and Decolonization
- Reader Ch. 53 “Spoils of War”

Feb. 27 – Mau Mau
- Jomo Kenyatta – “Meeting at Nyeri” – Course Den

Week 9

Mar. 4 – The Congo Crisis
- Reader Ch. 54 – “First Dance of Freedom”

Mar. 6 – The Biafran War
- Reader Ch. 55 “Dreams and Nightmares” (thru pg. 671)
- Fred Cooper – “The Recurrent Crises of the Gatekeeper State” – Course Den

*Map Quiz 2

Week 10

Mar. 11 – Neo-colonialism & Gatekeeping
- Frantz Fanon – “The Trials and Tribulations of National Consciousness” – Course Den
- Ngugi wa Tiong’o – Devil on the Cross
- Reading Response 3 Due
Mar. 13 – Apartheid South Africa

- Fred Cooper - “The Late Decolonizations: Southern Africa” - Course Den
- MDC De Wet Nel – “The Principles of Apartheid, 1959” – Course Den
- Nelson Mandela – “Verwoerd’s Tribalism” – Course Den

March 17-21 – Spring Break

Week 11

Mar. 25 – 2nd Chimurenga & Gukurahundi

Mar. 27 – *Mukiwa*

- Peter Godwin – *Mukiwa*
- **Reading Response 4 Due**

Week 12

Ap. 3 – New South Africa & HIV/AIDS

- Helen Moffett – “These Women, They Force us to Rape Them;’ Rape as a Narrative of Social Control in Post-Apartheid South Africa” – Course Den

- Frasier McNeill – “Condoms Cause AIDS: Poison, Prevention, and Denial in Venda, South Africa” – Course Den

Ap. 1 – Civil War in Liberia & Sierra Leone

- Collier – “Natural Resources and Conflict in Africa” – Course Den
- Stanley – “Background to the Liberia and Sierra Leone Implosions” – Course Den

Week 13

Ap. 8 – Rwandan Genocide

- Hutu Ten Commandments – Course Den

Ap. 10 – *We Wish to Inform You*

- Philip Gourevitch – *We Wish to Inform You*
- **Reading Response 5 Due**
Week 14

Ap. 15 – Eastern DRC

- Project on M23

Ap. 17 – Sectarian Conflict

- BBC Africa – “Boko Haram” – Course Den
- BBC Africa – “Al Shabab” – Course Den
- CNN – “Ansar Dine” – Course Den
- Council on Foreign Relations – “Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM)” – Course Den

Final Exam Thursday, Apr. 24, 8:00 – 10:20 am