

HISTORY 310/AFR310K/WGS301: INTRODUCTION TO MODERN AFRICA

Instructor: Toyin Falola

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Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday (Strictly by appointment)

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Class Venue: UTC 3.134, Tuesday & Thursday 12.30-2:00 PM

COURSE DESCRIPTION & 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 of the significant 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 situation. 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 it easily. 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

* Reading all the assigned materials will reflect positively on the quality of projects and examinations.

** Students often make the mistake of assuming that an introductory course means minimum reading. NO! This class is defined as “introductory” only to mean that most students have limited familiarity with Africa. In selecting the books, the idea is to attain the maximum impact within a limited time, balancing the interests of depth with width, narratives with concepts. Critical thinking is rewarded.

Although books are assigned reading, students interested in additional reading will be supported with references and lead to journals.

1. Richard J. Reid, *A History of Modern Africa*, (Second edition), West Sussex, UK: Wiley-Blackwell, 2012. ISBN 978-0-470-65898-7
2. Toyin Falola, ed., *Africa: Contemporary Africa*, Vol. 5, Durham: Carolina Academic Press, 2002. ISBN 0 890892032
3. Kenneth Kalu, Olajumoke Yacob-Haliso and Toyin Falola, eds., *Africa's Big Men: Predatory State-Society Relations in Africa* (New York: Routledge, 2018), paper edition, ISBN. 978-1-138-55934-9

All books can be purchased at the University Co-op. In case of difficulty, contact University Co-op, Textbook Dept.

2244 Guadalupe St.
Austin, TX 78705
Phone: (512) 476-7211

Class Lecture and Reading Plan

PART A: COLONIALISM AND THE FOUNDATION OF MODERNITY			
DATE	Main Topic	Readings	Assignment/Activity
Jan 22	Introduction to Africa: Understanding the Past	<i>Africa</i> 5, Chapter 2 and 5; <i>Modern Africa</i> , Chapter 1.	
Jan 24	Africa before colonialism	<i>Modern Africa</i> , Chapters 2 & 3.	

Jan 29	Basil Davidson, The Magnificent African Cake	<i>Modern Africa</i> Chapter 4	Film screening and class discussion.
Jan 31	Colonial Conquest	<i>Modern Africa</i> , Chapters 8.	
Feb 5	Reaction to Colonial Conquest	<i>Modern Africa</i> , Chapter 9.	
Feb 7	Colonial Impact	<i>Modern Africa</i> , Chapter 10.	
Feb 12	Basil Davidson, Bible and the Gun	<i>Modern Africa</i> Chapter 11	Film screening and class discussion.
Feb 14	Colonial Economy	<i>Modern Africa</i> Chapter 12	
Feb 19	Colonial State and Society, 1	<i>Modern Africa</i> Chapter 13	
Feb 21	Colonial State and Society, 2	<i>Africa 5</i> , Chapter 5 & 7.	
Feb 26	Anti Colonial Resistance and Rise of Nationalism	<i>Modern Africa</i> , Chapter 15.	

PART B: Colonial Legacies and Nationalism			
DATE	Main Topic	Readings	Assignment/Activity
Feb 28	Colonial Legacies	<i>Africa 5</i> Chapter 1	
Mar 5	Stealing Africa	<i>Africa</i> Chapter 35	Film screening and class discussion.
Mar 7	The Cut: Exploring FGM	<i>Africa 5</i> Chapter 6	Film screening and class discussion. (**Book Review due.)

Mar 12	Post-colonial society: Family and Kinship	<i>Africa 5</i> Chapter 25.	

PART C: Post-colonial Africa: Economy and Society			
DATE	Main Topic	Readings	Assignment/Activity
Mar 14	Post-colonial society: Religion	<i>Africa 5</i> , Chapter 27 & 28.	
Mar 18-23	<u>SPRING BREAK</u>	<u>SPRING BREAK</u>	<u>SPRING BREAK</u>
Mar 26	Women	<i>Africa 5</i> , chapter 21.	
Mar 28	Conference Trade off		
April 2	State and Societies	<i>Africa 5</i> , chapter 10.	
April 4	Economic Development	<i>Africa 5</i> , Chapters 24	Conference report due.

****Africa Conference, March 29-30

PART D: Post-colonial Africa: Cultural Issues			
DATE	Main Topic	Readings	Assignment/Activity
April 9	Cultures and Identity	<i>Africa 5</i> , chapter 30 & 31.	
April 11	Creativity and Popular Culture	<i>Africa 5</i> , Chapter 33.	

April 16	Modern and Contemporary Art	<i>Africa 5</i> , Chapter 32.	
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PART E: Politics and Economy of Post-colonial Africa			
DATE	Main Topic	Readings	Assignment/Activity
April 18	Politics and Society	<i>Africa 5</i> , Chapter 7, 12, & 14.	
April 23	Africa in World Politics 1	<i>Africa 5</i> , Chapter 16.	
April 25	Africa and World politics 2	<i>Modern Africa</i> Chapter 17.	
April 30	Agriculture and Food	<i>Africa 5</i> , chapter 20.	
May 2	Boko-Haram: Africa and Security Issues	Abimbola O. Adesoji, "Between Maitatsine and Boko Haram: Islamic fundamentalism and the response of the Nigerian state." <i>Africa Today</i> 57, no. 4 (2011): 99-119.	
May 7	Contemporary Cultures and Globalization	<i>Africa</i> , Chapter 26 & 29.	
May 9	Final exam		** Final exam will be in class on May 9.

Grading and Assignments

Final Grade Breakdown

Assignment Percentage (100%)	Due Date	Grade
Class Attendance		10%
Periodic Geographical Quiz		10%
Book Review	March 7	20%
Conference Review/Presentation	April 4	25%
Final Exam	May 9	35%

Note: In matters relating to grade, you must first meet with your TA before scheduling an appointment to meet with your Instructor. Also, your TA is not expected to provide you with lecture notes.

Overall semester averages will earn the following letter grades:

93-100: A 90-92: A-

87-89: B+ 83-86: B 80-82: B-

77-79: C+ 73-76: C 70-72: C-

67-69: D+ 63-66: D 60-62: D- 0-59: F

Evaluation and Points: (No extra credit will be awarded, and the course is not graded on curve) 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 an A or B grade, but those who do should expect to do the maximum required. Always read before the class so that you can understand the lectures and ask questions.

Class rules:

- 1) All assignments must be submitted on due dates. 5 points per day are deducted thereafter.
- 2) Except on medical ground or permission from the Dean's office, there is no make-up examination.

- 3) There is no option for additional credit.
- 4) Failure to read the books, which will be detected in projects and examinations, will be treated as lack of preparation.
- 5) 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 Canvas.

Book Review:

All students are required to review the following book.

Kenneth Kalu, Olajumoke Yacob-Haliso and Toyin Falola, eds., *Africa's Big Men: Predatory State-Society Relations in Africa*.

The book *Africa's Big Men* is divided in three parts. Students will write the review on the introduction and at least one part of the book according to their choice. The book review should be **no less than 3 pages** typed and double-spaced. The review should be analytical, and not just a retelling of the narrative. The best ways to do this is by synthesizing the narrative in your own mind and then critically examine things such as the historical content, style, and the overall impression the book made 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. Proofread your review before submitting it. Late submission will be penalized. **Book review is due in class on March 7, 2019.**

Conference Review/Conference Presentation:

All students must endeavor to attend the 2019 Africa Conference to be held from **March 29-31, 2019**. (Additional information will be announced in class).

For information and panels, visit the link below:

<https://liberalarts.utexas.edu/africa-conference/conference-schedule1/conference-schedule.php>

The conference is part of the attempt to provide students with new knowledge about Africa. The conference participation assignment comes with two options:

- 1) Attend a minimum of two panels (not two presenters!) of your choice and the Conference Keynote and write a report on them, **minimum of 5 pages**. A panel consists of a set of presenters. **Participation in the conference is part of the class and it is mandatory. There is no substitute assignment unless on medical grounds or mandatory official duties.** During the presentations, students will be allowed to ask respective presenters questions on issues pertaining to the lecture. For the review, students will be expected to fulfill a two-fold task: first, summarize the lecture in no more than **2 page** (roughly 500 words); secondly, offer an analysis of the presentations in **2 page** (roughly 500 words); thirdly, give your opinion of the lecture in no less than **1 page** (roughly 300 words). Report will be due in class on April 4, 2019.
- 2) Alternatively, students can utilize the Africa Conference as an opportunity to enhance their skills in public speaking and academic presentation. As part of this option, students will be asked to present a paper in the Africa Conference written by a scholar who is unable to attend the conference. If you present a paper then you will write the conference review based on the keynote and only one panel. In other words, you are exempted from writing about two panels. In this case, your paper should be 3 pages instead of 5. **(If you want to take up this option, please discuss this with your TA ahead of time.)**

Periodic geographical quiz:

The geographical literacy quiz is designed to enhance students' familiarity with the continent of Africa. It's an online learning method, which students will take by following the link on canvas. Additional instructions to take the test will be given during class.

Final Examination:

The examination consists of two essay questions. Students are expected to answer both questions, writing at least three pages on each. Essay questions will be drawn from a pool of questions submitted through Canvas. Students who integrate materials from textbooks, lecture notes, and films will be rewarded.

Make-up policy: Make-ups will be granted only in the case of medical illness or university-related conflict. Such conflicts will require signed documentation from the Dean's Office explaining the reason for absence.

Attendance policy:

The class attendance will be counted from the 24th of January 2019. It will be counted based on the total of 27 classes. So for each absence, students will lose approximately 0.37 points from the final grade. Absences will be excused if a student provides documentation of emergency health situation, death in family, job interviews, etc.

However, without documentation no excuses will be granted.

University Regulations

University of Texas Honor Code: The core values of The University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the university is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community. Any student found guilty of scholastic dishonesty may receive an “F” in the course and be remanded to the appropriate University of Texas authorities for disciplinary action. For more information, view Student Judicial Services at <http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs>.

Use of Class Materials: No material presented in lecture may be directly or indirectly published, posted to the Internet, or rewritten for publication or distribution in any medium. Neither these materials nor any portion thereof may be stored in a computer except for personal and non-commercial use. All information derived from the internet must be adequately cited.

Student Privacy: The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) require that student privacy be preserved. Thus the posting of grades, even by the last four digits of the social security number, is forbidden. All communication will remain between the instructor and the student, and the instructor will not be able to share details of the student’s performance with parents, spouses, or any others.

Documented Disability Statement: The University of Texas at Austin provides upon request appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. For more information, contact Services for Students with Disabilities at 471-6259 (voice) or 232-2937 (video phone).

Religious Holy Days: By UT Austin policy, you must notify me of your pending absence at least fourteen days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If you must miss a class, an examination, a work assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holy day, I will give you an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.

Behavior Concerns Advice Line (BCAL): If you are worried about someone who is acting differently, you may use the Behavior Concerns Advice Line to discuss by phone your concerns about another individual’s behavior. This service is provided through a partnership among the Office of the Dean of Students, the Counseling and Mental Health Center (CMHC), the Employee Assistance Program (EAP), and The University of Texas Police Department (UTPD). Call 512-232-5050 or visit:

<http://www.utexas.edu/safety/bcal>

Use of E-Mail for Official Correspondence to Students: E-mail is recognized as an official mode of university correspondence; therefore, you are responsible for reading

your e-mail for university and course-related information and announcements. You are responsible to keep the university informed about changes to your e-mail address. You should check your e-mail regularly and frequently—I recommend daily, but at minimum twice a week—to stay current with university-related communications, some of which may be time-critical. You can find UT Austin’s policies and instructions for updating your e-mail address at <http://www.utexas.edu/its/help/utmail/1564>

Emergency Evacuation Policy

Occupants of buildings on the UT Austin campus are required to evacuate and assemble outside when a fire alarm is activated or an announcement is made. Please be aware of the following policies regarding evacuation: Familiarize yourself with all exit doors of the classroom and the building. Remember that the nearest exit door may not be the one you used when you entered the building.

If you require assistance to evacuate, inform me in writing during the first week of class. In the event of an evacuation, follow my instructions or those of class instructors. Do not re-enter a building unless the Austin Fire Department, the UT Austin Police Department, or the Fire Prevention Services office gives you instructions.

Q Drop Policy: Texas law limits the number of course drops for academic reasons to six. Senate Bill 1231 says: “Beginning with the fall 2007 academic term, an institution of higher education may not permit an undergraduate student a total of more than six dropped courses, including any course a transfer student has dropped at another institution of higher education, unless the student shows good cause for dropping more than that number.