

HISTORY OF FOREIGN AID IN AFRICA

(NOTE: Most topics for Spring 2019 will remain the same; some readings will be updated and guest lecturers may be different.)

Class: MW 3:30 - 5

Instructor: Lee Cassanelli [lcassane@sas.upenn.edu]

Office hours (215B College Hall): Mon 1-3, and by appointment

Aims and Format

This course offers an overview of the history of foreign aid to Africa since the late nineteenth century. While we don't often think about the European colonial era in Africa (1880s-1960s) in terms of "foreign aid," that era was critical for shaping outsiders' images of Africa and Africans' perceptions of outsiders, as well as for introducing ideas and institutions which formed the foundations for modern aid policies and practices. So we start there, and then move forward to more recent times. One of our aims is to examine the objectives behind foreign assistance, the intentions of aid-givers and recipients, and the consequences (intended or unintended) of various forms of foreign aid to Africa over the past century. Another aim is to learn something about African societies as they experienced foreign efforts to assist, exploit, transform, or 'rescue' the continent at different times in its modern history.

The course is not designed to be a comprehensive history of development or development theory, of African economies, or of international aid organizations in Africa, although we will touch on all of these topics. Students with experience or interest in any of these areas are very much encouraged to share their knowledge with the rest of the class, and they may choose to do their final project on one of these topics. The last third of the course provides some flexibility to enable us to address topics of particular interest to class members.

Class will meet twice a week with occasional guest speakers and some sessions devoted to student workshops or presentations. Some of our guest speakers and videos may have to be scheduled outside regular class hours; we will give you plenty of advanced notice. Please check the course Canvas site regularly for updates.

Assignments

All students are required to 1) attend class and participate actively (15 %); 2) maintain an on-line journal of their reflections on the readings and lecture topics, posted at least every other week and including two formal 'journal assignments' (25%); submit two short essays (4 pp. each) by the dates indicated in the syllabus (15 x 2=30%); and produce a 10-12 page final paper, preceded by a brief class presentation, on a topic related to one of the course's many themes (30%). Weekly prompts will be posted on Canvas to help organize your responses to the readings, and guidelines for the final paper will be provided well in advance.

Readings

The following required books will be read by everyone and are available at the University Book Store, 3601 Walnut Street.

Adam Hochschild, *King Leopold's Ghost*
James Ferguson, *The Anti-Politics Machine*
George Packer, *Village of Waiting*
Larry Krotz, *The Uncertain Business of Doing Good*
William Easterly, *White Man's Burden*

Just as important as the books are the weekly assigned readings, which will be posted on our course Canvas site (CV) either as links or as downloadable articles. These should be read prior to classes for the week in which they are assigned.

Tentative Schedule of Meetings and Assignments (Subject to change)

Week 1 (Jan 10) Introduction and logistics

**King Leopold's Ghost*, begin

Week 2 (Jan 17) What is foreign aid all about? Definitions and debates.

*Course Documents: Week 2 (CV)

**King Leopold's Ghost*, continue (at least thru p. 181)

Week 3 (Jan 22, 24) 'Aid' to Africa before 1900; 'civilizing missions' past and present

**King Leopold's Ghost*, complete

Journal Assignment No. 1 (*King Leopold's Ghost*) posted by noon Wed Jan 24

Week 4 (Jan 29, 31) Colonial economies and the 'developmental state'

*Michael Mahoney, "Estado novo, Homem novo: Colonial and Anticolonial Development Ideologies in Mozambique, 1930-1977" in D. Engerman *et al*, eds., *Staging Growth: Modernization, Development, and the Global Cold War* (Amherst, 2003) (CV)

*Monica M. Van Beusekom, "From Underpopulation to Overpopulation: French Perceptions of Population, Environment, and Agricultural Development in French Soudan (Mali), 1900-1960," *Environmental History* (April 1999) (CV)

*Randall Packard, "Visions of Postwar Health and Development..." in Frederick Cooper & R. Packard, eds., *International Development and the Social Sciences* (Berkeley, 1997) (CV)

*Fred Cooper, *Africa since 1940* (Cambridge, 2002), ch. 5 (CV)

Week 5 (Feb 5, 7) The World Bank: setting development priorities for 70 years

- *VIDEO: “The World Bank. The Great Experiment” (Uganda)
- *Martha Finnemore, “Redefining Development at the World Bank,” in Cooper & Packard, eds., *International Development and the Social Sciences* (CV)
- * Documents, Week 5, TBA (CV)

- *James Ferguson, *The Anti-Politics Machine*, 1-134

Week 6 (Feb 12, 14) Recent trends in foreign aid to Africa: global health

GUEST (Feb 14): Carol McLaughlin, MD, MPH, Research Director, Global Public Health Center for High Impact Philanthropy, School of Social Policy and Practice, U of Penn

- *Remarks by Stephen Lewis, UN Special Envoy for HIV/AIDS in Africa (CV)
- *Readings on Global Health, Week 6, TBA (CV)

- *James Ferguson, *The Anti-Politics Machine*, 135-288 (complete)

Week 7 (Feb 19, 21) Recent trends, infrastructure and energy sectors

GUEST (Feb 19): Dr. Richard Hosier, World Bank

- *WB Documents, Week 7 (CV)

Short Essay No. 1 (Anti-Politics Machine) due Wed Feb 21

Week 8 (Feb 26, 28)) Grass roots aid: Peace Corps and Accion contre la faim

GUESTS (Mar 28): Panel of former PCVs

VIDEO: ‘Heart of the Congo’
Course Documents, Week 8 (CV)

- *George Packer, *The Village of Waiting* (begin and complete over break)

Week 9. SPRING BREAK

Week 10 (Mar 12, 14) NGOs and their Critics

- * Course Documents, Week 10 CV)
- *Krotz, *The Uncertain Business of Doing Good* (begin)

Week 11 (Mar 19, 21) Humanitarian aid and emergency relief

*Course Documents, Week 11 (CV)

*Krotz, *The Uncertain Business of Doing Good* (complete)

Short Essay No. 2 (*Village of Waiting, Uncertain Business*) due Wed, Mar 21

Week 12 (Mar 26, 28) Chinese aid and investment in Africa: a different model?

GUEST (Mar 28): Ambassador David Shinn, George Washington University

*Reading on Chinese aid, Week 12, (CV)

*Easterly, *White Man's Burden*, begin

Week 13 (Apr 2, 4) Military interventions and assistance: Somalia, Darfur and Congo

*Readings on Darfur Week 13 (CV)

* VIDEO: The Peacekeepers

*Easterly, *White Man's Burden*, continue

Week 14 (Apr 9, 11) Corporate social investment: How are companies donors?

GUEST (Apr 9): TBA

*Readings for Week 14 (CV)

*Easterly, *White Man's Burden*, complete

****Preliminary prospectus for Final Paper due Wed, April 11, post by noon****

Week 15 (Apr 16, 18) New directions in international aid to Africa

*Readings for Week 15, TBA (CV)

Journal assignment no. 2 (*White Man's Burden*) posted by noon Wed Apr 18

****Two-page Prospectus & Short Bibliography posted by 5 pm Friday Apr 20****

Week 16 (Apr 23, 25) Wrap up

FINAL PAPER DUE: May 2, 2018 (Guidelines to be provided)