

HIST 650-302: Africa at a Crossroads: 50 Years of Independence

Syllabus Subject to Change

Instructor: Dr. Keren Weitzberg

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Wednesdays, 5-8PM

Office Hours: Tuesdays, 1-3PM (Also available by appointment) in Lauder-Fisher 101

COURSE DESCRIPTION

How did Pan-African and non-aligned movements affect the political choices and strategies of African leaders? What were the implications of the end of apartheid in South Africa? How did the introduction of structural adjustment and multi-party democracy affect African countries in the 1980s and 1990s?

These are some of the many questions that we will ask in “Africa at a Crossroads: 50 Years of Independence.” In this course, students will study the history of decolonization, independence, and Pan-African movements in Sub-Saharan Africa and their implications in light of recent current events. Among many topics, we will examine: the rise of anti-colonial movements after World War II; decolonization in the 1960s; the “late” decolonization of Portuguese and southern Africa; and the “informal” economy. We will study a diverse array of case studies from different countries on the continent, including Nigeria, Kenya, South Africa, Mozambique, and Rwanda.

It is now more than fifty years since the first sub-Saharan country gained independence. How have the subsequent years changed our views and perceptions about nationalism? Moving away from concepts such as the “failed state” and “underdevelopment,” we will focus on both the achievements and the challenges that African countries have faced since independence. One of the main goals of this class to show how African innovators and innovations have changed the conversation on topics as diverse as statecraft, economic development, and civil rights.

ASSIGNMENTS

- Attendance and Participation:
 - Students are expected to read in advance of each class, attend all class meetings, and participate meaningfully in discussion.
- Presentation:
 - Each student will be required to lead one class discussion on the readings assigned for that day. Students will give a 10-20 minute introduction and initiate discussion with questions.
 - Students must send me their discussion questions by 8:00 pm on the evening before their presentation. Upload the questions to Canvas.
- Reading Responses:
 - Each student must submit six, double-spaced 1-3 page responses to the readings. Students may choose whichever six classes they would like to

- respond to, but should spread the responses over the course of the semester (three must be written in the first half of the semester and three afterwards).
- In these responses, students should briefly summarize the main points of the readings and either a) explain the theoretical and methodological differences among the works; b) place the works in dialogue with an overarching theme of the course; c) situate them in a major debate that is relevant to the study of history or the political economy more broadly; or d) identify an overarching problem in the readings and suggest new directions forward.
 - Responses are due at 4:00 pm on the day of the relevant class. Upload them to Canvas.
- **Final Paper:**
 - Each student will be required to write a 13-16 page final paper, which will comprise 40 percent of their grade. The topic of the paper will differ upon the student, each of whom is required to consult with me during office hours by the fourth or fifth week of the semester to determine a topic that is best suited to their academic field and interests. The final paper will be due on December 19th.
 - All papers will draw upon the readings from one or more of the week's topics as a starting point for a wider historiographic analysis. Students will become an expert on these readings as well as other relevant literature not included on the syllabus (students can consult with me for suggestions). They will then make an intervention into a historiographic or theoretical debate that intersects with one of the major themes of the course.

GRADING BREAKDOWN

Participation: 20%
 Presentation: 10%
 Reading Responses: 30%
 Final Paper: 40%

READINGS

Frederick Cooper. 2002. *Africa Since 1940: The Past of the Present*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. (Available at the bookstore.)

All other readings are available online or will be uploaded to Canvas:
<https://upenn.instructure.com/>

SCHEDULE

August 27—Introduction

September 3—Nationalism and the Colonial Legacy

- Ranger, T.O. 1968. "Connections Between 'Primary Resistance' Movements and Modern Mass Nationalism in East and Central Africa" *Journal of African History* 9, no. 3 (Part 1) 437-453; and 9, no. 4 (Part 2): 631-41.

- Available on Jstor
- Ayittey, George B. N., ed. 1993. *African Betrayed?* 2nd edition. New York: St. Martin's Press. [Excerpts].
 - Available on Canvas
- Crowder, Michael. 1987. "Whose Dream Was It Anyway?" *African Affairs* 86, no. 342 (January), 7-24.
 - Available on Jstor
- Cooper, Frederick. 2014. *Africa in the World: Capitalism, Empire, Nation-State*. Harvard University Press. [Excerpts].
 - Available on Canvas
- Cooper. 2002. *Africa Since 1940*
 - Read: Chapter 1.

September 10— Pan-Africanism

- Lambert, Michael. 1993. "From Citizenship to Négritude: 'Making a Difference' in Elite Ideologies of Colonial Francophone West Africa," *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 35: 239-262.
 - Available on Jstor
- Zeleza, Paul Tiyambe. 1997. *Manufacturing African Studies and Crises*. Dakar: CODESRIA. [Excerpts].
 - Available on Canvas
- Falola, Toyin. 2004. *Nationalism and African Intellectuals*. University of Rochester Press. [Excerpts].
 - Available on Canvas
- Edwards, Brent Hayes. 2003. "The Shadows of Shadows" 11, no. 1 (Spring): 11-49, <http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/pos/summary/v011/11.1edwards.html>
 - Available Online
- Cooper. 2002. *Africa Since 1940*
 - Read: Chapters 2 and 3

OPTIONAL (You may read the following texts in lieu of 1 of the readings listed above):

- Reed Jr., Adolph. 1999. "Corporate Industrialization, Collectivism, and the New Intellectuals: Historical Context in the Formation of Du Bois's Thought," and "Three Confusions about Du Bois: Interracialism, Pan-Africanism, Socialism." In *W.E.B. Du Bois and American Political Thought*, 15-26, 71-89. [Excerpts].
 - Available on Canvas

September 17— The Multiple Paths Toward Decolonization

- Fanon, Frantz. 1961. *The Wretched of the Earth*. New York: Grove Press. [Excerpts].
 - Available on Canvas
- Allman, Jean. 1990. "The Young Men and the Porcupine: Class, Nationalism, and Asante's Struggle for Self-Determination, 1954-7," *Journal of African History*, 31: 263-279.
 - Available on Jstor

- Chafer, Tony. 2002. *The End of Empire in French West Africa: France's Successful Decolonization?* Oxford: Berg. [Excerpts].
 - Available on Canvas
- Burgess, G. Thomas. 2010. "Mao in Zanzibar: Nationalism, Discipline, and the (De)construction of Afro-Asian Solidarities." In *Making a World After Empire: The Bandung Moment and Its Political Afterlives*, ed. Christopher J. Lee. Ohio University, 196-234.
 - Available on Canvas
- Cooper. 2002. *Africa Since 1940*
 - Read: Chapter 4

September 24— The Post-Colonial State in its Diversity

- Schatzberg, M. 1988. *Dialectics of Oppression in Zaire*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press. [Excerpts].
 - Available on Canvas
- Bayart, Jean-Francois. 1993. *The State in Africa: The Politics of the Belly*. London: Longman. [Excerpts].
 - Available on Canvas
- Herbst, Jeffrey. 2000. *States and Power: Comparative Lessons in Authority and Control*. Princeton University Press. [Excerpts].
 - Available on Canvas
- Villalon, Leonardo A. 2006. *Islamic Society and State Power in Senegal: Disciples and Citizens in Fatick*. Cambridge University Press. [Excerpts].
 - Available on Canvas
- Cooper. 2002. *Africa Since 1940*
 - Interlude

OPTIONAL (You may read 1-2 of the following texts in lieu of 1-2 of the readings listed above):

- Zolberg, Aristide. 1964. *One-Party Government in the Ivory Coast*. Princeton University Press. [Excerpts].
 - Available on Canvas
- Young, Crawford. 1976. *The Politics of Cultural Pluralism*. University of Wisconsin Press. [Excerpts].
 - Available on Canvas
- Rathbone, Richard. 2000. *Nkrumah and the Chiefs: The Politics of Chieftaincy in Ghana, 1951-60*. Ohio State University Press. [Excerpts].
 - Available on Canvas
- Mbembe, Achille. 2001. *On the Postcolony*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
 - Available on Canvas

October 1— FILM and discussion

FALL BREAK

October 15— Development and its Many Meanings

- Rodney, Walter. 1972. *How Europe Underdeveloped Africa*. Cape Town: Pambazuka Press [Excerpts].
 - Available on Canvas
- De Waal, Alex. 1989. *Famine that Kills: Darfur, Sudan*. Oxford University Press. [Excerpts].
 - Available on Canvas
- Ferguson, James. 1994. *The Anti-Politics Machine*. University of Minnesota Press. [Excerpts].
 - Available on Canvas
- Apter, Andrew. 2005. *The Pan-African Nation: Oil and the Spectacle of Culture in Nigeria*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press [Excerpts].
 - Available on Canvas

October 22—Neoliberalism and the Changing Global Economy

By this class, students should have turned in 3 of the 6 mandatory reading responses.

- Bates, Robert H. 1981. *Markets and States in Tropical Africa: The Political Basis of Agricultural Policies*. Berkeley: University of California Press. [Excerpts].
 - Available on Canvas
- Arrighi, Giovanni. 2002. "The African Crisis," *New Left Review* 15 (May-June), <http://newleftreview.org/II/15/giovanni-arrighi-the-african-crisis>
 - Available Online
- Moyo, Dambisa. 2009. *Dead Aid: Why Aid is Not Working and How There Is a Better Way for Africa*. London: Penguin Books. [Excerpts].
 - Available on Canvas
- Chaflin, Brenda. 2010. *Neoliberal Frontiers: An Ethnography of Sovereignty in West Africa*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
 - Available on Canvas
- Cooper. 2002. *Africa Since 1940*
 - Read: Chapter 5

OPTIONAL (You may read 1-2 of the following texts in lieu of 1-2 of the readings listed above):

- Sesay, Amadu. 1995. "In the land of the Voiceless: Economic Austerity and Popular Protest in Sierra Leone." In *Between Liberalization and Oppression: The Politics of Structural Adjustment in Africa*, eds. Thankdiaka Mkandawire and Adebayo Olukoshi. Dakar: CODESRIA.
 - Available on Canvas
- Shivji, Issa G. 2007. *Silences in NGO Discourse: The Role and Future of NGOs in Africa*. Nairobi: Fahamu. [Excerpts]
 - Available on Canvas
- Van de Walle, Nicolas. 2001. *African Economies and the Politics of Permanent Crisis, 1979-1999*. Cambridge University Press. [Excerpts].
 - Available on Canvas

October 29—Nationalism and Memory

- Dinerman, Alice. 2006. *Revolution, Counter-Revolution and Revisionism in Post-Colonial Africa: The Case of Mozambique, 1975-1994*. London: Routledge. [Excerpts].
 - Available on Canvas
- Hamilton, Carolyn. 2000. *Terrific Majesty: Shaka Zulu and the Limits of Historical Invention*. [Excerpts].
 - Available on Canvas
- Golan, Daphna. 1991. "Inkatha and Its Use of the Zulu Past." *History in Africa* 18: 113-126.
 - Available on Jstor
- Atieno Odhiambo, E.S. 2003. "Matunda ya Uhuru, Fruits of Independence: Seven Theses on Nationalism in Kenya." In *Mau Mau and Nationhood: Arms, Authority, and Narration*, eds. Atieno Odhiambo and Lonsdale, 37-45.
 - Available on Canvas
- Cooper. 2002. *Africa Since 1940*
 - Read: Chapter 6

November 5—Decolonization in Southern Africa

- David Lan. 1985. *Guns & Rain: Guerillas and Spirit Mediums in Zimbabwe*. London: James Currey.
- Mamdani, Mahmood. 1996. *Citizen and Subject: Contemporary Africa and the Legacy of Late Colonialism*. Princeton University Press. [Excerpts].
 - Available on Canvas
- Geisler, Gisela. 1995. "Troubled Sisterhood: Women and Politics in Southern Africa: Case Studies from Zambia, Zimbabwe, and Botswana." 94 *African Affairs*
 - Available on Jstor
- Marais, Hein. 1998. *South Africa: Limits to Change: The Political Economy of Transition*. London: Zed Books. [Excerpts].
 - Available on Canvas
- Gumede, William Mervin. 2007. *Thabo Mbeki and the Battle for the Soul of the ANC*. London: Zed. [Excerpts].
 - Available on Canvas

OPTIONAL (You may read 1-2 of the following texts in lieu of 1-2 of the readings listed above):

- Mamdani, Mahmood. 2002. "Amnesty or Impunity? A Preliminary Critique of the Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of South Africa (TRC)" *Diacritics* 32, no. 3-4 (Fall-Winter): 33-59.
 - Available on Jstor
- Allan, Alfred and Marietjie M. Allan. 2000. "The South Africa Truth and Reconciliation Commission as a Therapeutic Tool." *Behavior Sciences and the Law* 18: 459-177, <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/1099-0798%282000%2918:4%3C459::AID-BSL366%3E3.0.CO;2-T/full>
 - Available online

- Corey, Allison and Sandra F. Joireman. 2004. "Retributive Justice: The Gacaca Courts in Rwanda." *African Affairs* 103: 73-89, <http://afraf.oxfordjournals.org/content/103/410/73.short>
 - Available online

November 12—Ethnic Violence

- Mamdani, Mahmood. 2001. *When Victims Become Killers: Colonialism, Nativism and the Genocide in Rwanda*. Princeton University Press. [Excerpts].
 - Available on Canvas
- Ferme, Mariane C. 2001. *The Underneath of Things: Violence, History, and the Everyday in Sierra Leone*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press. [Excerpts].
 - Available on Canvas
- Bisschoff, Lizelle and Stefanie Van De Peer. 2013. *Art and Trauma in Africa: Representations of Reconciliation in Music, Visual Arts, Literature and Film*. I. B. Tauris. [Excerpts].
 - Available on Canvas
- Kamatali, Jean-Marie. 4 April 2014. "Following Orders in Rwanda." *The New York Times*.
 - Available online
- Cooper. 2002. *Africa Since 1940*
 - Read: Chapter 7-8

OPTIONAL (You may read 1-2 of the following texts in lieu of 1-2 of the readings listed above):

- Reno, Will. 1998. *Warlord Politics and African States*. London: Lynne Rienner. [Excerpts]
 - Available on Canvas
- Gourevich, Philip. 1998. *We Wish to Inform You That Tomorrow We Will be Killed With Our Families: Stories from Rwanda*. Macmillan. [Excerpts].
 - Available on Canvas
- Ellis, Stephen. 1999. *The Mask of Anarchy: The Destruction of Liberia and the Religious Dimension*. London: Hurst and Company. [Excerpts].
 - Available on Canvas
- Prunier. 2005. *Darfur: The Ambiguous Genocide*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press. [Excerpts].
 - Available on Canvas
- Bates, Robert H. 2008. *When Things Fell Apart: State Failure in Late-Century Africa*. Cambridge University Press. [Excerpts]
 - Available on Canvas

November 19—The Informal Economy

- Roitman, Janet L. 1990. "The Politics of Informal Markets in Sub-Saharan Africa" *The Journal of Modern African Studies* 28, 4: 671-696.
 - Available on Jstor
- MacGaffey, Janet, Vwakyankazi Mukohya, Rukarangira wa Nkera, Brooke Grundfest Schoepf, Makwala ma Mavambu ye Beda, and Walu Engundu.

- 1991. *The Real Economy of Zaire: The Contribution of Smuggling and Unofficial Activities to National Wealth*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press. [Excerpts].
 - Available on Canvas
- Hansen, Karen Tranberg and Mariken Vaa, eds. 2004. *Reconsidering Informality: Perspectives from Urban Africa*. Uppsala: Nordiska Afrikainst. [Excerpts].
 - Available on Canvas
- Kinyanjui, Mary Njeri. 2014. *Women and the Informal Economy in Urban Africa: From the Margins to the Center*. Zed Books. [Excerpts].
 - Available on Canvas

November 26— FRIDAY CLASS SCHEDULE

December 3 —Beyond a Westphalian Political Space

By this class, students should have turned in all 6 of the mandatory reading responses.

- Clarke, Kamari. 2009. *Fictions of Justice: The International Criminal Court and the Challenge of Legal Pluralism in Sub-Saharan Africa*. New York: Cambridge University Press.
 - Available on Canvas
- Ferguson, James. 2010. "The Uses of Neoliberalism." *Antipode* 41: 166-184, <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1467-8330.2009.00721.x/abstract?deniedAccessCustomisedMessage=&userIsAuthenticated=false>
 - Available Online
- Ebeling, Mary F.E. 2003. "Going Global: The Internet Age and Freedom of the Press in Africa." in *Science and Technology in Africa*, eds. Ibulaimu Kakoma and Paul Tiyanbe Zeleza. Trenton: African World Press.
 - Available on Canvas
- Obadare, Ebenezer and Wale Adebaniwi. 2009. "Transnational Resource Flow and the Paradoxes of Belonging: Redirecting the Debate on Transnationalism, Remittances, State, and Citizenship in Africa." *Review of African Political Economy* 36, no. 122: 499-517, <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/03056240903346129#.UtWiAfZnu2w>
 - Available online
- Piot, Charles. 2010. *Nostalgia for the Future: West Africa After the Cold War*. University of Chicago Press.
 - Available on Canvas

OPTIONAL (You may read 1-2 of the following texts in lieu of 1-2 of the readings listed above):

- Piot, Charles. 1999. *Remotely Global: Village Modernity in West Africa*. Chicago. [Excerpts].
 - Available on Canvas

- Mbembe, Achille. 2001. “Ways of Seeing: Beyond the New Nativism, Introduction,” 44, 2 (September), 1-14.
 - Available on Jstor
- James Ferguson. 2005. “Seeing Like an Oil Company: Space, Security, and Global Capital in Neoliberal Africa” 107, no. 3 (September): 377-382.
 - Available on Jstor
- Pegg, Scott. 2010. “Is there a Dutch Disease in Botswana?” *Resources Policy* 35: 14-19, http://ipac.kacst.edu.sa/edoc/2011/192027_1.pdf
 - Available Online

FINAL DUE—December 18