

**Tentative: subject to change**

History 275.401

### **Islam and Politics in African History**

Fall 2011, T.R, 10:30-12

Room: 322

Instructor: Dr. Cheikh Babou, 306 G College Hall

Office hours: T: 12-2:00; F: 11:00- 12:00 and by appointment

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#### **Course description**

Over a quarter of the Muslim population of the world (estimated at over one billion) live in Africa and Islam is increasingly playing a central role in shaping African societies. This course is designed to provide the students with a broad understanding of the history of Islam in Africa. The focus will be mostly on West Africa, but we will also look at developments in the northern and eastern regions of the continent. We will examine the process of islamization in Africa and the variety of Islamic experiences on the continent. Topics include the ways in which Islam came and adapted to Africa, the relationships of Islam to trade and state formation, Islamic education and literacy, the status of women, Muslim responses to European colonial domination, Islamic mysticism, and the contemporary development of political Islam.

#### **Course Objectives and format**

The purpose of this course is threefold: first, to introduce students to the rich and diverse Islamic traditions of Africa; second, to examine how Islam shaped but also was shaped by African cultures; and third, to reflect on how contemporary changes in the wider Muslim world are affecting African Muslims. Format consists of two weekly meetings for lectures, film showings and discussions.

#### **Requirements**

***Attendance and class participation:*** Regular attendance at lectures and participation in class discussions are essential. You will be expected to be thoroughly familiar with the readings for each class and to participate actively in discussions. Assigned reading is indicated in the syllabus for each week. It is the student's responsibility to complete the required reading on schedule. Both attendance and in-class participation will count

towards your grade. One absence does not carry penalty but any additional unexcused absence will be penalized. Ten minute tardiness is considered an absence. If you have a legitimate reason to miss class, please let me know ahead of time.

**Grading:** Each student will be evaluated on four pieces of work: there will be two take home essays, a mid term test, and a final exam. Attendance and participation in class discussion will count for 10 % of your grade.

Essay No. 1-----due Oct. 7 (15%)  
Mid-term-----Oct.19 in class (25%)  
Essay No. 2-----Nov.6 (15%)  
Final exam -----(35%)  
Attendance and participation-----10%

**Essays:** Essay questions will be distributed a week before due date. Late submission will result in one-grade point penalty per day (e.g., A to A-; B+ to B).

**Electronic resources:** In this course we will be using Blackboard (Bb), which is course management software that provides space for the posting of course materials and allows fast and convenient communication between students and between students and instructor. The syllabus for this class will be posted on Blackboard as well as **a required electronic bulk pack of supplementary readings (ER)** and some additional resources related to specific course topics. Blackboard has a listserv that can be used to reach the class as a group or to communicate with individual students. Registered students with a Penn Net ID and an E-mail address are automatically listed on Blackboard. To access the course site point your browser to <https://courseweb.library.upenn.edu> and log in with your PennNet ID and password. For additional information about Blackboard see handout.

**Academic integrity:** Students are expected to adhere to the university's academic integrity and plagiarism policies on all assignments. Plagiarism consists of using other people's ideas without proper acknowledgment. Students who violate the university's academic integrity policies may fail the course. (For more on academic integrity see Links on Blackboard.)

## **Readings**

### **Required**

The following books are available for purchase at the Penn Book Center 34<sup>th</sup> St. and Sansom near the bank, and at the **Rosengarten Reserve Desk** at the Van Pelt library. Other required readings are available on the **Electronic reserve** on Blackboard (ER).

### ***List of required books***

Ernst, Carl, *Following Muhammad: Rethinking Islam in the Contemporary World* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2003).

King, Noel and Said Hamdun, *Ibn Batuta in Black Africa* (Princeton, N.J: Markus Wiener, 2005)

Robinson, David, *Muslim Societies in African History* (Cambridge: Cambridge U Press 2004).

***Required materials on Blackboard***

Babou, Cheikh Anta, "Contesting Space, Shaping Places: Making Room for the Muridiyyah in Colonial Senegal, 1912-1945," *Journal of African History*, (2005):405-426

Boyd, J. and M. Last, "Muslim women in Africa", *Canadian Journal of African Studies*, 19 (1985): 283-300

Clarke, P. B, "Islam Reform in Contemporary Nigeria: methods and aims" *Third World Quarterly*, (1988): 519-538.

-----*West Africa and Islam: A study of Religious Development from the 8<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> century* (London: E. Arnold, 1982): 8-27 and 46-53

Coulon, Christian, "Sokhna Magatte Diop" in D. B. Cruise O'Brian and Christian Coulon ed. *Charisma and Brotherhood in African Islam* (Oxford: Clarendon Press), 1988.

Gomez- Perez, Muriel "The Association des etudiants musulmans de Dakar: (AEMUD) Between the Local and the Global," *Africa Today*, 54 (2007).

Hess, R. L., "The Mad Mullah' and Northern Somalia," *Journal of African History*, v, 3(1964): 415-433

Hefner, R. W. and Muhammad Q. Zaman, *Schooling in Islam: The Culture and Politics of Modern Education* (Princeton: PUP, 2007): 1-21.

Hodgkin E., "Islamism and Islamic Research in Africa" in O Kane and J. L Triaud ed. *Islam et Islamismes au Sud du Sahara* (Paris: Karthala, 1998): 197-263

Hunwick, J., "Secular Power and Religious Authority in Muslim Society: the Case of Songhay," *Journal of African History*, 37 (1996): 175-194

Hiskett, Mervyn, *The Course of Islam in Africa* (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 1994) 1-11

Kane, Ousmane, "Moderate Revivalists: Islamic Inroads in Sub-Saharan Africa". *Harvard International Review*; summer (2007):29, 2.

Levtzion, N and Pouwells R., *The History of Islam in Africa* (Athens, Oxford, and Cape Town: OUP., J Currey, David Philip, 2000): ch 11 and 12

Insoll, Timothy, *The Archaeology of Islam in Sub-Saharan Africa* (Cambridge: Cambridge U. Press, 2003): 206-263

Loimeier, L., "Islamic Reform and Political Change: The Example of Abubakar Gumi and the Yan Izala Movement in Northern Nigeria," in Rosanders E. and D. Westerlund eds. *African Islam and Islam in Africa* (Athens: Ohio University Press, 1997): 286-306

Miles, W. F.S. *Political Islam in West Africa: State Societies Relations Transformed* (Boulder: Lynne Rienner, 2007).43-72.

Robinson, d and D. Smith, *Sources of the African Past* (New York: Africana Publishing Company, 1979): 122-158

Sanneh, L., *Piety and Power: Muslims and Christians in West Africa* (New York: Orbis Books, 1996): 146-172

Voll, J., "Revivalism and Social Transformations in Islamic History", *The Muslim World*, (1986): 168-181, on ER.

Warburg, Gabriel. *Islam, Sectarianism and Politics in Sudan since the Mahdiyya* (The University of Wisconsin Press, 2003): 7-55.

### **Recommended and reference books**

These texts are not required but they constitute important additional resources for course readings and for your writing assignments. Excerpts from some of these books will be used to supplement required materials.

Babou, C.A., *Fighting the Greater Jihad: Amadu Bamba and the Founding of the Muridiyya of Senegal* (Athens: Ohio University Press, 2007).

Bowill, E. W., *The Golden Trade of the Moors* (Princeton: Markus Wiener Publishers, 2<sup>nd</sup> printing, 1999)

Cruise O'Brien, Donal B. and Christian Coulon, eds., *Charisma and Brotherhood in African Islam* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1988)

Holt, P. M., *The Mahdist State in the Sudan, 1881-1898* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1970, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition)

Hunwick, John, *Sharī'a in Songhay: The Replies of Al Maghīlī to the Question of Askia Al-Hājj Muhammad* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1985)

Lapidus, I., *A History of Islamic Societies* (Cambridge: Cambridge U. Press, 1997)

Levtzion, Nehemia, *Ancient Ghana and Mali* (London: African Publishing Company, 1980)

-----and Jay Spaulding, *Medieval Africa: Views from Arab Scholars and Merchants* (Princeton: Markus Wiener Publishers, 2003)

Lewis, I. M., ed., *Islam in Tropical Africa* (Bloomington and London: International African Institute, 1980)

Nehemia Levtzion and J. Voll, *Eighteenth Century Renewal and Reform in Islam* (Syracuse: NYU of Syracuse Press, 1985)

Roberts, A., *The Colonial Moment in Africa: Essays on the Movement of Minds and Materials, 1900-140*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1992)

Robinson, David, *Paths of accommodation: Muslim societies and French Colonial Authorities in Senegal and Mauritania, 1880-1920* (Athens: Ohio University Press, 2000)

Rosanders, Eva E. and D. Westerlund, eds., *African Islam and Islam in Africa* (Athens: Ohio University Press, 1997)

Sanneh, Lamin, *The crown and the Turban: Muslims and West African Pluralism* (Westview press, 1997)

*UNESCO General History of Africa, Volume 2: Ancient Civilizations of Africa*, ed. G. Mokhtar.

*UNESCO General History of Africa, Volume 3: Africa from the Seventh to the Eleventh Century*, ed. I. Hrbek.

*UNESCO General History of Africa, Volume 4: Africa from the twelfth to the sixteenth century* ed. D. T. Niane.

*UNESCO General History of Africa, Volume 5: Africa from the sixteenth to the Eighteenth century*, ed. B A. Ogot

## **Schedule of meetings and assignments**

**Week 1**

Reading: start Ernst

Sept. 9: Organization and Introduction

**Week 2:**

Reading: Ernst, the whole book.

Sept 14: *The World's religions: Islam (video)*

Sept 16: Introduction to Islam

**Week 3**

Reading: Hiskett, ER; Robinson Ch.3; King and Hamdun IX-12.

Sept. 21: The coming of Islam to North Africa

Sept 23: *Caravans of Gold (video)*: The expansion of Islam in sub-Saharan Africa

**Week 4:**

Reading: Clarke ("First contacts") ER; King and Hamdun.29-75; 101-115.

Sept 28: Islam in the empire of Ghana

September 30: Islam in ancient Mali

**Topics for essay #1 distributed in class**

**Week 5:**

Reading: Clarke ER; Insoll on Songhay ER. Robinson ch. 8; Kaptejins ER.

Oct 5: Islam in Songhay

Oct 7 Islam and societies in the Horn of Africa

**Essay #1 due**

**Week 6**

Reading: Levtzion and Pouwells ch 12 ER; King and Hamdun 15-25

Oct 12: Fall break, no classes

Oct 14: Islam and Swahili culture

**Week 7**

Robinson, ch. 11

Oct.19: mid-term

Oct 21: Islam in Buganda

**Week 8**

Reading: Robinson ch.10; Robinson ch.12 and Warburg,

Oct 26: The Sokoto Caliphate

Oct 28: The Sudanese Mahdi

**Week 9**

Reading ; Hess, ER; Coulon, ER.

Nov 2: Jihad in Somalia

Nov 4: ER; video (*Paradise is under our mother's feet*). Islamic feminism in Africa

**Topics for essay #2 distributed in class**

**Week 10**

Reading Hefner and Zaman, ER; Sanneh ER Robinson ch. 6;

Nov 9: Madrassas and the politics of Islamic education

Nov 11: Muslims under European colonial domination

**Week 11**

Reading: Babou, ER; Robinson ch.13

Nov 16. Sufi 'brotherhoods' in Africa;

**Essay # 2 due**

Nov 18: Amadu Bamba and the Muridiyya

**Week 12**

Reading: Hodgkin ER;

Nov 23: Modern representations of Islam

Nov 25: No classes Thanksgiving

**Week 13**

Reading: Kane, ER; Gomez-Perez ER.; Loiemier on Nigeria ER.

Nov. 30: The rise of political Islam in Sub-Saharan Africa: Northern Nigeria

Dec 2: The retreat of political Islam: Senegal

**Week 14**

Reading: Miles, ER;

Dec 7: Political Islam in Africa

Dec. 9: Perspectives on the future of Islam in Africa.

End of semester review session

Final examination TBD



## **Time Line for the History of Islam in Africa**

### **Middle East and North Africa**

- 570 Birth of Muhammad in Mecca
- 610 Muhammad begins preaching at age 40
- 622 Hijra or flight to Medina
- 632 Death of Muhammad in Medina
- 632-661 Rule of the four caliphs rashidun (rightly guided)
- 642 Byzantium defeated: Egypt falls under Muslim control.
- 661-750 Umayyad caliphate
- 750-1258 Abbassid caliphate: Golden Age of Islam
- 832 Founding of the House of Wisdom University in Baghdad
- 909 Fatimid caliphate established in Tunisia
- 969 Fatimids conquer Egypt
- 1095 Pope Urban II launches the Crusades
- 1453 The Ottoman conquers Constantinople (Istanbul)
- 15<sup>th</sup> CE. Gradual establishment of Ottoman rule over the land of Islam in the Middle East and North Africa.

### **Ghana**

- 770 Al Farazi signals the existence of Ghana
- 800? Founding of the Soninke dynasty of Ghana
- 980 Ghana gains control of Awdaghust
- 10<sup>th</sup> CE Black African traders start converting to Islam
- 1076 Beginning of slow disintegration of Ghana

- 11<sup>th</sup> Ghanaian ruler converts to Islam
- 1100 Founding of Timbuktu
- 1200 The Sosso rulers of Mali take control Ghana

**Mali**

- 9<sup>th</sup> Founding of the Keyta dynasty (Mandinka-Malinke-Mande)
- 1050 The king of Mallel converts to Islam
- The Mande chief, Barmandana performs the pilgrimage to Mecca
- 1224 Sosso dominates Mali
- 1230-55 Sundiata Keyta defeats Sosso (1235) and establishes the Mali Empire
- 1324 Mansa Musa performs the pilgrimage to Mecca
- 1352-3 Ibn Batuta visits Mali
- 1400 Songhay starts the conquest of Mali
- 1433 The Tuareg gain control of Timbuktu

**Songhay**

- 874 Al-Yaqubi refers to Kaw Kaw (Gao) as the greatest kingdom of the Blacks
- 980 Ruling class of Gao are said to be Muslim
- 1009 The king converts to Islam
- 1275 Ali Kolon founds the Sonni dynasty.
- 1353 Ibn Batuta visits Gao
- 1400 The Sonni begins the conquest of Mali
- 1464 Sonni Ali the Great founds the Songhay Empire.
- 1469 Sonni Ali retakes Timbuktu from the Tuareg
- 1483 Embassy of King Joao II of Portugal to Songhay

- 1492 Expulsion from Granada: end of Muslim rule in Western Europe
- 1493 Muhammad Ture accesses Power in Songhay and forms the Askya dynasty
- 1497 Askya Muhammad performs the pilgrimage to Mecca
- 1534 Portuguese Embassy to Songhay under Peroz Fernandez
- 1591 Moroccan conquest of Songhay