

University of Wisconsin-Madison
 Department of History
 SPRING 2016- 2017

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 Humanities 4131 – phone: 263-5424
 O. H.: Mo. and Wed., 3:00- 4:00 pm (Drop-In)
 (If you cannot make it to my OH, send me an email
 to ask for an appointment)

Hermann Von Hesse
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 Humanities 4260
 O.H. Wed. 3:00-4:00 pm

105--History of Africa since 1870
MW 4:00 pm – 5:15 pm
Humanities 1121

Welcome to History 105! This course will introduce you to the history of Africa south of the Sahara from the end of the nineteenth century to the present.

The first part of the course (Unit I) focuses on Africa at the end of the nineteenth century after the abolition of the slave trade. Unit II discusses the European conquest and the colonial era, and examines the many social and economic transformations experienced and initiated by Africans. Unit III will examine Africans' struggles for independence and freedom. Unit IV brings the course to the present time, so we can discuss some of today's major challenges and hopes.

NB: Because there is so much to learn about Africa and Africans during this period, the course does not strive for exhaustive coverage. Instead, we will consider a variety of case-studies. Though we will cover nearly every major region and sub-period within these cases, some will receive particular attention in an effort to balance breadth and depth of historical knowledge.

Learning Outcomes:

- 1/ You will be able to understand the role of Africans in modern history, including the slave-trade, industrial capitalism, colonialism and decolonization, the World Wars, and the revival of Christianity and Islam.
- 2/ You will be able to challenge popular misunderstandings about environmental control and pandemics in Africa.
- 3/ You will explore the links between African-Americans and Africans during the twentieth century.

4/ You will see why foreign people keep investing in Africa, and the relation between development and hyper-debt.

5/ Learning about history from the viewpoint of marginalized nations, you will be better able to act as US and world citizens.

Requirements: Anyone and everyone is welcome to take this class. No previous course in African history or any other field is necessary. We will strive to make the course friendly to students with disabilities, who should consult Prof. Bernault early in the semester so we can better ensure all students an equal opportunity for success.

Assignments are as follows: **a map quiz** graded on a Pass/Fail basis); approximately **five multiple choice quizzes** on the lectures and readings contents, graded on a Pass/Fail basis; **one mid-term exam** (short essay questions); and **a final exam** (essay questions). The purpose of the **weekly reading** is to complement the lectures and to incite your thinking about a given topic. The final grade will be based on participation in discussion sections (10%) and the above assignments in equal measure.

Graduate students should consult with Prof. Bernault early in the semester for specific requirements.

Grading scale:

A: 92-100%

AB: 87-91.9%

B: 82-86.9%

BC: 77-81.9%

C: 72-76.9%

D: 67-71.9%

F: 0-66.9%

Readings:

Course readings should be completed before the lecture for which they are assigned and knowledge of them will be assumed. The following books (required) are available at the University Book Store, and on reserve at the College Library.

Richard Reid, *A History of Modern Africa 1800 to the Present* (2d. ed., 2012)
[abbreviated as Reid]

Other readings are available online at the course website on Learn@UW.

****SCHEDULE****

Unit I: Africa at the End of the 19th Century

Week 1: Studying African History

Readings: Reid, 1-16
Curtis Keim, Africans Live in Tribes, Don't They? 113-127

01/18: Introduction

Why study African history? What are the possibilities and limitations of a survey course? What are common misconceptions of Africa, Africans, and African history?

Week 2: African Societies in the Nineteenth Century I

Readings: Reid, 23-35

01/23: Political and Social Diversity

01/25: From Slave Trade to Legitimate Commerce

How diverse were African societies and polities in the nineteenth century? How did African economies compare to European ones at the beginning of the century? What violent transitions took place in nineteenth century Africa? Which of these changes were externally and internally driven?

Week 3: African Societies in the Nineteenth Century II

Readings: Reid, 42-64 & 103-106 on East Africa, and 35-41 & 94-102 on West Africa
M. Wright, *Strategies of Slaves and Women: "Chisi-Ndjurisiye-Sihyajunga,"* pp. 81-90 [book online: search on UW library catalog] [42 pp.]

01/30: Transitions in East Africa [Lecture by David Bresnahan]

02/01: Transitions in West Africa [lecture by Hermann Von Hesse]

****MAP QUIZ DUE on 02/01****

Why did centralized empires of West Africa collapsed in the nineteenth century? What explain the endemic insecurity in East Africa after 1800?

Week 4: Southern Frontiers

Readings: Reid, 65-76

A. MacKinnon, *The Making of South Africa*, pp. 129-141 & 158-181

[46 pp.]

02/06 & 02/08: The Zulu Empire, Moeshoeshoe's Kingdom, Diamond and Gold in South Africa

What was the broader significance of Shaka's *Mfecane*? How did diamond and gold change the political stakes in Southern Africa?

Unit II: The Colonial Conquest

Week 5: The Colonial Conquest

Readings: Reid, 113-175

[62 pp.]

02/13: Explorations, Rivalries and Conquest. African Resistance

02/15: Movie and Discussion: "The Magnificent African Cake" (from "Africa: a Voyage of Discovery," 55 min)

Why did the conquest begin in the 1880s? What factors motivated it? How did it vary from place to place? How did Africans respond to European encroachment and violence?

Week 6: Establishing Colonialism

Readings: Reid, 183-210

02/20 & 02/22: Early Colonial Governments, Concessionary/Charter Companies, Labor and Land

How did colonialism operate on the ground? What rationale underwrote colonial economies? How did Africans and Europeans understand and misunderstand each other?

Week 7: Colonial Transformations I

Readings: Reid, 218-235 [also re-read chap. 6 and 7 on Islam]

02/27: Race, Chiefs and Tribes

03/01: Spiritual Battlegrounds: African Christianity, Islam

How did Europeans try to stabilize colonial territories, populations and labor? How did colonial economies complement European ones? How did religions of the book both strengthen and undermine colonial domination?

Week 8: Colonial Transformations II

Readings: L. White, Prostitution, Identity and Class Consciousness in Nairobi, pp. 255-273

03/06 & 03/08: Gender Conflicts and Urban Life

Why did cities grow during colonialism? How and why did colonialists try to control urban growth? Why did urban migration become a path of economic and social independence for women? What were the reasons for intensifying gender conflicts from the 1950s onwards?

Week 9: MID-TERM

No Readings

03/13: No class. Prepare for Mid Term

03/15: **MID-TERM**

Unit III: Independence and Beyond

Week 10: SPRING BREAK

03/20 & 03/22: No Class

Week 11: Pan-Africanism, Negritude and Settler Nationalism

Readings: Reid, 236-275 and 284-285 on Mau Mau
Program of the Pan-African Congress, Manchester 1945, pp. 758-761

03/27 & 03/29: Pan-Africanism, Anti-Colonialism.

What major changes did Africans and Europeans face in the 1940s and 1950s? How did Pan-Africanism foster claims for African independence? Who were the African elites able to exert pressure on colonial governments? Can we call them nationalists?

Week 12: Independent Ghana, Crisis in Kenya

Readings: Reid, 276-291 [re-read p. 264-267 on Ghana]
Kwame Nkrumah, *I Speak of Freedom*, pp. 1-39 & 95-110

[69 pp.]

04/03: Nkrumah and Nation-Building in Ghana.

04/05: The Mau Mau Crisis in Kenya

Why did Nkrumah believe that independence could be better achieved by mass action rather than a gradual extension of power to educated elites? How did the British react? Why did “Westernized” Africans harbor the most pronounced anti-colonial feelings? What happened in Kenya? Did the British understand Mau Mau as a political conflict? Who were the winners and losers in the Mau Mau war?

Week 13: Settler Nationalism II, Southern Africa

Readings: Reid: 292-295
Frederick Cooper, *Africa since 1940*, pp. 133-155
Freedom Charter 1955, pp. 204-208
Robert Sobukwe, Interview Statements and Constitution of the PAC, pp. 506-510
[33 pp.]

04/10 & 04/12: Apartheid and the End of Apartheid in South Africa.

What was the rationale behind Apartheid’s idea of “Separate Development? Why did the ANC resolve to use violence? What factors contributed to pressuring De Klerk’s government in opening negotiations with Mandela?

Unit IV: Crises of the New Nations

Week 14: Looking at Pandemics Historically

Readings: Reid, 210-217 & 352-355
Stephanie Nolen, 28 Stories of Aids in Africa (excerpts TBA)

04/17 & 04/19: Biomedicine, Public Health, HIV-Aids and Ebola. Why does Africa have the highest rate of HIV-AIDS infection? How did Ebola appear in Central Africa? Did the coming of biomedicine during the colonial era contribute to the spread of epidemics, or did it help to contain them? How do Africans engage with public health? With NGOs? Why did the South African government ignore the HIV-Aids epidemic?

Week 15: 1994, a Year of Hope and Tragedy

Readings: Leave None to Tell the Story: Genocide in Rwanda, pp. 1-30 [pp. 31-95 only FYI]

04/24 & 04/26: The Rwandan Genocide (April-July), the First Non-Racial Elections in South Africa (27 April).

How to discern between ethnic, political and economic factors in the Rwandan genocide? How did the International Community react to the massacres? What challenges did the ANC government face at the dawn of the 1994 elections? What are the challenges faced by the "New South Africa"?

Week 16: Economic Growth and World Recessions

Readings: Reid, 297-327 & 355-362

05/01 & 05/03: Development and Recession across Sub-Saharan Africa. The Crisis of the Gate-Keeper State

Is there a link between development and decolonization? To what extent is colonialism responsible for current economic crises in Africa? Why did African states get into hyper-debt?

****FINAL EXAM TBA****