

THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN  
Department of History

Semester II Year 1977-1978

<u>COURSE NO.</u>	<u>COURSE TITLE</u>	<u>INSTRUCTOR</u>
377	History of Africa since 1880	Feierman

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The lectures and readings will cover modern African history while trying to answer a single central question. Why is it that African nations, having won independence in the early 1960s in what seemed a final triumph over colonialism, now seem so disappointed in what they have won? Inequality increases, poverty endures, the military rules. This recent change has led to a reexamination of all African history over the past hundred years, and a reinterpretation of the struggle for national independence. It also leads to a new understanding of the whole history of Southern Africa, and especially of current politics in that part of the continent. It shows that the real question in Rhodesia/Zimbabwe, for example, is not whether the country will be ruled by Africans, but by which Africans and in what way. This is what the Mozambiquans, Cubans, Tanzanians, South Africans, British, Russians, and Americans are struggling to influence. The shift in focus from national independence to post-colonial society leads us to examine carefully the changes which have taken place within African society over the past hundred years.

LECTURES

Two a week, covering the whole course of modern African history, with some extra emphasis on South Africa.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS and EXAMINATIONS

Two take-home exams, each based on a few major readings together with lectures and discussions. The first will be on the history of city life for Africans in South Africa, the second contrasting two very different explanations of modern Africa's development. A final exam will be based

GRADING SYSTEM on the lectures and the final few weeks' readings.

See assignments.

REQUIRED READINGS

African History, by Curtin, Feierman, Thompson, Vansina  
Philip Mayer, Townsmen or Tribesmen, on city life in South Africa  
Arrighi and Saul, Essays on the Political Economy of Africa  
Kwame Nkrumah, Autobiography, for a personal view of the triumph of nationalism  
Two novels (Kongi's Harvest, and A Man of the People) to get an intimate feeling for life in modern Africa