

**History 444: History of East Africa  
Spring 2016**

**MWF 9:55-10:45 in 360 Science Hall**

**Introduction**

History 444 is an introductory survey of East African history. The course will provide students with an historical foundation for thinking about contemporary East Africa. We will cover a range of topics and time periods, from the distant past to issues debated by East African communities today. The format of the course will be a combination of lectures and class discussions. We will draw upon a variety of materials, including academic texts, journals and films. The course will be divided into several units. The first part of the course will examine the development of trade, Islam, and urbanism on the Swahili coast. The second part will focus on the origins of European colonialism, Africans' experiences during the colonial period, and the rise of nationalism and decolonization in East Africa. The third part of the course will investigate post-independence politics in East Africa and more recent events like the China's involvement in the region and political violence in Rwanda. We will conclude by examining popular culture in contemporary East Africa.

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**Office Hours**

Monday, 11:00am-1:00pm. You can walk-in during my office hours. However, if you need to see me beyond my office hours, please see me after class, or send me an email to set up an appointment. I encourage you all to come to my office hours to discuss any aspect of the course or your progress in it. These hours are set aside specifically for your benefit, and I really hope to see you there.

**Lectures**

I expect faithful attendance at lectures. We meet on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9:55-10:45am in 360 Science Hall. Please note that to facilitate a comfortable learning environment for all, recording devices of any sort will be permitted only with the instructor's consent. Students wishing to use laptop computers to take notes may do so.

**Required Readings:**

All students are required to buy the following books:

1. Lydia Boyd, *Preaching Prevention: Born-Again Christianity and the Moral Politics of AIDS in Uganda* (Athens: Ohio University Press), 2015.
2. Mwenda Ntarangwi, *East African Hip Hop: Youth Culture and Globalization* (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 2009).

Reading assignments are listed in the weekly schedule. You are expected to do all of the reading. You cannot properly participate in discussion sections and do well on exams

unless you have read everything that has been assigned. Lectures and readings are intended to be complementary.

### **Graded Work**

There will be three take-home assignments:

- 1) The first take-home assignment will cover weeks 1-6. I will provide detailed instructions in class on February 26. The assignment will be due in class on Monday, March 11.
- 2) The second-take home assignment will cover weeks 7-11. I will provide detailed instructions on April 1. The assignment will be due in class on Monday, April 11.
- 3) The third take-home assignment will ask you to reflect on materials presented throughout the course, with extra weight given to subjects covered in weeks 12-16. I will provide detailed instructions on May 4. The assignment will be due in class on May 13.

### **Grades**

Grades for the course will be weighted as follows:

First Take-home assignment 20%

Second Take-home assignment 20%

Third Take-home assignment 30%

Participation grade 30%

### **Participation Grade**

Points will be based on your attendance of lecture and your contributions to class discussions each week. It will be assumed that you have done the readings, thought about the concepts and issues, and will come to class prepared to share your opinions and questions. Class discussion is your opportunity to demonstrate that you have done the readings and thought critically about their content. Each student will be required to lead discussion for one course topic to be assigned the first week of class. Your responsibilities include introducing the topic and providing questions for class discussion. There will be one "excused" absence which will not deduct points, but as additional days of lecture and class discussion are missed, three (3) points are deducted from your participation grade.

### **Other Resources for the Course**

In addition to the Writing Center, located at the Helen C. White Hall, Room 6171, I encourage you to make use of the History Lab. This is a resource center for undergraduate students studying, researching, and writing about the past. They will help you with choosing a topic, conducting research, composing a thesis, outlining your argument, revising your drafts. The Lab is staffed by talented and experienced graduate students from the Department of History. The Lab is equipped also to support challenges faced by English-language learners. The History Lab is located in 4255 Humanities

### **Academic Honesty**

By enrolling in the university, students are automatically agreeing to abide by policies, including those on academic misconduct. Plagiarism and cheating contradict these values, and so are very serious academic offenses. Penalties can include a failing grade in an

assignment or in the course. Students are expected to familiarize themselves with and follow citation practices. If you are unsure please come and talk to me.

Disability:

Disability guidelines for course accommodations may be found at the UW McBurney Disability Resource Center site: <http://www.mcburney.wisc.edu/>

### **Schedule of Class Meeting Reading Assignments and Discussion**

#### **Week 1 (Jan. 18-22)**

1/20 Introduction to course and review of syllabus

1/22 No Discussion

#### **Week 2 (Jan. 25-29)**

1/25 The Rise of Swahili Sates

J. Prestholdt “On the Global Repercussions of East African Consumerism”

2/27 Islam and Trade at the Coast

M. Horton and J. Middleton, “The Trading System of the Swahili Coast,” 47-103

1/29 Discussion

#### **Week 3 (Feb. 1-5)**

2/1 Ideals of Social Organization and the Interior of East Africa

John McCall, “Social Organization in Africa”

2/3 Practice of power in Buganda

Neil Kodesh, “Network of Knowledge”

2/5 Discussion

#### **Week 4 (Feb. 8-12)**

2/8 Hutu, Tutsi, and Twa in Precolonial Rwanda

Jan Vansina, “Social Transformation in the Nineteenth Century”

2/10 Political Culture in Central Kenya

Charles Ambler, "The Formation of New Societies"

2/12 Discussion

**Week 5 (Feb. 15-19)**

2/15 The Establishment of the Colonial Rule

Maxon Robert, "Scramble for East Africa"

2/17 Colonial Resistance in East Africa

Jamie Monson, "Relocating Maji Maji: The Politics of Alliance and Authority in the Southern Highlands of Tanzania, 1860-1918"

2/19 Discussion

**Week 6 (Feb. 22-26)**

2/22 Colonial Era in East Africa

L. White, "Prostitution, Identity and Class Consciousness in Nairobi during World War II"

2/24 Colonial Era in East Africa

L. Thomas, "Imperial Concerns and 'Women's Affairs': State Efforts to Regulate Clitoridectomy and Eradicate Abortion in Meru, Kenya, c. 1910-1950"

K. Mutongi, "'Worries of the Heart': Widowed Mothers, Daughters, and Masculinities in Maragoli, Western Kenya, 1940-1960"

2/26 Discussion

**Week 7 (Feb. 29-March 4)**

2/29 The Origins of Mau Mau

J. Lonsdale, "Mau Maus of the Mind: Making Mau Mau and Remaking Kenya"

3/2 The Mau Mau War and its Aftermath

D. Branch, "The Search for the Remains of Dedan Kimathi: The Politics of Death and Memorialization in Post-Colonial Kenya"

3/4 Discussion

**Week 8 (March 7-11)**

3/7 Post-independence Politics in Tanzania

Robert Calderisi, "Tanzania: African Socialism"

3/9 Post-independence Politics in Kenya and Uganda

Daniel Branch & Nicholas Cheeseman, "The Politics of Control in Kenya: Understanding the Bureaucratic-Executive State, 1952-78"

Holger Bernt Hansen, "Uganda in the 1970s: A Decade of Paradoxes and Ambiguities"

3/11 Discussion:

**Week 9 (March 14-18)**

3/14: Health, Disease, and Medicine, Part 1

Lydia Boyd, *Preaching Prevention*, Part One

3/16: Health, Disease, and Medicine, Part 2

Lydia Boyd, *Preaching Prevention*, Part Two

3/18 Discussion

**Week 10 (March 21-25)—Spring Break**

**Week 11 (March 28-April 1)**

3/28: Political Violence in East Africa—Rwanda

Helen M. Hintjens "Explaining the 1994 genocide in Rwanda"

3/30: Political Violence in East Africa—Rwanda

E. Staub, L.A. Pearlman, A. Gubin, & A. Hagengimana "Healing, reconciliation, forgiving and the prevention of violence after genocide or mass killing: An intervention and its experimental evaluation in Rwanda"

4/1 Discussion:

## **Week 12 (April 4-8)**

4/4 Religion in East Africa

Julius Gathogo “The challenge of money and wealth in some East African Pentecostal Churches”

4/6 Religion in East Africa

Amy Stambach “Take the Gift of My Child and Return Something to Me’: On Children, Chagga Trust, and an American Evangelical Orphanage on Mount Kilimanjaro”

Movie: God Loves Uganda

4/8 Discussion:

## **Week 13 (April 11-15)**

4/11: China in East Africa, Part 1

Denis M. Tull, “China’s engagement in Africa: Scope, Significance and Consequences”

4/13: China in East Africa, Part 2

“Remembering Work on the TAZARA Railway in Africa and China, 1965 -2011”

4/15: Discussions:

## **Week 14 (April 18-22)**

4/18: Pop Culture in East Africa, Part 1

Mwenda Ntarangwi, *East African Hip Hop*, 1-43.

4/20: Pop Culture in East Africa, Part 2

Mwenda Ntarangwi, *East African Hip Hop*, 44-122.

4/22: Discussion

## **Week 15 (April 25-29)**

4/25: The Challenges of East Africans

Nic Cheeseman, Gabrielle Lynch & Justin Willis, "Democracy and its Discontents: Understanding Kenya's 2013 Elections"

4/27: The Challenges of East Africans

David M. Anderson, "Understanding al-Shabaab: Clan, Islam and Insurgency in Kenya"

4/29 Discussion

**Week 16 (May 2-6)**

5/2: Gay and Lesbian Rights in Uganda

Lydia Boyd Lydia Boyd, *Preaching Prevention*, Part Three

5/4 Engaging East Africa and Activism

T. Cole, "The White-Savior Industrial Complex"

5/6 Discussion hand out final take-home essay prompt