

University of Wisconsin-Madison
Department of History
Spring 2015

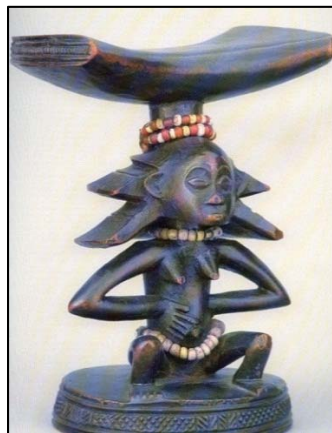
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Off. Hours: TBA
(and also by appointment)

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Learn@UW: 445

History 445: Equatorial Africa Since 1500
Tuesday-Thursday, 4:00 pm-5:15 pm, 1217 Humanities

A threatening environment, ethnic warfare, corrupt governments and devastating poverty: today's Equatorial Africa seems to concentrate many of the African continent's ills. This lecture will ask you to go beyond this cliché imagery and to explore the complex history of this region.

Recent historiography has recovered the existence of an Equatorial African civilization that has survived and innovated for several millenia while successfully confronting pressures from the Atlantic slave trade. From the end of the 19th century onwards, ordinary people resisted brutal forms of colonialism. In the 20th and 21st centuries, expansive urbanization, deteriorating economic conditions and the emergence of the HIV and Ebola viruses posed radical new challenges to local societies. By devising social and intellectual responses to these issues, Equatorial Africans have placed their region among the most innovative areas of the African continent. The course will explore the many facets of this history while using the case of Equatorial Africa to help you to get an in-depth understanding of today's Africa problems and potentials.



Luba Seat - 18th century

Grading

- Take Home Paper 1 on Cloth (5-page): 20%
- Take-Home Paper 2 (5-page): 20%
- Take Home Paper 3 (6-8-page): 30%
- Map (5%) and Short Essays (5%): 10%
- Oral Participation in Discussions: 20%

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS

- Map and Short Essays (5%) I will regularly ask you to write short reaction essays (one paragraph to 1-page) on course contents. You will write approximately three to four of them.
- Take Home Paper 1 (four to five pages, min. 1,000 words, max. 1,300 words, double-spaced) on the politics of cloth in Equatorial Africa. Read the assigned articles: Jan Vansina, *Raffia Cloth in West Central Africa*, 1-19; Phyllis Martin, *Power, Cloth and Currency*, 135-147, and TBA. Instructions given in class ahead of time (20%)
- Take Home Paper 2 (four to five pages pages, double spaced, min. 1000 words-max. 1300 words). Instructions given in class ahead of time (20%)
- Take Home Paper 3 (six to eight-pages, min. 1,500 words-max. 2,000 words, double-spaced). A guideline sheet will be handed out ahead of time (30%)

2) CLASS PARTICIPATION:

Students are required to attend all lectures. In addition, there will be periodic discussion sessions (usually on Thursdays) during which you will be expected to come to class prepared to discuss the week's readings. Both attendance and participation in discussions will be noted and will be taken into account in calculating your final grade. (20%)

3) GRADUATE STUDENTS should talk to me early in the semester for specific assignments.

Course Regulations

- Attendance is mandatory. You can miss two classes unexcused during the semester-- but not one that features a class discussion (in upper case in the schedule). Three and more unexcused absences will lower your grade.
- No make-ups for being absent, late, or late in turning assignments. Missed exams will only be excused with doctor's notes or other formal documents.
- Late research papers will be marked down a ½ grade (e.g.: from a "B" to a "BC") for each school day missed, and will not be accepted after three school days after the due date (thus marked "F"). Papers or exams put under my office door will not be graded. Papers turned late can be put in my mailbox ONLY if signed, dated and timed by administrator at History Department front desk.
- The length of research papers is mandatory. Any paper more than 3/4 page shorter or longer than the assigned number of pages will be marked down. The police of characters should be no larger than 12, and the margins no wider than 1" (top and bottom), and 1.2" (left and right).
- Written assignments are individual. I encourage collaborative work for preparing a take-home assignment, but writing the final paper remains an individual task. If you are unsure about what is considered plagiarism, check with me.

Readings

Articles and book chapters are available online on the course website at Learn@UW.

The following books are required and available at the University Book Store. They are also on reserve at Helen C. White. Please make sure to bring readings in class for the appropriate week.

John Thornton, *The Kongolese St Anthony: Dona Beatriz Kimpa Vita and the Antonian Movement, 1684-1706* (1998)

Jan Vansina, *Being Colonized. The Kuba Experience in Rural Congo, 1880-1960* (2010)

Emmanuel Dongala, *Johnny Mad Dog*, a Novel (2005)



Untitled. Kinshasa in the 1950s (©Jean Depara/Courtesy Galerie Maison Revue Noire).

COURSE SCHEDULE**PART I****Week 1. Introduction**

01/20 Introduction

01/22 Bantu Migrations. Mapping Equatorial Africa by 1400 C. E.

Reading: David Birmingham, *Society and Economy before A. D. 1400*, 1-29 [29 pp]

Week 2. Social Diversity by 1500 CE

01/27 The Iron Age: Farmers and Hunters-Gatherers (Pygmies)

01/29 Chiefdoms and Territoriality -- DISCUSSION on Hunters-Gatherers

Reading: Read Birmingham (week 1) if you have not done so yet
Roy Grinker, *Houses in the Rainforest*, 1-9 & 115-160 [45 pp]

Week 3. The Kongo Kingdom

02/03 The Rise of Kingdoms

02/05 Life in the Kongo Kingdom *****MAP due in class*****

Reading : Start reading John Thornton, *Kongolese St Anthony*, and take notes on life in the countryside (11-16) and initiation (53-58)
Look at Map on Empires and Kingdoms 1400-1800

Week 4. The Atlantic World and Slave Trading

02/10 The Portuguese Arrive

02/12 Becoming Christians, Producing Slaves

Reading: John Thornton, *Kongolese St Anthony*, chapter 1, 2 and 3, 10-104 [94 pp]

Week 5. Equatorial Africa and the Atlantic World

02/17 Atlantic Imports and their Impact: Crops, Cloths, Christianity

02/19 DISCUSSION on *Kongolese St Anthony*

Reading: John Thornton, *Kongolese St Anthony*, chapters 4- 8, 82-198 [116 pp]

Week 6. Impact of the Slave Trade

02/24 How to Assess the Demographic and Social Impact of the Slave Trade?

02/26 Caravans and Slave Markets

*****5-page TAKE HOME PAPER ON CLOTH DUE in class 02/26*****

Reading: John Thornton, *Kongolese St Anthony*, last chapter, 199-214
Jan Vansina, *Tradition under Stress*, 235-237 [17 pp]



Week 7. The Nineteenth Century: Abolition and European Penetration

- 03/05 Luanda and Benguela
03/07 European Factories and Explorers

Reading: Mariana Candido, Merchants and the Business of the Slave Trade at Benguela, 1740-1850, 143-164
Conrad, Heart of Darkness [TBA]

PART II**Week 8. Fang People(s) and Europeans**

- 03/10 The Fang: Decentralized Farmers, Migrants and Warriors
03/12 European Stereotypes and Colonial Policies. DISCUSSION

Reading: Paul B. Du Chaillu, Explorations and Adventures in Equatorial Africa (1861), 102-111 & 118-129
Robert H. Milligan, Fetish Folk of West Africa (1912), 240-245 [TBA]

Week 9. Colonial Conquest

- 03/17 How Did the Conquest Happen? ***5 -page TAKE HOME PAPER DUE in class ***
03/19 African Resistance

Reading: Vansina, Being Colonized, Introduction and chapters 1 to 3, 3-85 [82 pp]

Week 10. Land, Labor and Chiefs

- 03/24 Company Rule.
03/26 Citemene Cultivation in Zambia

Reading: Vansina, Being Colonized, chapters 4, 7 and 8, 86-126 and 177-243 [106 pp]

Week 11. Spring Break**Week 12. Ideological and Spiritual Encounters**

- 04/07 Spiritual Encounters
04/09 Christianity and Syncretic Cults (Bwiti)

Reading: James Fernandez, Bwiti Chapel, 371-412
Vansina, Being Colonized, chapters 9 and 10, 214-324 [131 pp]

Week 13. Social Dynamics from the 1930s to the 1950s

- 04/14 Colonial Cities
04/16 Women and Gender Wars

Reading: Vansina, Being Colonized, chapter 11 and concl. , 298-331
Phyllis Martin, Football is King, 99-153 [87 pp]

PART III

Week 14. Decolonization and Beyond

- 04/21 Politics and Elites. Zaire- Congo DRC: Case Study on Decolonization
- 04/23 Decolonization --DISCUSSION

Reading: Start reading Emmanuel Dongala, Johnny Mad Dog, chap. 1-16, 3-149 [146 pp]

Week 15. Postcolonial Challenges: 1960s-2010s

- 04/28 Mining, Wars, Violence
- 04/30 HIV-AIDS Epidemic -- DISCUSSION

Reading: Stephanie Nolen, 28 Stories of AIDS in Africa. Read "Lydia Mungherera," "Noé Sebisaba," "Christine Amisi," 72-112 [40 pp]
Finish Emmanuel Dongala, Johnny Mad Dog, 150-321 [171 pp]

Week 16. Epidemics and Economic Development

- 05/05 Ebola ***6-8 page TAKE HOME PAPER DUE in class ***
- 05/07 What Future?

Reading: TBA

