

History 45B/145B/Africaam145B

Trevor Getz

Office Hrs: MW 3:30-4:30

Email: tgetz@stanford.edu

Winter '18, MW 4:30-5:50

Rm: 200-303

**AFRICA in the 20TH CENTURY:
1870-2000**

This course deals with three great transformations connecting African experiences and global change: the impact of the industrial revolution, colonization and colonialism, and the meanings and experiences of decolonization. It is a course about Africans and how they responded to the challenges and opportunities of colonialism and independence. Throughout this course we will be concerned with African initiatives in a rapidly changing political, economic, social, and ideological context. Africa in the 20th Century will have five main themes: African patterns of society and development on the eve of colonial conquest, African reactions to the imposition of colonial rule, transformation of African societies during the period of colonial rule, *and* African responses to the challenges of colonialism and decolonization the challenges of decolonization in Africa and the problems of persistent poverty.

This course has three principal, overlapping learning outcomes. Students should be able to:

- Construct critical narratives connecting the industrial revolution, colonialism, and decolonization in the African context
- Describe a range of pre-colonial African lived experiences and social systems and the impact of colonialism and late twentieth-century global systems upon them.
- Interpret African strategies of resistance, evasion, infiltration, negotiation, and survival under colonial rule and in the post-colonial period

We will approach the history of this period in three ways. First, the lectures will present both narrative and interpretation of the topics under consideration. Second, the readings for each lecture pursue the topics discussed and often present different interpretations. And third, most of the discussions will revolve around histories and novels written by Africans. The readings used in sections are also required, and they include the following books:

- Chinua Achebe, *No Longer at Ease* (New York, 1963)
- Amadou Hampaté Ba, *The Fortunes of Wangrin* (Bloomington, 1999).
- Stephen Biko, *I Write What I Like* (Chicago 2002)
- Ousmane Sembene, *God's Bits of Wood* (London and New York, any version)

All the required books are available at Green Reserves. Students are expected to take part actively in the section discussions. Selected readings are available online at the course CANVAS site. It is recommended that you use digital versions as much as possible.

For the 5-unit course (145B), students will have the following requirements:

- 1) a take-home mid-term examination (25% of the final grade), due January 31
- 2) a five to seven page typed research essay (literature review) focused on colonialism and African responses in one region (25% of your final grade): preliminary outline due February 12. Paper due March 14.
- 3) short, reflexive writing, in class on select days (10% of your final grade)
- 4) a take-home final exam, due March 16 (25% of the final grade).
- 5) participation (15% of your grade).
- 6) all work must be submitted on its due date. Late work will be penalized.

For the 3-unit course (45B), students will have the following requirements:

- 1) a take-home mid-term examination (25% of the final grade), due January 31.
- 2) either a five to seven page typed research essay (literature review) focused on colonialism and African responses in one region or the take-home exam, due March 16. If the essay is chosen, the preliminary outline is due February 12. Paper is due March 14. Either option is worth 50% of the final grade. Students must inform the instructor in writing by February 12 which option they are choosing.
- 3) participation (15% of your grade).
- 4) short, reflexive writing, in class on select days (10% of your final grade)
- 5) all work must be submitted on its due date. Late work will be penalized.

Students with disabilities should (1) register with the Disabilities Resource Center [563 Salvatierra Walk, Stanford, CA 94305; TEL: 723-1066 (voice), 723-1067 (TTY)]; (2) inform me during the first week of the existence of the disability (discretion assured).

*****Course outline*****

Monday, January 8

Introduction to the Course

In class discussion of Binyavanga Wainaina, "How to Write about Africa", *Granta*, 92, 2008: <http://granta.com/How-to-Write-about-Africa/>

Concept quiz

Wednesday, January 10

Africa from the Atlantic slaving system to the industrial revolution

- Donna J.E. Maier, "Precolonial Palm Oil Production and Gender Division of Labor in Nineteenth-Century Gold Coast and Togoland", *African Economic History*, 37 (2009), 1-32.

Monday, January 15 (No class, MLK Holiday)

Wednesday, January 17

Settler colonialism and response in southern Africa

- William Gqoba, *The Great Cattle Massacre*
- J.B. Pieres, *The Dead Will Arise*, Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1989, 78-144.
- Helen Bradford, "Women, Gender, and Colonialism: Rethinking the History of the British Cape Colony and Its Frontier Zones, c.1806-70," *The Journal of African History*, 37 (1996), 351-370.

Monday, January 22

The operation of the colonial state

- Mahmood Mamdani, "A Brief History of Genocide", *Transition*, 87 (2001), 26-47.

Wednesday, January 24

Responses to the colonial state

- Emily Lynn Osborn, "'Circle of Iron': African Colonial Employees and the Interpretation of Colonial Rule in French West Africa", *Journal of African History*, 44 (2003), 29-50.
- Ahmadou Hampate Ba, *The Fortunes of Wangrin*

Monday, January 29

Power and authority (and colonial architecture)

- Ambe J. Njoh, "Colonial Philosophies, Urban Space, and Racial Segregation in British and French Colonial Africa", *Journal of Black Studies*, 38 (2008), 579-599.

[midterm assigned]

Wednesday, January 31

Ethiopia from Adwa to '35

- *The Battle of Adwa: Reflections on Ethiopia's Historic Victory against European Colonialism*, edited by Paulos Milkias and Getachew Metaferia, Algora: New York, 2005, 37-88
- Tim Carmichael, "When Satiety and Avarice Marry, Hunger is Born", including Haddis Ademayu's *The Kingdom of the Cats and the Kingdom of the Mice*, from *African Voices of the Global Past*, New York: Westview, 2013, Chapter 3.

Midterm due

Monday, February 5

The economics of colonialism

- Dennis Laumann, *Colonial Africa*, New York: Oxford University Press, Chapter 1.
- Midterm return and discussion
- Research paper discussion

Wednesday, February 7

The First World War and transformations in colonialism

- Alice Conklin, "Democracy' Rediscovered: Civilization through Association in French West Africa (1914-1930), *Cahiers d'Etudes Africaines*, 37 (1997), 59-84).

Monday, February 12

Patterns of social change (religion, culture, gender)

- Richard Roberts, "Representation, Structure and Agency: Divorce in the French Soudan During the Twentieth Century", *The Journal of African History*, 40 (1999), 389-410.
- Research paper outline due

Wednesday, February 14

Apartheid in South Africa

- Aran S. McKinnon, "Apartheid and South African Society", in *The Making of South Africa: culture and Politics*, Upper Saddle River: Pearson, 2004, 210-245.
- Stephen Biko, *I Write What I Like*, Chapters 5, 9, and 11

Monday, February 19 (No class, President's Day)

Wednesday, February 21

Independence/Decolonization

- Ali A Mazrui, "The Development of modern literature since 1935", in *The UNESCO General History of Africa*, Berkeley: University of California Press, 1993/1999, 533-581.
- Ousmane Sembene, *God's Bits of Wood*

Monday, February 26

What was 'decolonized'? (and the paintings of Tshibumbe Kanda Matulu)

- Carol Sicherman, "Ngugi's Colonial Education: 'The Subversion... of the African Mind'", *African Studies Review*, 38 (1995), 11-41.

Wednesday, February 28

Post-colonial political challenges

- Mahmood Mamdani, "Beyond Settler and Native as Political Identities: Overcoming the Political Legacy of Colonialism", *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, 43 (2001), 651-664.

Section:

- Chinua Achebe, *No Longer at Ease*

Monday, March 5

Dismantling apartheid in South Africa (and Zimbabwe)

- Richard Price, "Chaos and Transformation: The Insurrectionary Process" and "International Reaction and Domestic Realignment", in *The Apartheid State in Crisis*, 190-248.

Wednesday, March 7

The SA constitution and constitutional court

- Albie Sachs, "Towards the Reconstruction of South Africa", *Journal of Southern African Studies*, 12 (1985), 49-59.

Section:

- TRC Report Volume 1, 48-93,
<http://www.justice.gov.za/trc/report/finalreport/Volume%201.pdf>
- The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa,
- <http://www.gov.za/documents/constitution/constitution-republic-south-Africa-1996-1>

Monday, March 12

Development, Poverty, and Precarity – from colonial to post-colonial to present

- A.G. Hopkins, "The New Economic History of Africa", *Journal of African History*, 50 (2009), 155-77.

Wednesday, March 14

Research paper due