

Professors Trevor Getz  
Class Hours: W 4:30-7:20  
Office Hours: W 3:30-4:30, 7:30 – 8:30

Fall 2017  
tgetz@stanford.edu

**African Studies 301/History 346/246/ Pol Sci 346P/246P  
Dynamics of Change in Africa**

This graduate colloquium is designed to provide a foundation for students seeking to understand the complexities of the African experience. We can only sample some of these complexities and only a handful of the approaches Africanists use to interpret them.

Besides regular and thorough reading of the assigned material, students will have three written assignments.

- The first is to prepare a 3-page response to the question “Is it Ethical to Study Africa?”. This will be due on 18 October.
- The second is a critical review of readings of one of the first five weeks of the course. A 10-12 page well written, critical engagement with the themes and approaches of the authors will be due on 8 November.
- The third project will be a 15 page critical assessment of a “project” in Africa. This project can be a NGO, a humanitarian program, a development project, a government project of civil transformation, a health project, etc. Students will provide the instructor with a two page précis of the project they will be studying by 11 November. By 18 November, students will submit a 5 page outline of their project complete with a critical bibliography. Students will present their projects in a seminar setting on Tuesday 6 December. Please mark your calendars. Final papers based on the project assessment will be due on 11 December.

Final grades will be based on participation and “ethical” paper (20%), critical literature paper (35%), and final project (45%). Undergraduates in this course be held to high standards, but will be graded as undergraduates. In the unlikely situation where students have to miss a session, they must write a six page essay on the missed readings. This will be due at the beginning of the next class.

The success of a graduate colloquium depends on the participation of all its members. All the readings are available in Green Reserves, through Canvas, or through the library’s collection of e-books and e-journals.

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).

Books: The following books have been ordered from the bookstore. All will be on reserve and some may be more cheaply available through the internet.

- Frederick Cooper, *Africa since 1940* (Cambridge, 2002).
- Dayo Olopade, *The Bright Continent: Breaking Rules and Making Change in Modern Africa* (Mariner, 2014).
- Steven Radelet, *Emerging Africa: How 17 Countries are Leading the Way* (Washington: Center for Global Development, 2010).

- Ousmane Sembene, *God's Bits of Wood* (London and New York: Longman, any version)
- Lindsay and Miescher, eds. *Men and Masculinities in Modern Africa*. (Portsmouth, NH, 2003).

Students should be aware that I do not accept late papers, since late papers discriminate against students who hand their work in on time. Therefore, please plan ahead.

#### 27 September: **Introduction**

Readings:

- Binyavanga Wainaina, "How to write about Africa," *Granta*, 2008: <http://granta.com/how-to-write-about-africa/>
- Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, "The Danger of a Single Story"
- Amina Mama, "Is it Ethical to Study Africa? Preliminary Thoughts on Scholarship and Freedom," *African Studies Review* 50 (1), 2007: 1-26.

Collaborative SLO setting project

#### 4 October: **Africa and Globalization**

Readings:

- Frederick Cooper, "What is the Concept of Globalization Good For?: An African Historian's Perspective," *African Affairs*, 100, no. 399, 2001.
- Steven Feierman, "African Histories and the Dissolving of World History," in *Africa and the Disciplines*, edited by Bates, et al (1993).
- "African and Globalization: Learning from the Past, Enabling a Better Future", proceedings of the Africa & Globalization: Learning from the Past, Enabling a Better Future conference, United Nations University, 28-29 September 2009, Tokyo. [Each student will be asked to interpret one leader's statement: Selected from Olusegun Obasanjo, John Kufuor, Alpha Konare, Sam Nujoma, Mongi Bousnina, T. Assie-Lumumba, Augustin Fosu, Dominique Malaquais, Jinichi Matsumoto, Clement Adibe, Ernest Areetey, Obijiofor Aginam]
- Dayo Olopade, *The Bright Continent: Breaking Rules and Making change in Modern Africa* (Mariner Books, 2014), Chapters 1-4.

Discuss the Human Subjects Research protocol

#### 11 October: **Africa and the Slave Trade**

Readings:

- Walter Rodney, "African slavery and other forms of social oppression on the Upper Guinea Coast in the context of the Atlantic slave trade," *Journal of African History* VII (3), 1966.
- John Fage, "Slavery and the slave trade in the context of West African

- history,” *JAH* X (3), 1969.
- Philip Curtin, “Epidemiology and the Slave Trade,” *Political Science Quarterly* 83 (2)1968.
- Nathan Nunn, “Long-Term Effects of Africa’s Slave Trades,” *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, Feb. 2008: 139-76.
- John Dalton and Tin Leung, “Why is Polygyny More Prevalent in Western Africa?: An African Slave Trade Perspective,” *Development and Cultural Change* 62 (2014): 599-632.
- David Eltis, “Europeans and the Rise and Fall of African Slavery in the Americas: An Interpretation,” *American Historical Review* 98 (5), 1993.
- Ralph Austen, “The Slave Trade as History and Memory: Confrontations of Slaving Voyage Documents and Communal Traditions”, *The William and Mary Quarterly*, 58 (2001), 229-544.
- Edward Bruner, “Tourism in Ghana: The Representation of Slavery and the Return of the Black Diaspora”, *American Anthropologist*, 98 (1996), 290-304.
- Review of Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade Data Base:  
<http://www.slavevoyages.org/tast/index.faces>. Become familiar with the slave trade estimates section.

18 October: **Building Colonial States and the Colonial Order**

Readings:

- Jeffrey Herbst, *States and Power in Africa: Comparative Lessons in Authority and Control* (Princeton: Princeton UP, 2000), chapter-3
- Terence Ranger, “The Invention of Tradition in Africa,” in Eric Hobsbawm and Terence Ranger, eds, *The Invention of Tradition* (Cambridge: Canto, 1983), chapter 6 .
- Thomas Spear, “Neo-Traditionalism and the Limits of Invention in British Colonial Africa,” *Journal of African History*, 44 (1), 2003: 3-27.
- Lindsay and Meischer, *Men and Masculinities*, introduction, chapters 1-5

25 October: **Colonial Economies and Social Conflict**

Readings:

1 November: **Decolonization, Challenges of Independence, and Rebellions**

Readings:

- Walter Rodney, *How Europe Underdeveloped Africa* (Baltimore: Howard UP, 2001), chapter 6.
- Frederick Cooper, *Africa since 1940: The Past of the Present* (New York: Cambridge UP, 2002), all.
- Richard Roberts, “Africa and Empire: The Unintended Consequences,” in *Festschrift for A.G. Hopkins*, edited by Toyin Falola (Rochester: Rochester University Press, 2011), 399-415.
- Morten Jerven, “African Growth Recurring: An Economic History Perspective on African Growth Episodes, 1690-2010,” *Economic History of Developing Regions* 25 (2), 2010: 127-54.

- Thandika Mkandawire, “The Terrible Toll of Post-Colonial 'Rebel Movements' in Africa: Towards an Explanation of the Violence against the Peasantry,” *The Journal of Modern African Studies* 40 (2), 2002: 181-215.

Discussion about Project Assessments:

- Babacar Fall, “Evaluation of Friends of Youth Health Centers, Burundi.”
- Rigmar Osterkamp, “The Basic Income Grant Pilot Project in Namibia: A Critical Assessment,” *Basic Income Studies*, 8 (1), 2013: 71-91. This assessment is part of the project James Ferguson proposes in *Give a Man a Fish* (week 29 November).
- Jaimie Ibister, “Whose Impact, and Is It All About Impact?,” in K. Horton, C. Roche (eds.), *Ethical Questions and International NGOs: An Exchange Between Philosophers and NGOs* (2010), available through: <http://link.springer.com/book/10.1007%2F978-90-481-8592-4>
- For those interested in more detailed discussions of project assessment, see Chris Roche, *Impact Assessment for Development Agencies: Learning to Value Change* (Oxford: Oxfam, 1999).

8 November: **Africa and the International System: Democracy and Human Rights**

Readings:

- Larry Diamond, *The Spirit of Democracy: The Struggle to Build Free Societies throughout the World* (Times Books, 2008), introduction.
- Larry Diamond and Marc Plattner, *Democratization in Africa: Progress and Retreat* (Johns Hopkins UP, second edition, 2010), chapters 4 and 7.
- Joel D. Barkan, “Many Faces of Africa: Democracy Across a Varied Continent,” *Harvard International Review*, Summer 2002.
- Sally Engle Merry, “Measuring the World: Indicators, Human Rights, and Global Governance,” *Current Anthropology*, (Supplement 2011), 52 (S83-S95)
- Harri Englund, “Towards a critique of rights talk in new democracies: the case of legal aid in Malawi,” *Discourse & Society*, 15 (2004), 527-551.

15 November: **Health and Society**

Readings:

- Stella Nyanzi, Justine Nassimbwa, Vincent Kayazzi, and Strivan Kabanda, “‘African Sex is Dangerous!’: Renegotiating ‘ritual sex’ in contemporary Masaka District”, *Africa* 78 (2008), 518-539.
- UNAIDS 2016 Global Report on AIDS: <http://www.unaids.org/en/resources/documents/2016/Global-AIDS-update-2016>
- Read the latest on two African countries: <http://www.unaids.org/en/dataanalysis/knowyourresponse/countryprogressreports/2016countries>
- Stuart Rennie and Frieda Behets, “AIDS Care and Treatment in Sub-Saharan Africa: Implementation Ethics,” *Hastings Center Report*, May-June 2006.
- Brian C. Zanoni, “Epidemiology of HIV in southern Africa,” *Pediatric Radiology* (2009), 39:538–540.
- Peter Piot and Thomas Quinn, “Response to the AIDS Pandemic —

- A Global Health Model,” *The New England Journal of Medicine*, 6 June 2013: 2210-18.
- World Health Organization, *Eliminating Female Genital Mutilation: An Interagency Statement* (2008), <http://www.who.int/reproductivehealth/publications/fgm/9789241596442/en/>
- Anna Petherick, “Ebola in West Africa: Learning the Lessons,” *Lancet*.
- Michael Osterholm et al, “Public Health in the Age of Ebola in West Africa,” *Jama*.
- J. Diggins and E. Mills, “The Pathology of Inequality,” IDS Practice Paper, Feb 2015.
- Vito Baraka and Eliningaya Kweka, “The Threat of Zika virus in Sub-Saharan Africa: The Need to Remain Vigilant,” *Frontiers of Public Health*, 31 May 2016: <http://dx.doi.org/10.3389/fpubh.2016.00110>
- Anette Pruss-Ustun et al, “Burden of disease from inadequate water, sanitation and hygiene in low- and middle-income settings: a retrospective analysis of data from 145 countries,” *Tropical Medicine and International Health* 19 (8), August 2014: 894–905.

22 November: **Thanksgiving Recess**

29 November: **Meanings of Globalization in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and the Problem of Persistent Poverty**

Readings:

- Steven Radelet, *Emerging Africa: How 17 Countries are Leading the Way*. Washington: Center for Global Development, 2010.
- “Special Report: China in Africa.” *Fast Company* (9 May 2008): available online at: <http://www.fastcompany.com/magazine/126/special-report-china-in-africa.html>
- James Ferguson, “Governing Extraction: New Spatializations of Order and Disorder in Neoliberal Africa,” in *Globalizing Shadows: Africa in the Neoliberal World Order* (Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2006), chapter 8.
- Dayo Olopade, *The Bright Continent*, chapters 5-10.

Debate over Direct Cash Transfers:

- Give Directly (NPR Planet Money, 2013, radio broadcast), “Cash, Cows and the Rise Of Nerd Philanthropy”: <http://www.npr.org/sections/money/2013/08/23/214875696/cash-cows-and-the-rise-of-nerd-philanthropy>
- Kevin Starr & Laura Hattendorf, “Give Directly? Not So Fast,” *Stanford Social Innovation Review*, 2014 [http://ssir.org/articles/entry/givedirectly\\_not\\_so\\_fast](http://ssir.org/articles/entry/givedirectly_not_so_fast)
- Compare with GiveDirectly evidence: <https://www.givedirectly.org/research-at-give-directly>

6 December: **Presentations of Final Projects**

11 December: **Final Paper Due**