

AFRICA SINCE 1800

Time: TR 9-10am, plus recitation sections

Instructor: Prof. Lee Cassanelli lcassane@sas.upenn.edu

Teaching Assistant:

Course Aims and Format

Along with providing an overview of the major forces, events, and personalities which have shaped Africa's history as a whole since 1800, we will use selected countries and case studies to give us a sense of the continent's rich cultural, economic, and political diversity. We aim to look critically at both secondary and primary sources, at 'outsider' vs. 'insider' narratives, and at global vs. continental vs. local perspectives and interpretations of Africa's modern history. As we survey the pre-colonial, colonial and independence eras, our recurrent themes include conquest and resistance, nationalism and pan-Africanism, tradition and modernity, and notions of African 'development'. Throughout the semester we will attempt to relate history to contemporary events in the news, and to confront conventional images of Africa with the complex realities on the ground. Since a broad survey like ours requires the class to move quickly over many areas and topics, it is important for you to keep up with the weekly reading and writing assignments, which are listed here and under the 'Assignments' link on our Canvas course page. Please check your Canvas emails and the 'Announcements' on our Canvas page regularly for updates and reminders.

Summary of Requirements

In addition to attending lectures twice a week, students are expected to participate actively in their weekly recitation sections (including two small-group presentations); to post their reflections regularly in their course journals; and to complete a take-home Mid-Term essay and an in-class Final Exam based on review questions provided in advance. Final grades are calculated as follows:

| | |
|--|-----|
| Lecture and section attendance, recitation participation | 25% |
| Private course journal: at least 7 posts over the course of the semester, 2-3 paragraphs each (some weeks required) | 25% |
| Mid-term Essay | 20% |
| Final Exam | 30% |

Books

The following required books can be purchased at the Penn Bookstore or ordered via Amazon. Some may be available as e-books from the publisher or through the Penn Library. We will be using them in the following order:

- John Reader, *Africa. A Biography of the Continent*
- E. Frankema *et al*, eds, *The History of African Development* (e-textbook)

Chinua Achebe, *Things Fall Apart*
Adu Boahen, *African Perspectives on European Colonialism*
Jomo Kenyatta, *Facing Mt. Kenya*
Mariama Ba, *So Long a Letter*

Additional **required** readings and documents will be posted on our Canvas course site (CV).

Provisional List of Topics and Readings

[for written assignments, see ‘**Weekly Discussion Questions**’ under **Assignments**, on Canvas]

1. Jan 16. Intro and logistics. NO RECITATION MEETINGS ON JAN 16, 17

*Start the assigned readings for Weeks 2-3 in John Reader’s *Africa*, Frankema’s *History of African Development*, and Chinua Achebe’s *Things Fall Apart*

2. Jan 21. Mapping Africa

23. African societies before 1800

Recitation: Introductions and expectations; section guidelines distributed

*Reader, *Africa*, chs. 24-28 (optional chs. 20-23)

*Frankema, ch. 2

*CV [Canvas Documents] Week 2 --for **Jan 23 lecture**

Part I. 19th Century Transformations

3. Jan 28. End of the Atlantic slave trade

30. Aftermath of abolition; evangelization and imperialism in W. Africa

Recitation: Stereotypes and surprises; explaining abolition

*Reader, chs. 38-40 (optional chs. 31-37)—for **Jan 28 lecture**

*Frankema, ch. 3—for **Jan 28 lecture**

*Boahen, *African Perspectives on Colonialism*, ch. 1—for **Jan 30 lecture**

*Achebe, *Things Fall Apart*—**finish by next week’s recitation sections**

4. Feb 4. Muhammad Ali and the modernization of Egypt
 6. Technology and imperialism: the Suez Canal and the origins of the scramble
Recitation: Western expansion and African agency; discussion of Achebe
- *CV, Week 4: Headrick, *Tools of Empire*, chs. 6, 7, 10, 11—**for Feb 4 lecture**
 *CV, Week 4: ‘Opening up of Africa from the northeast’—**for Feb 6 lecture**
 *Achebe, *Things Fall Apart*—**for recitations this week**
5. Feb 11. Resource extraction and imperialism: King Leopold’s Congo
 . 13. Berlin Conference and the partition of Africa
Recitation: Imperial motives and methods
- *Reader, ch.. 46—**for Feb 11 lecture**
 *Reader, chs. 47-48—**for Feb 13 lecture**
 *Frankema, ch. 5—**for Feb 13 lecture**
 *CV, Week 5: Fetter, documents 2-5—**for recitations this week**
6. Feb 18. The making of modern South Africa
 20. Industry, land, and origins of the migrant labor system in colonial Africa
Recitation: Race and empire
- *Reader, chs. 41-45 —**for both lectures this week**
 *CV, Week 6 documents
7. Feb 25. The scramble on the ground; conquest and resistance
 27. African imperialism? Ethiopian expansion and survival of sovereignty
- *Boahen, *African Perspectives*, ch. 2—**for both lectures this week**
 *Reader, ch. 49—**for Feb 25 lecture**
 *CV, Week 7. ‘The survival of Ethiopian independence’—**for Feb 28 lecture**

Part II: Africa under Colonial Rule

8. Mar 4. Colonial rule: ‘keeping the peace’
 6. Colonial rule: ‘making the colonies pay’
- *Reader, chs. 50-52—**for both lectures this week**
 *Frankema, ch. 4—**for Mar 6 lecture**

*****MID-TERM ESSAY DUE BY NOON ON FRIDAY, MAR 7*****

NO RECITATIONS: start reading Kenyatta, *Facing Mt. Kenya*, intro, chs. 1-2, 5-6, 9-12

9. SPRING BREAK

*Enjoy reading Kenyatta, *Facing Mt. Kenya*

10. Mar 18. African religious and cultural nationalism

20. Africans in World War II; political nationalism

Recitation: Kenyatta; small group presentations 1

*Boahen, *African Perspectives*, ch 3—for **both lectures this week**

*CV Week 10: Bio and two poems of L.S. Senghor—for **Mar 18 lecture**

*Reader, ch. 53 –for **Mar 20 lecture**

11. Mar 25. Paths to independence 1: Gold Coast (Ghana); Nkrumah and his legacy

27. Paths to independence 2: Kenya and Kenyatta

Recitation: Kenyatta, small group presentations 2

*CV Week 11: ‘Mau Mau’ & ‘Ghanaian revolution’—for **both lectures**

*Frankema, ch 12—for **both lectures**

*CV Week 11. Frantz Fanon, *A Dying Colonialism*, intro, ch 1—for **next week**

Part III. Independence and after

12. Apr 1. Algeria’s bloody war of independence, 1954-62

3. Illusions of Independence? Democracies and Dictatorships

Recitation: Discussion of Fanon

*CV Week 12, Documents on Algeria—for **Apr 1 lecture**

*Fanon, *A Dying Colonialism*, chs. 2 & 4, conclusion—for **both lectures**

13. Apr 8. The Congo Crisis of 1960 and the Cold War

10. Nigeria’s civil war (1966-1970) and its legacies

Recitation: ‘Tribalism’, tradition & modernity in postcolonial Africa

*Reader, chs. 54, 55 (pp. 663-71)—for **both lectures**

*CV, Week 13: Lumumba’s Independence Day speech—for Apr 8 lecture

*Mariama Ba, *So Long a Letter*—for **recitation**

14. Apr 15. Background to genocide in Rwanda
17. Coming to terms with the past: justice, reconciliation, reparations?
Recitation: The aftermath of genocide in Rwanda
- *Reader, ch. 55 (pp. 671-82) —**for Apr 15 lecture**
*CV Week 14: Rwanda readings—**for recitations this week**
15. Apr 22. The end of apartheid and the ‘new’ South Africa
24. The past and future of pan-Africanism
Recitation: Legacies of colonialism and decolonization
- *Boahen, ch. 4 —**for both lectures this week**
*Frankema, ch. 17—**for Apr 24 lecture**
*CV, Week 15: So Africa readings—**for recitation**
16. Apr 29. African development in historical perspective
- *Frankema, chs. 13, 15, 16

****Final In-Class Exam, Date and time TBA****

“If you want to catch a fish, you have to give something to the stream.”
(Benin proverb)