

Tentative and subject to change

Faces of Jihad in African Islam

HST 1350-401

Spring 2024, MW, 10:15-11:45

Room: TBD

Instructor: Dr. Cheikh Babou, 306 G College Hall

Office hours: M: 12:00-2:00; F: 11:00-12:00 or by appt

Tel: 215 898 2188; Mailbox 208 College Hall

Email: cheikh@upenn.edu; baboucheikh@gmail.com

Course description

Over a quarter of the world Muslim population (estimated at two billion) live in Africa and Islam is increasingly playing a central role in shaping African societies. This course is designed to provide students with a broad understanding of the history of Islam in Africa. The focus will be mostly on West Africa, but we will also look at developments in the northern and eastern regions of the continent. We will explore Islam not only as religious practice but also as ideology and an instrument for social change. We will examine processes of islamization across Africa and the variety of Islamic experiences on the continent focusing on Islamist militancy. Topics include prophetic jihad, jihad of the pen, and jihad of the soul and the changing meanings of jihads from the coming of Islam to North Africa in the 7th century to 21st century global jihadism in sub-Saharan Africa.

Course Objectives

The purpose of this course is threefold: first, to introduce students to the rich and diverse Islamic traditions of Africa; second, to examine how Islam shaped but also was shaped by African cultures; and third, to reflect on how contemporary changes in the wider Muslim world are affecting African Muslims, especially the inroads made recently by political Islam and jihadism.

Format

On Tuesday and Thursday in most weeks, I will present a lecture of about 30 minutes, each lecture includes a PowerPoint, which will be posted on Canvas as well. After the lecture we will hold a Q&A session for about 10 minutes before a short break. The remainder of class time about 40 minutes will be devoted to a general discussion of the readings and primary sources as a class or in small groups. Class discussions will be co-led by the instructor and a student.

Requirements

Attendance and class participation: Regular attendance at lectures and participation in class discussions are essential. You will be expected to be thoroughly familiar with the readings for each class and to participate actively in discussions. Assigned reading is indicated in the syllabus for each week. It is the student's responsibility to complete the required reading on schedule. Both attendance and in-class participation will count towards your grade. **ABSENCES ARE EXCUSED FOR HEALTH EMERGENCY ONLY. You must report all absences using the Course Absence Report System through Penn- in-Touch.**

LAPTOP for notetaking exclusively and cellphone should be turned off. The use of AI tools to complete an assignment for this course is prohibited.

Assignments.

- 1-Reading and commentary on course materials and lectures for each session
- 2-Each student will design the agenda and co-lead a discussion session individually or in partnership with another student
- 3-Take home essay
- 4-midterm in class
- 5- Final exam

Grading: Students will be evaluated on three pieces of work: there will be one take home essay, a mid-term test, and a final exam. Co-leading a meeting, Attendance, and participation in class discussion will count for 20 % of your grade.

Mid-term-----in class Feb 21 (25%)
 Essay -----April 1 (25%)
 Final exam -----**TBA** (30%)
 Co-leading, Attendance, and participation----- (20%)

Essays: Essay questions will be distributed a week before due date. Late submission will result in one-grade point penalty per day (e.g., A to A-; B+ to B). The mid-term and finals will consist of identification questions and short essays.

Electronic resources: In this course we will be using Canvas, which is course management software that provides space for the posting of course materials and allows fast and convenient communication between students and between students and instructor. The syllabus for this class will be posted on Canvas as well as **a required electronic bulk pack of supplementary readings (CV)** and some additional resources related to specific course topics. Canvas has a listserv that can be used to reach the class as a group or to communicate with individual students. Registered students with a Penn Net ID and an E-mail address are automatically listed on Canvas. To access the course site point your browser to <https://courseweb.library.upenn.edu> and log in with your PennNet ID and password.

Academic integrity: Students are expected to adhere to the university's academic integrity and plagiarism policies on all assignments. Plagiarism consists of using other people's ideas without proper acknowledgment. Students who violate the university's academic integrity policies may fail the course. (For more on academic integrity see Links on Canvas).

Readings

Required

The following books are available for purchase at the Penn Book Store and for consultation at the **Rosengarten Reserve Desk** at the Van Pelt library. Other required readings are available on the **Electronic reserve** on Canvas (CV). Besides the second week where we will be discussing Peter's book and week 14 where we will discuss the novel *Brotherhood*, the reading load is approximately between 40 and 50 pages a week.

List of required books

Peters, Rudolf, *Jihad in Classical and Modern Islam* (Princeton: Markus Wiener, 2005)
Mohamed Mbougar Sarr, *Brotherhood* (Europa, 2015)

Materials on Canvas

Babou, Cheikh Anta, "Contesting Space, Shaping Places: Making Room for the Muridiyyah in Colonial Senegal, 1912-1945," *Journal of African History*, (2005):405-426

Brigaglia, Andrea, "Ja'far Mahmoud Adam, Mohammed Yusuf and *Al-Muntada* Islamic Trust: Reflections on the Genesis of the Boko Haram Phenomenon in Nigeria" in *Annual Review of Islam in Africa*, 11 (2012); 35-44.

Gomez, Michael, *African Dominion: A New History of Empire in Early and Medieval West Africa* (Princeton University Press, 2018): 30-42; 92-143; 219-257

Gomez- Perez, Muriel "The Association des etudiants musulmans de Dakar: (AEMUD) Between the Local and the Global," *Africa Today*, 54 (2007).

Hess, R. L., "The Mad Mullah' and Northern Somalia," *Journal of African History*, v, 3(1964): 415-433

Hodgkin E., "Islamism and Islamic Research in Africa" in O Kane and J. L Triaud ed. *Islam et Islamismes au Sud du Sahara* (Paris: Karthala, 1998): 197-263

Hodgkin, Thomas, *Nigerian Perspectives: A Historical Anthology*, 2nd edition (Oxford, 1975), 259-268.

Hiskett, Mervyn, *The Course of Islam in Africa* (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 1994) 1-11

Hutson, Alaine., "The Development of Women's Authority in the Kano Tijaniyya, 1894-1963," *Africa Today*, 46, 3/4, (Summer - Autumn, 1999), pp. 43-64

Kane, Ousmane, "Moderate Revivalists: Islamic Inroads in Sub-Saharan Africa". *Harvard International Review*; summer (2007):29, 2.

Kane, O. "Islamism": What is New, What is Not? Lessons from West Africa," in *African Journal of International Affairs*, 11, 2 (2008), 157-187.

Lecocq, Baz & Paul Schrijver The War on Terror in a Haze of Dust: Potholes and Pitfalls on the Saharan Front, *Journal of Contemporary African Studies*, Vol. 25, No 1 (2007), 141-166.

Lecoq et al. 'One hippopotamus and eight blind analysts: a multivocal analysis of the 2012 political crisis in the divided Republic of Mali.' *Review of African Political Economy*, vol. 40, No 137 (2012)PP. 343-357,

Levtzion, N and Pouwells R., *The History of Islam in Africa* (Athens, Oxford, and Cape Town: OUP., J Currey, David Philip, 2000): ch 11 and 12

Lydon, Ghyslaine, *On Trans-Saharan Trails: Islamic Law, Trade Networks, and Cross-Cultural Exchange in Nineteenth-Century West Africa* (Cambridge University Press, 2009),49-106

Miles, W. F.S. *Political Islam in West Africa: State Societies Relations Transformed* (Boulder: Lynne Rienner, 2007).43-72.

Robinson, d and D. Smith, *Sources of the African Past* (New York: Africana Publishing Company, 1979): 122-158

Sanneh, L., *Beyond Jihad: The Pacifist Tradition in West African Islam* (Oxford U. Press, 2016.)

Thurston, Alex, "Why is Militant Islam a Weak Phenomenon in Senegal" in ISITA working papers, 09-005, 2009.

Villalon, Leonardo, "Islamism in West Africa: Senegal"

African Studies Review, Vol. 47, No. 2 (Sep., 2004), pp. 61-71

Warburg, Gabriel. *Islam, Sectarianism and Politics in Sudan since the Mahdiyya* (The University of Wisconsin Press, 2003): 7-55.

Ware, Rudolph T. III, *The Walking Qur'an: Islamic Education Embodied Knowledge, and History in West Africa* (UNC Press, 2014): 39-76

Recommended and reference books

These texts are not required but they constitute important additional resources for course readings and for your writing assignments. Excerpts from some of these books will be used to supplement required materials.

Babou, C.A., *Fighting the Greater Jihad: Amadu Bamba and the Founding of the Muridiyya of Senegal* (Athens: Ohio University Press, 2007).

Bowill, E. W., *The Golden Trade of the Moors* (Princeton: Markus Wiener Publishers, 2nd printing, 1999)

Cruise O'Brien, Donal B. and Christian Coulon, eds., *Charisma and Brotherhood in African Islam* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1988)

Holt, P. M., *The Mahdist State in the Sudan, 1881-1898* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1970, 2nd edition)

Hunwick, John, *Shari'a in Songhay: The Replies of Al Maghili to the Question of Askia Al-Hajj Muhammad* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1985)

Hunwick, J., *West Africa, Islam and the Arab World* (Princeton: Markus Wiener Publishers, 2006.) pp. 39-62

Lapidus, I., *A History of Islamic Societies* (Cambridge: Cambridge U. Press, 1997)

Levtzion, Nehemia, *Ancient Ghana and Mali* (London: African Publishing Company, 1980)

-----and Jay Spaulding, *Medieval Africa: Views from Arab Scholars and Merchants* (Princeton: Markus Wiener Publishers, 2003)

Lewis, I. M., ed., *Islam in Tropical Africa* (Bloomington and London: International African Institute, 1980)

Levtzion, Nehemia and J. Voll, *Eighteenth Century Renewal and Reform in Islam* (Syracuse: NYU of Syracuse Press, 1985).

Lovejoy, Paul, *Jihād in West Africa during the Age of Revolutions* (Athens: Ohio U. Press, 2016.)

Robinson, David, *Paths of accommodation: Muslim societies and French Colonial Authorities in Senegal and Mauritania, 1880-1920* (Athens: Ohio University Press, 2000)

Rosanders , Eva E. and D. Westerlund, eds., *African Islam and Islam in Africa* (Athens: Ohio University Press, 1997)

Sanneh, Lamin, *The crown and the Turban: Muslims and West African Pluralism* (Westview press, 1997).

_____*Beyond Jihad: The Pacifist Tradition in West African Islam* (Oxford: Oxford U. Press, 2016).

UNESCO General History of Africa, Volume 2: Ancient Civilizations of Africa, ed. G. Mokhtar.

UNESCO General History of Africa, Volume 3: Africa from the Seventh to the Eleventh Century, ed. I. Hrbek.

UNESCO General History of Africa, Volume 4: Africa from the twelfth to the sixteenth century ed. D. T. Niane.

UNESCO General History of Africa, Volume 5: Africa from the sixteenth to the Eighteenth century, ed. B A. Ogot

Schedule of meetings and assignments

Week I

I: Understanding African Islamic cultures

Jan. 22: Organization and Introduction

Reading: Start Peters, *jihad in classical and modern Islam*.

Jan. 24: Introduction to Islam

Film: *Islam, Empire of Faith: Prophet Muhammad and Rise of Islam* (screen at home)

-Discussion of film and lecture

Week II

Readings: Peters, *jihad*; Hisket, CV;

Jan. 29: What is Jihad?

Jan. 31: Jihad and the expansion of Islam to North Africa

Week III

Readings: Gomez, 30-42; 92-143 CV

Feb. 5 The inception of Islam in sub-Saharan Africa

Primary source: Al Bakri

Sept. 7: Mansa Musa, Mali and global Islam

Film: *Empires of Gold* (Gates and PBS series, no3) or *Caravans of Gold* (Basil Davidson, series), screen at home

Primary source: Ibn Khaldun, CV

Week IV:

Readings: Gomez, 219-257; Kaptejins CV;

Feb. 12: Islam in Songhay

Feb. 14 Islam and societies in the Horn of Africa

Film: *The Manuscripts of Timbuktu*

https://search.alexanderstreet.com/view/work/bibliographic_entity%7Cvideo_work%7C3573863) screen at home.

Primary source: Al-Sadi, 91-117, CV

II-Jihad as an instrument for social change and resistance

Week V

Readings: Levtzion and Pouwells ch. 12 CV;

Feb. 19: Islam and Swahili culture

Feb. 21: **mid-term**

Week VI

Readings: Robinson ch.10; Lovejoy CV

Feb. 26: Sufi 'brotherhoods': jihad of the soul.

Feb. 28. Jihadi traditions in Africa

Week VII

Readings:; Robinson and Smith CV: Primary source: Robinson and Smith, *The jihad Manifesto* 137-139; Robinson ch. 12

March. 11: The Sokoto Caliphate: jihad and state building

March. 13: The Sudanese Mahdi

III-Islam and local cultures

Week VIII

Reading: Robinson ch.6; Ware, CV

March 18: Muslims under colonial rule

March 20: Madrasas and the politics of Islamic education

Week IX

Readings: Hutson, CV; Babou CV

March 25: Islamic feminism in Africa

Essay prompts distributed in class

March 27 Amadu Bamba's Jihad of the Pen

Film and discussion: *Islam unveiled part II*. Screen at home

The rise of global jihadism

Week X

Readings: Hodgkin Bello vs Kanemi; E. Hodgkin, CV

April 1: Jihad contested

Essay due

April 3: Modern representations of Islam

Week XI

Reading: Esposito, CV; Kane 2 CV;

April 8: The globalization of Islamic radicalism

April 10: Political Islam in Africa

Week XII

Reading: Brigaglia, CV; Loiemier, CV; Hess CV

April 15: Boko Haram and jihadism in Northern Nigeria

April 17: The Mullah's jihad

Primary Source: The Mullah's poems

Week XIII

Readings: Maruf and Joseph 7-26; CV; Stepan, CV; Villalon, CV

April 22: Al Shabab in Somalia

April 24: The rise and retreat of political Islam in Senegal

Week XIV

Readings: CV: Sarr, *the Brotherhood*

Film and discussion: *Timbuktu*

https://www.nytimes.com/2022/07/12/world/africa/timbuktu-mali-manuscripts.html?fbclid=IwAR3kp9ffbiiUt1x5t5t3mMFBTtHnUh1L_bdD2-MTDPV7JFpiubaGZ2b8ck0

Readings: Miles CV; <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-55147863>

April 29: Islamic insurgency in Mali

May 1: The War on Terror in sub-Saharan Africa

Week XV

Final examination: TBA

Time Line for the History of Islam in Africa

Middle East and North Africa

- 570 Birth of Muhammad in Mecca
- 610 Muhammad begins preaching at age 40
- 622 Hijra or flight to Medina
- 632 Death of Muhammad in Medina
- 632-661 Rule of the four caliphs rashidun (rightly guided)
- 642 Byzantium defeated: Egypt falls under Muslim control.
- 661-750 Umayyad caliphate
- 750-1258 Abbassid caliphate: Golden Age of Islam
- 832 Founding of the House of Wisdom University in Baghdad
- 909 Fatimid Shiite caliphate established in Tunisia
- 969 Fatimids conquer Egypt
- 1095 Pope Urban II launches the Crusades
- 1453 The Ottoman conquers Constantinople (Istanbul)

15th CE. Gradual establishment of Ottoman rule over the land of Islam in the Middle East and North Africa.

Ghana

- 770 Al Farazi signals the existence of Ghana
- 800? Founding of the Soninke dynasty of Ghana
- 980 Ghana gains control of Awdaghust
- 10th CE Black African traders start converting to Islam
- 1076 Beginning of slow disintegration of Ghana
- 11th Ghanaian ruler converts to Islam
- 1100 Founding of Timbuktu
- 1200 The Sosso rulers of Mali take control of Ghana

Mali

- 9th Founding of the Keita dynasty (Mandinka-Malinke-Mande)
- 1050 The king of Mallel converts to Islam
- The Mande chief, Barmandana performs the pilgrimage to Mecca
- 1224 Sosso dominates Mali
- 1230-55 Sundiata Keita defeats Sosso (1235) and establishes the Mali Empire
- 1324 Mansa Musa performs the pilgrimage to Mecca
- 1352-3 Ibn Batuta visits Mali
- 1400 Songhay starts the conquest of Mali
- 1433 The Tuareg gain control of Timbuktu

Songhay

- 874 Al-Yaqubi refers to Kaw Kaw (Gao) as the greatest kingdom of the Blacks
- 980 Ruling class of Gao are said to be Muslim

1009	The king converts to Islam
1275	Ali Kolon founds the Sonni dynasty.
1353	Ibn Batuta visits Gao
1400	The Sonni begins the conquest of Mali
1464	Sonni Ali the Great founds the Songhay Empire.
1469	Sonni Ali retakes Timbuktu from the Tuareg
1483	Embassy of King Joao II of Portugal to Songhay
1492 Europe	Expulsion from Granada (southern Spain): end of Muslim rule in Western
1493	Muhammad Ture accesses Power in Songhay and forms the Askya dynasty
1497	Askya Muhammad performs the pilgrimage to Mecca
1534	Portuguese Embassy to Songhay under Peroz Fernandez
1591	Moroccan conquest of Songhay