Tentative and subject to change.

History 3350-401
Ben Franklin seminar in African History
Religion and Colonial Rule in Africa

Fall 2022, Thursdays 1:45-4:45
Cheikh Babou, 306 G College Hall
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Course Description

This seminar explores the experience of Africans from the era of the European "Scramble for Africa" in the 1880's to the years of African Independence in the 1960's, through the lenses of African religious practices and movements. We will discuss the role of African Tradition Religions (ATRs), Islam, European Christian missions and African churches, millenarian and reform movements, education and leadership, and religion and nationalism. Students will examine colonial documents, African oral traditions, spiritual songs and prayers and contemporary religious writings to gain an understanding of the meanings of religion in African life during a period of great change on the continent.

Course objectives

The purpose of this course is threefold. First, to develop awareness of the wide range of meanings of conversion and peoples' motives in creating and adhering to religious institutions; Second, to examine the political, cultural, and psychological dimensions in the development of religious social movements in colonial Africa; And third, to investigate the role of religion as both a tool of domination and an instrument of resistance to cultural and political oppression.

Course format, requirements and grading

Attendance and class participation: This is a seminar; therefore, regular attendance and participation in class discussions are essential. You are expected to be thoroughly familiar with the readings for each class and to participate actively in discussion. These readings will provide background information for choosing a topic and writing your essay. Assigned readings are indicated on the syllabus for each week. It is the student's responsibility to complete the required reading on schedule so as to participate fruitfully in the weekly discussion. Both attendance and in-class participation will count towards your grade.

Recorded materials

In advance of each session, students will have access to the Power Point slide show for that session's topic and for some sessions, a primary source document—both posted on Canvas, as well as a short recorded introductory lecture. The readings and lectures will serve as basis for the weekly discussions. Your use of the recordings is limited to this class, meaning you should not share these recordings with anyone outside the class or otherwise reproduce their content. This policy exists to ensure the confidentiality of our classroom discussions and thereby facilitate the free exchange of ideas. It also honors the creativity and labor that I invested in creating course content.

Grading

1-Attendance, participation, co-leading----------40%
2-Take home essay----------20%
3-Final essay----------40%

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.

Covid 19 protocol

The Covid situation continues to change, and we will follow university and city guidelines through the semester.

***Weekly assignment*:** Each student will co-lead discussion for two or one class meeting and post on Canvas weekly response to the readings. In your weekly posting you should provide one to two paragraphs long summary of the author's argument, a brief critical assessment of it, and write two questions for class discussion. The due date for submission is midnight on Wednesdays. 40% of your grade will be based on weekly class assignment and participation in class discussion.

Writing assignment: There will be one five-page long take-home essay and a 15-page long term paper. The essay questions will be distributed in class one week before due date. Late submissions will result in one point-grade penalty per day (A to A-; B+ to B).

Take home essay: See below for guidelines to writing the essay.

Final essay: The final essay will count for 40% of your grade. Each student will prepare an individual paper of 15 pages double-spaced, on a topic which is relevant to the course theme. In your essay you should demonstrate that you have carefully read and thought through the material on your topic as it relates to the course themes and your own views. Writing an essay is not only about sharing your opinion. A good essay requires a strong and clear thesis statement, an argument supported by documented evidence, and critical analysis. In writing this paper, you are strongly encouraged to draw from the resources available in the different university libraries and to use the interlibrary loan service, if needed, to

document your thesis and arguments. Sources used should be acknowledged properly through quotations, footnotes and a bibliography following the *Chicago Manual of Style.* You must clear the topic for essay with instructor by **Oct. 22. The revised paper is due Dec. 15. Late submission will be penalized by half a full grade for each missing day.**

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 some additional readings and electronic 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 long in with your PennNet ID and password. Students' use of online sources for this class is restricted, though the use of online materials from scholarly websites such as JSTOR, Google Scholars, encyclopedias is allowed when properly referenced.

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 honesty, please review the Code of Academic Integrity, *http://www.upenn.edu/academicintegrity/ai_codeofacademicintegrity.html*, and ask if you have any questions about university policy or proper practices in writing papers and citing sources.

Required readings

***Books*:** The following books are available for purchase at Penn Bookstore, and for consultation at the Rosengarten Reserve Desk at the Van Pelt library. All additional readings are accessible on the course's Canvas site (CV).

Achebe, Chinua, *Things Fall Apart* (New York: Anchor Books, 1994):
Accessible here with your Penn key: https://web-b-ebscohost-com.proxy.library.upenn.edu/ehost/detail/detail?vid=0&sid=9931987f-7011-4ac0-b2eb-c12c2599854e%40pdc-v-sessmgr02&bdata=JnNpdGU9ZWhvc3QtbGl2ZQ%3d%3d#AN=717733&db=nlebk

Baum, Robert, *West Africa's Women of God: Alinesitoue and the Diola Prophetic Tradition* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2016).

Boahen, Adu. *African Perspectives on Colonialism* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University, 1987).

Foster, Elizabeth, *Faith in Empire: Religion, Politics, and Colonial Rule in French Senegal, 1880-1940* (Stanford U Press, 2013)

Electronic resources on Canvas

Comaroff, John L. and Jean Comaroff, *Of Revelation and Revolution: the Dialectics of Modernity on a South African Frontier* (The University of Chicago Press, 1997), vol. II, 274-322.

Elbourne, Elizabeth, "Word Made Flesh: Christianity, Modernity, and Cultural Colonialism in the Work of Jean and Jean Comaroff." *American Historical Review*, 108, no 2 (April 2003).

Foster, Elizabeth, *African Catholic: Decolonization and the Transformation and the Church* (Harvard, 2019).

Green, Maia. Mau Mau Oathing Rituals and Political Ideology in Kenya: Re-Analysis, *Africa* vol. 60 No 1 (1990): 69-87

Gwassa, G. C., and John Ilife, *Records of the Maji Maji Rising (East African Publishing House, n.d. Part 1).*

Hodgkin, Thomas, *Nigerian Perspectives: An Historical Anthology* (Oxford U. Press, 1975): 244-252 and 261-267.

Holt, P. M., *The Mahdist State in the Sudan, 1881-1898: A study of its Origins, Development and overthrow* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1958): 32-104

Horton, R., "African Conversion" *Africa*, vol. 41 2(1971): 85-108.

Kriger, N., *Zimbabwe's Guerilla War: Peasant Voices* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1992): 116-169.

Lan, D., *Guns and Rains: Guerillas and Spirit Mediums in Zimbabwe* (Berkeley, Los Angeles, London: James Currey and U of California Press, 1999): 3-8; ch 7-8.

Last, M. "The Colonial Caliphate" in D. Robinson and J. L. Triaud, eds., *Le Temps des Marabouts* (Paris, 1997): 67-82.

Maloba, W., *Mau Mau and Kenya: An Analysis of a Peasant Revolt* (Bloomington: Indiana U. Press, 1993): ch 1 and 2.

Pankenham, T., *The Scramble for Africa: White Man's Conquest of the Dark Continent From 1876 to 1912* (New York: Avon Books, 1991): 616-628.

Peel, J.D.Y., *Religious Encounter and the Making of the Yoruba* (Bloomington: Indiana U.Press, 2000): 1-26.

Pouwels, R., N. Levtzion, eds., *The History of Islam in Africa* (Athens: Ohio U. Press, 2000), introduction.

Triaud, Jean. L., "Islam in Africa Under French Colonial Rule," in Pouwels, R., N. Levtzion, eds., *The History of Islam in Africa* (Athens: Ohio U. Press, 2000); 169-187.

Roberts, A., ed., *The Colonial Moment in Africa* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1992) Ch. 3 and 4.

Robinson, David, *Muslim Societies in African History* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2004) ch. 3, 4,12.

Rotberg, R., *Central Africa: The Making of Malawi and Zambia, 1873-1964* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard U. Press, 1972).

Stanley, Brian, ed., *Missions, Nationalisms and the End of* Empire (B. Eerdmands Publishing Co., 2003), 1-33;

Thompson, Bob., 'Things Fall into Place'. *Washington Post*, 9 March 2008

Thornton, J., *The Kongolese Saint Anthony: Dona Beatriz Kimpa Vita and the Antonian Movement, 1684-1706* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1998).

Triaud, J.L. 'Giving a name'; S. Reese, 'African Islam' in JAH Forum on Islam in Sub-Saharan Africa, *Journal of African History*, vol. 55 No. 11, (2014):3-36.

Warburg, *Gabriel. Islam, Sectarianism and Politics in Sudan since the Mahdiyya* (The University of Wisconsin Press, 2003): 7-103.

Worger, William H, Nancy L. Clark and Eduard A. Alpers, *Africa and the West: A Documentary History from the Slave Trade to Independence*. (Oryx Press, 2001).

Course schedule

Week1:
Sept. 1: Organization and introduction
Reading: Start *Things Fall Apart:* https://web-b-ebscohost-com.proxy.library.upenn.edu/ehost/detail/detail?vid=0&sid=9931987f-7011-4ac0-b2eb-c12c2599854e%40pdc-v-sessmgr02&bdata=JnNpdGU9ZWhvc3QtbGl2ZQ%3d%3d#AN=717733&db=nlebk

Week 2:

Sept. 8
Africa at the Eve of the Colonial Conquest
1-Lecture: contextualizing *Things Fall Apart*
2-Reading: Achebe: *Things Fall Apart*
3-Thompson, recommended

Week 3:

Sept.15
The Scramble for Africa
1-Lecture: The Onset of colonial rule
2- Film: The Scramble: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CgzSnZidGuU
3-Primary source Afwest 194-228, CV
4: Boahen CV ch.3 and 4.

Week 4:

Sept. 22
Introduction to African Traditional Religions
1-Lecture: introduction to African Traditional Religions
2-Reading: Baum: *West African women of God*

Week 5:

Sept. 29
Donna Beatriz and the Antonian movement.
1-Lecture: Context of the Antonian movement
2-Reading: Thornton, CV

Week 6:

Oct. 13
The Maji-Maji revolt
1-Lecture: German East Africa
2-Pankenham. CV
3-Primary source: Gwassa and Ilife: record of the Maji Maji rising, CV
4-https://www.bbc.com/news/stories-56583994

Week 7:

Oct. 20
Introduction to Islam in Africa
1-Lecture: The coming of Islam to sub-Saharan Africa
2-Film: Gates and PBS: The Great African Civilizations, ep. 3. "*Empires of Gold."* or *Caravans of Gold* (Basil Davidson series). Screen at home.
3- Reading: Robinson, 12-59 C**V**
Essay prompts distributed.

Week 8:

Oct. 21

Discussion of term paper essay topics and prospectus

Week 9:

Oct.28

The Mahdist movement in colonial Sudan

1-Lecture: the Mahdi

2-Reading: Warburg 1: 1-50, CV

Take home essay due

Week 10

Nov. 3 Muslims under Colonial Rule

1-Lecture: Muslims under colonial domination

2-Reading: Last CV; Triaud CV

Week 11:

Nov. 10

The Catholic Church and Colonial rule in Africa

1-Lecture: Christianity in Africa

2-Reading: Foster, *African Catholic*

Discussion of term paper outline and sources

Week 12

Nov. 17

Missionaries and colonial rule in Southern Africa

1-Missionaries and the civilizing mission

2-Film: *The Bible and the Gun* (Basil Davidson)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MNWA2cOS7sg&list=PL6mz4AK-lTo6KOzj309JKOzssfFArBxiQ&index=5

3-Readings; Comaroff CV, 274-322; Elbourne CV. 435-459.

Discussion of

Week 13:

Nov. 28

Guerillas and Mediums in Zimbabwe

1-Lecture: the decolonization of Southern Rhodesia

2-Reading: Lan 1, Lan 3 and Lan 4 CV; Kriger CV;

Week 14:

Dec. 1: Paper presentations and discussions

Week 15:

Dec. 8: Paper presentations and discussions.

Final Essay due Dec. 15