

**AFRICA SINCE 1800 (Prospectus)**

Time: MW 1:45-2:45, plus recitation sections

Instructor: Prof. Lee Cassanelli [lcassane@sas.upenn.edu](mailto:lcassane@sas.upenn.edu)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 case studies of particular countries to help illustrate the continent's remarkable cultural and historical diversity. Our course readings represent a variety of analytical perspectives, and our primary documents highlight the writings, speeches, and testimonies of Africans who lived the histories we will cover. Students will learn something about African states and societies prior to the European partition of Africa at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century; about the impact of Western colonialism on African economies, cultures, and identities; and about the major events which have shaped both the realities and our popular 'images' of Africa over the past half century, following the independence era of the 1960s.

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.

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 publishers or through the Penn Library. We will be using them in the following order.

John Reader, *Africa. A Biography of the Continent*  
 Chinua Achebe, *Things Fall Apart*  
 Adu Boahen, *African Perspectives on European Colonialism*  
 Jomo Kenyatta, *Facing Mt. Kenya*  
 Fred Cooper, *Africa since 1940*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition  
 Mariama Ba, *So Long a Letter*

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