

AFRICAN HISTORY AND CIVILIZATION

MODERN AFRICA

History 13-232
Kauke 101
MW 02 – 03:20 AM
Spring Semester
2005

Alphine W. Jefferson
Office: Kauke 213
Hrs: M W 1-2: T R 3 – 5 PM
By appointment @
330 – 263 -2455

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is the second - half of a two-semester survey of African History and Civilization. Its primary focus is "Modern Africa," that is, Africa after the Berlin Conference of 1885 to the present. The course utilizes an interdisciplinary framework to examine such topics as: colonization, colonialism, neo-colonialism and slavery; independence, liberation and political movements; the role of labor unions, the military, religion, technology and women's groups; cultural adaptation, ethnicity and pluralism; industrialization, migration, modernization and urbanization; as well as "African socialism," Afrocentric education, Negritude and the Black Consciousness Movement.

Twentieth Century Africa has sustained the world's most rapid and profound change. Indeed, traditional Africa saw its social systems, economic structures, political organizations, religious practices, and cultural habits assaulted. This assault, unparalleled in history, has changed the Continent. Yet, newspaper headlines about Civil War, Clan Violence, AIDS, Famine and post-Apartheid South Africa do not reveal the complexity of African History, nor do they convey the extent to which Europe and America (as expressed through capital) and African leaders and institutions (as expressed through neo-colonial relationships) are still intimately involved in exploiting Africa and its peoples. Using a kaleidoscopic and continental perspective, this course explores the history of Africa in the 20th Century.

The interdisciplinary nature of African History specifically, and African Studies in general, necessitate that special attention be given to the development of critical reading, writing and thinking skills. Thus, several of the classroom exercises and writing assignments emphasize those skills. In order to achieve its goals, the course will employ a variegated format of class discussions, group exercises, short-lectures, student presentations, map tests, and papers. In addition, art, films, literature, and music are utilized to explore the various dimensions of African History.

FORMAL REQUIREMENTS:

Daily attendance, high-level class participation and sustained evidence of superior preparation, through regular contributions to the intellectual life of the class, are expected of all students. **IF YOU ARE LATE, DO NOT COME TO CLASS. A letter grade (1.00) will be deducted for each day a paper is late. A paper is late if it not on the DESK when class begins at 02: 00 PM. DO NOT EMAIL YOUR PAPER. There are no exceptions to this rule.** An explanation is not an excuse. Make-up examinations will be given only with as Certification of Excused Absence from the Dean's Office.

In addition, all students must read, comprehend, and comply with "**The Code of Academic Integrity**" at the College of Wooster as delineated in **THE SCOT'S KEY**.

Each of the following will constitute ONE- THIRD of the final grade:

1. There will be a Mid-term Examination.
2. There will be THREE (3) short (3 - 5 page) Papers.
3. There will be a Comprehensive Final Examination.

The syllabus which follows consist of a calendar of required readings, topics, and assignments. The following books are available for purchase at the Bookstore.

READINGS TO BE ASSIGNED:

Chinua Achebe, THINGS FALL APART
Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, SHAIHU UMAR
Toyin Falola, AFRICA: CONTEMPORARY AFRICA, VOLUME 5
Erik Gilbert and Jonathan Reynolds, AFRICA IN WORLD HISTORY
Alifa Rifaat, DISTANT VIEW OF A MINARET
Patricia Romero, WOMEN'S VOICES ON AFRICA
Ngugi Wa Thiong'O, WEEP NOT, CHILD

CALENDAR OF ASSIGNMENTS, REQUIRED READINGS, AND TOPICS:

JAN	17	Introduction to Modern African History Perspectives and Interpretations
	19	Afrocentric and Eurocentric Paradigms Critical Reading, Thinking and Writing Workshop Read: Classroom Handouts
	24	Understanding Africa in Local and Customary Terms Read: Achebe, pp. 1 – 50 Bring: A Map of Africa
	26	Class and Gender Relations in the Social Structure Read: Achebe, pp. 51 - 100
	31	Authority, Power, and Wealth in Africa Read: Achebe, pp. 101 - 150
FEB	02	The Impact of Modernization on Traditional Africa Read: Achebe, pp. 151 – 200 PAPER NUMBER ONE DUE TODAY (Please be prepared to discuss your work.)
	07	Africa: Center of the World Read: Gilbert, Chps. 1 - 4
	09	Geographic Literacy and African History Read: Gilbert, Chps. 5 - 8
	14	The Berlin Conference and Colonial Africa Read: Gilbert, Chps. 9 - 12
	16	World War II, Nationalism and Emerging African Identity Read: Gilbert, Chps. 13 - 15
	21	Pan –Africanism, Independence and the Quest for Unity Read: Gilbert, Chps. 16 - 18
	23	SEMESTER EXAMINATION NUMBER ONE (Three essay questions.)
28	Oral Sources and the Construction of History Read: Balewa, pp. 1 – 79	
MAR	02	Women and Gender Relations in Africa and Islam Read: Rifaat, Chps. 1 – 5

07 A Woman's Voice, A Woman's Place
Read: Rifaat, Chps. 6 – 10

09 Islam and the Special Role of Women
Read: Rifaat, Chps. 11 - 15

SPRING BREAK BEGINS AT FOUR O'CLOCK FRIDAY

28 African Studies and Women's History
Read: Romero, pp. 1 - 60

30 Travel and the Places and Spaces of Women
Read: Romero, pp. 61 - 115

APR

04 Life Histories as Historical Sources
Read: Romero, pp. 116 - 217

06 The Many Voices and Views of Women
Read: Romero, pp. 218 - 278

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT NUMBER TWO DUE TODAY

11 East African History and European Imperialism
Read: Ngugi, Chps. 1 - 5

13 African Resources Fuel European Development
Read: Ngugi, Chps. 6 - 10

18 Europe and the Roots of African Underdevelopment
Read: Ngugi, Chps. 11 - 14

PAPER NUMBER THREE DUE TODAY

20 Understanding Africa: Content and Context
Read: Falola, Part A

25 Institutions: Policies and Politics for Modern Africa
Read: Falola, Part B

27 Neocolonial Economics, Markets and Underdevelopment
Read: Falola, Part C

MAY

02 Clashes in Culture, Religion and Society
Read: Falola, Part D

04 The Future of Africa in Global History and Development
Read: Falola, Part E

11 **FINAL EXAMINATION**
Wednesday 02:00 - 05:00 PM
(Three Essay Questions)

NOTES