

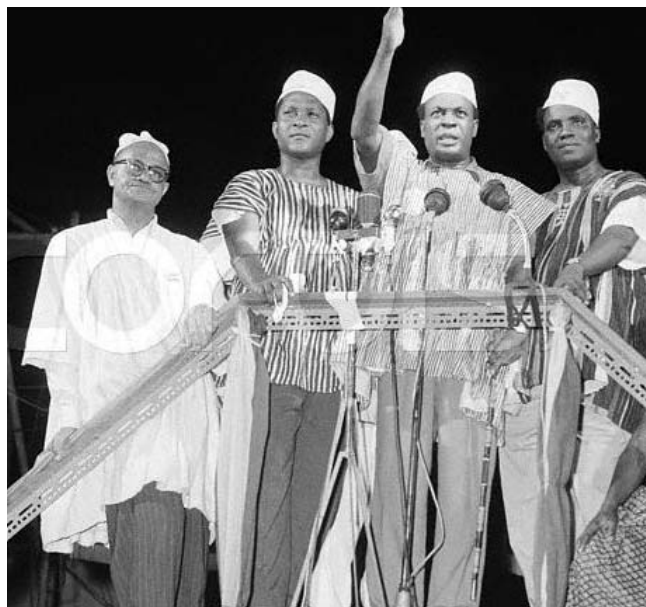
History 611 – Spring 2007
History of Modern Africa
Dr. Trevor Getz



200th anniversary of the British abolition of the transatlantic slave trade, 1807



110th anniversary of the Ethiopian victory over Italy, 1896-1897



50th anniversary of the independence of Ghana, 1957

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Office Hours:
MW 11-12

Cluster/Segment III rules

This course is part of the General Education Segment III cluster: African Contributions to World Culture. All Segment III courses must be required to include a minimum of 10 pages of corrected writing. Segment III rules are described in the Class Schedule and Bulletin, and include the requirement that the student must have earned 60 units by the end of the semester in which they take the course.

The Cluster co-ordinator is Dr. Aguibou Yansane. He can be reached at aymouke@sfsu.edu or 338.2495.

Course Description

History of Modern Africa forms the second half of a two-semester survey course in African history. The course focuses on three defining moments in Africa's history: the advent of colonialism, the struggle for independence, and the questionable promise of an African renaissance. Throughout, the stress is on African agency and the African voice. Thus from 1830-1890 we ask the question "were there African efforts to develop strategies to maintain their independence as alternatives to colonialism?". When addressing the struggle for independence we seek to understand how the multitude of African cultural and political perspectives, as tempered by world event as well as by the experiences of the early 20th century, led to the development of unique modes of liberation.

Throughout these periods we will develop a view of Africans as actors on the world scene – victims of globalization, actors in geopolitics, cultural contributors, and vital participants in the world economic cycle.

Learning Objects

Students will be asked to critically and rigorously analyze:

- The conflicting trends of state-building and foreign intervention in African affairs that culminated in a continental crossroads in the nineteenth century.
- The factors leading to the occupation of Africa by Europeans
- Trends of continuity and transformation in African cultures during the colonial period
- African strategies of collaboration, resistance, evasion, infiltration, negotiation, and survival under colonialism.
- The factors behind the rise of nationalist movements and independence of Africa states in the period 1957-1990
- The maintenance of, and struggle against, apartheid

H611 History of Modern Africa		Professor Getz
Setting the Scene		
Jan 24	Introduction/ how do we 'do' African history	Martin Klein, "Studying the History of Those Who Would Rather Forget: Oral History and the Experience of Slavery," <i>History in Africa</i> , Vol. 16, 1989 (1989), pp. 209-217. (JSTOR)
Jan 26	Review of 'Africa at the crossroads' : the early 19 th Century African setting	
Jan 29	Africa and the Industrial Revolution	
Jan 31	Economic transformation: From slaves to oilseeds in West Africa	<i>e-reserve: Ralph Austen, African Economic History</i>
Africa and the 'Scramble' 1830-1890		
Feb 2	West African state and societies in the 19 th Century	<i>e-reserve: John Iliffe,, Africans: A History of the Continent</i>
Feb 5	South African state and societies in the 19 th Century	<i>ditto</i>
Feb 7	Central and East African societies in the 19 th Century	<i>ditto</i>
Feb 9	North African societies in the 19 th Century	<i>ditto</i>
Feb 12	North-East African 19 th century/ simulation introduction	<i>ditto</i>
Feb 14-16	Simulation days 1 and 2	
Feb 19	Conquest and partition	Falola 1, Davidson 1
The Colonial Period 1890s-1965		
Readings for this unit include all of the below and Falola 17-20		
Feb 21	Colonial rule, resistance, and accommodation	Falola 2, Davidson 3
Feb 23	World War 1 in Africa and colonial rule between the wars	Falola 3, 4, 5
Feb 26	The economics of colonialism	Falola 6
Feb 28	The Islamic states of North Africa; Islam and colonial rule	Falola 10, 21
Mar 5	South Africa from unification to apartheid	Falola 16
Mar 7	Slavery, abolition, and colonial labour	
Mar 9	<i>Midterm Review</i>	
Mar 12	<i>Midterm</i>	
Mar 14	Christianity	Falola 8, 9
Mar 16	World War II and Africa	Davidson 5, 6
Mar 19-21	<i>Discussion: Sembene Ousmane's "God's Bits of Wood"</i>	Ousmane
Decolonization and Struggles: 1965 – 1991		
Mar 23	No Class (instructor at Chancellor's Office)	
Mar 26	Decolonization and Independence	Falola 14, 15, Davidson 7-15, <i>Ousmane paper due!</i>
Mar 28	African Nationalism and Pan-Africanism	Davidson 4
Apr 2-4	The struggles 1: Rhodesia	
Apr 6, 16	Decolonization simulation	
Apr 18	The struggles 2: South Africa – 1990	Davidson 16
Apr 20	No Class (instructor at Chancellor's Office)	
Apr 23	<i>Reading: "My Children, My Africa"</i>	Fugard
Apr 25	The end of the apartheid state in South Africa	<i>e-reserve: Richard Price, Apartheid State in Crisis, Fugard paper due!</i>
Apr 27	Women in 20 th century Africa	Falola 11
Independence: 1980-2000		
Apr 30	economics of (in)dependence	Davidson 19, 20
May 2	language and literature	
May 4	visual arts	
May 7	Religion and music	
May 9-11	politics and ruling	Davidson 17, 18
May 14	African future	Davidson 21
May 16	<i>Final Review</i>	Mark S. Kende, The South African Constitutional Court's Embrace of Socio-economic Rights: a Comparative Perspective, 6 Chapman Law Review 137 (Spring 2003) at http://academic.udayton.edu/Race/06hrights/GeoRegions/Africa/Safrica03.htm
	FINAL	<i>FINAL</i>

Texts

Textbooks

- Falola, Toyin, ed., *Africa: Volume III, Colonial Africa 1885-1939*, Carolina Academic Press, 2000.
- Davidson, Basil, *Modern Africa*, Longman, 1983.
- Sembene, Ousmane, *God's Bits of Wood*, Heinemann, 1970 (republished; original French edition, 1960 *Le Livre contemporain*)
- Fugard, Athol, *My Children, My Africa*, Theater Communications, 1990 (republished).

Electronic Reserve (<http://eres.sfsu.edu/>)

Password: Ghana50 (in honor of Ghana's 50th anniversary of independence)

Excerpts from:

- Iliffe, John, *Africans: A History of the Continent*, Cambridge University Press, 1995.
- Austen, Ralph, *African Economic History*, James Currey, 1987.
- Price, Robert, *The Apartheid State in Crisis*, Oxford University Press, 1991.

Online sources

Can be obtained free of charge via JSTOR or Academic Search Premier

- Martin Klein, "Studying the History of Those Who Would Rather Forget: Oral History and the Experience of Slavery," *History in Africa*, Vol. 16, 1989 (1989), pp. 209-217.

Can be viewed on-line;

- Mark S. Kende, The South African Constitutional Court's Embrace of Socio-economic Rights: a Comparative Perspective, 6 *Chapman Law Review* 137 (Spring 2003) at <http://academic.udayton.edu/Race/06hrights/GeoRegions/Africa/Safrica03.htm>

Grading

I will be grading on a simple non-curve model with 90% being the cut-off for an A, 80% for a B etc. Having said that, I've given A's to students with 88% before, due to participation and extra credit.

You will be informed of all of the questions on the midterm and final prior to the exam. The exams will consist of identifications and essay questions. There will be no scantron – that's for freshman classes.

I REQUIRE attendance at all discussions of novels and classroom simulations. Your fellow students rely upon you, and you cannot let them down.

"God's Bits of Wood" assignment (6-8 pages) <i>or</i>	20% (optional)
"My Children, My Africa" assignment (6-8 pages)	20% (optional)
Midterm	40%
Final	40%

Office hours

I take pride in my close relationship with many former students and I look forward to having you visit me. I also understand that many of you have children (as I do) and jobs and may encounter problems – talk to me about them and I'll help you solve them.

General rules

1. Instructor reserves the right not to admit students more than 10 minutes after class officially starts.
2. Instructor will periodically take roll, and reserves the right to penalize students up to 10% of Final grade for missing classes. Student will normally be given a warning first.
3. Instructor does not normally accept late papers or assignments, unless an agreement is individually reached with instructor PRIOR TO submission of materials.
4. Testing and evaluation will be conducted on the basis of materials from text and lecture. Failure to complete readings or to attend lectures will probably cause low grades!
5. This is a sensitive topic and students are advised to show sensitivity to their classmates.

Short Bibliography

- For an excellent overview of African history as a field of study: Philips, John Edward, ed., *Writing African History*, 2005/2006.
- Ross, Robert, *A concise history of South Africa*, 1999, DT1787 .R67 1999
- Iliffe, John, *Africans : the history of a continent*, 1995, DT20 .I45 1995
- Staniland, Martin, *American intellectuals and African nationalists, 1955-1970*, 1991, DT38.7 .S73 1991
- Boahen, A. Adu, *African perspectives on colonialism*, 1987, JV246 .B63 1987
- Sender, John, *The development of capitalism in Africa*, 1986, HC800 .S448 1986.
- Christopher, A.J., *Colonial Africa*, 1984, DT31 .C52 1984.
- Freund, Bill, *The making of contemporary Africa : the development of African Society since 1800*, 1984, DT28 .F73 1984.
- Edited Volume, *The Transfer of power in Africa : decolonization, 1940-1960*, 1982, DT30 .T73 1982
- Davidson, Basil, *Let freedom come : Africa in modern history*, 1978, DT29 .D38 1978.
- Fage, J.D., *A History of Africa*, Routledge Press, 1978.
- Various Authors, *UNESCO General History of Africa*, Volume VI, (Africa in the Nineteenth Century until the 1880s), Volume VII (Africa under Foreign Domination 1880-1935), and Volume VIII (Africa since 1935), University of California Press, 1993-1999.