

**History 611**  
**Modern Africa**  
Spring 2006  
San Francisco State University

TTH 12:35-1:50 PM

Room: HSS 317

Instructor: Corrie Decker

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Office hours: By appointment

Office: Science 227

**Course description**

This course is a survey of modern African history from about 1800 to the present. As such, it will cover themes in pre-colonial, colonial, and post-colonial African history. Course topics include abolition of the slave trade, rise and fall of African empires, migrations, wars, European travels and explorations of Africa, the spread of Islam and Christianity, European imperialism, the establishment of colonial rule, anti-colonial resistance, colonial economies, education, administrative and political reforms, nationalism, the rise of new African states, South African apartheid, development studies, democracy and contemporary international perceptions of Africa. In addition to providing an overview of modern African history, this course will address themes in African historiography and help students develop their analytical writing skills.

**Required texts:**

Kevin Shillington, *History of Africa* (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, Palgrave Macmillan, 2005)

Ngugi Wa Thiong'o, *A Grain of Wheat* (Greenwood, 1967)

Tsitsi Dangarembga, *Nervous Conditions* (PGW/Seal Press, 1996)

**Course requirements**

The grade for this course is based on two papers, a map quiz, a midterm exam, a final exam, and class attendance and participation. The map quiz is scheduled for FEBRUARY 14<sup>th</sup>. The first paper (3-4 pages), DUE FEBRUARY 9<sup>th</sup>, will be a discussion of primary source representations of Shaka, king of the Zulu Empire. The second paper (6-8 pages), will be an analysis of *either* Ngugi Wa Thiong'o's *A Grain of Wheat* *or* Tsitsi Dangarembga's *Nervous Conditions*. Papers on *A Grain of Wheat* are DUE MARCH 30<sup>th</sup>. Those on *Nervous Conditions* are DUE APRIL 27<sup>th</sup>. The Midterm Exam is scheduled for MARCH 14<sup>th</sup> and the Final Exam will be held MAY 23<sup>rd</sup> from 10:45 am to 1:15 pm.

Map Quiz	10%
Paper #1	10%
Paper #2	20%
Midterm	30%
Final Exam	<u>30%</u>
Total	100%

*Note:* While attendance and participation does not account for a specific percentage of the final grade, the student's record of attendance and participation may be used to adjust the grade up or down one letter at the instructor's discretion.

Grade Scale:

90 – 100%	A
80 – 89%	B
70 – 79%	C
60 – 69%	D
0 – 59%	F

### **Plagiarism & Cheating**

Plagiarism occurs when a student misrepresents the work of another as his or her own. Plagiarism may consist of using the ideas, sentences, paragraphs, or the whole text of another without appropriate acknowledgement, but it also includes employing or allowing another person to write or substantially alter work that a student then submits as his or her own. Any incidence of plagiarism will result in a failure for the assignment.

### **Classroom Compartment**

1. If you disrupt class in any way you will be asked to leave
2. Come to class with the anticipation that you will be involved for the entire class period
3. Do not use cell-phones for *any reason* during class (turn them off and put them away)
4. Reading material is prohibited during class
5. Respect the learning environment
6. If you do not want to attend class then don't; your
7. Please do not come to class late—it's extraordinarily distracting. If you are habitually tardy, you will be asked to withdraw from the course
8. Do not sleep in class. Stay home and get some good R.E.M. instead of putting your head down on the desk. If you chose to sleep, you will be asked to leave
9. It's your choice to be enrolled in the course; treat it as such

### **African Studies Websites:**

[www.allafrica.com](http://www.allafrica.com): for current news on Africa

<http://www.sfsu.edu/~bulletin/current/programs/african.htm>: African Area Studies website at San Francisco State University

<http://www.ias.berkeley.edu/africa/>: UC Berkeley's Center for African Studies (note: Check out the weekly Kiswahili table every Wednesday at 4pm if you want to practice your Kiswahili or just chat with other Kiswahili speakers)

<http://www-sul.stanford.edu/depts/ssrg/africa/guide.html>: Stanford University's Africa, South of the Sahara website with some great links

<http://www.africanstudies.org/>: The African Studies Association, an organization of academic and professional individuals and institutions committed to African Studies (note: The next annual meeting of the ASA will be held in San Francisco, Nov 16-19, 2006)

## SCHEDULE

### Week 1

Jan 31      Lecture:      Introductions  
Feb 2      Lecture:      Introductions to African History  
Readings:      N/A

### Week 2

Feb 7      Lecture:      Southern Africa in the 19<sup>th</sup> C: African Processes  
Feb 9      Lecture:      Southern Africa in the 19<sup>th</sup> C: Europeans in Southern Africa  
Readings:      *History of Africa*, Ch. 18, pgs. 258-274  
                    Selections from *Sources of the African Past*  
Assignment:      Discussion Paper on Shaka (3-4 pages), **DUE THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9**  
                    Write a paper discussing different representations of Shaka in the primary sources  
                    presented in *Sources of the African Past*. How do representations of him as a warrior  
                    differ? What do you think accounts for these differences? Why do you think Shaka has  
                    become such an important figure in African history?

### Week 3

#### **MAP QUIZ on FEB 14**

Feb 14      Lecture:      Central Africa in the 19<sup>th</sup> C  
Feb 16      Lecture:      East Africa in the 19<sup>th</sup> C  
Readings:      *History of Africa*, Ch. 17, pgs. 242-257  
                    Selections from Emily Ruete, *Memoirs of an Arabian Princess from Zanzibar*

### Week 4

Feb 21      Lecture:      West Africa: Islamic Reform and New Empires  
Feb 23      Lecture:      North and Northeast Africa in the 19<sup>th</sup> C  
Readings:      *History of Africa*, Ch. 16, Ch. 19, pgs. 226-241, 275-288

### Week 5

Feb 28      Lecture:      Europe and Africa in the 19<sup>th</sup> C  
Mar 2      Lecture:      The Scramble for Africa & the Establishment of Colonial Rule  
Readings:      *History of Africa*, Ch. 20 & 21, pgs. 289-316

### Week 6

Mar 7      Lecture:      Early Colonial Rule, 1900-1920  
Mar 9      MIDTERM REVIEW  
Readings:      *History of Africa*, Ch. 22 & 23, pgs. 317-346

### Week 7

#### **MIDTERM EXAM**

Mar 16      Lecture:      Interwar Colonial Policies and Practices  
Readings:      *History of Africa*, Ch. 24, pgs. 347-362

Week 8

Mar 21 Lecture: WWII & Early Pan-Africanism  
Mar 23 Lecture: Anti-Colonial Movements in the 1950s  
Readings: *History of Africa*, Ch. 25, pgs. 363-372  
Tabitha Kanogo, *Squatters & the Roots of Mau Mau, 1905-63*, Ch. 5 “Politics of Protest: Mau Mau,” pgs. 125-161.

Week 9

**PAPER on A Grain of Wheat DUE MAR 30**

Mar 28 Discussion: *A Grain of Wheat*  
Mar 30 Lecture: Decolonization in an International Context  
Readings: N/A

Apr 4-6 SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS

Week 10

Apr 11 Film: “Battle of Algiers”  
Apr 13 Film: “Battle of Algiers”  
Readings: *History of Africa*, Ch. 26 & 27, pgs. 373-406

Week 11

Apr 18 Lecture: The Making of New Nations  
Apr 20 Lecture: Lingering Colonialism  
Readings: *History of Africa*, Ch. 28, pgs. 407-421  
Chengetai J. M. Zvobgo, “African Education in Zimbabwe: The Colonial Inheritance of the New State, 1899-1979”

Week 12

**PAPER on Nervous Conditions DUE APR 27**

Apr 25 Discussion: *Nervous Conditions*  
Apr 27 Lecture: Racism and the establishment of the apartheid state  
Readings: N/A

Week 13

May 2 Lecture: The end of apartheid in South Africa  
May 4 Lecture: Colonial Legacies and World Politics  
Readings: CRD Halisi and Patrick O’Meara, “South Africa,” Ch. 21 in *Africa*  
Selections from Nelson Mandela, *Long Walk to Freedom*

Week 14

May 9 Lecture: The Development Discourse  
May 11 Lecture: Development and Democracy  
Readings: *History of Africa*, Ch. 29, pgs. 422-433  
Selections from Arturo Escobar, *Encountering Development*

Week 15

May 16 Lecture/Discussion: Africa in the Media Today  
Assignment: Bring in a newspaper article on Africa  
May 18 Final Review

**FINAL EXAM: TUESDAY, MAY 23, 10:45 AM - 1:15 PM**