HISTORY 348 (2012)

ORIGINS OF PEACE AND CONFLICT IN MODERN AFRICA
COLONIALISM IN AFRICA: IMPACT AND AFTERMATH

Tues., Thurs. 12:30 – 2
ASC 505

Any course is a journey. This one will lead you zigzagging across the commonly misunderstood continent of Africa. Since traveling necessarily involves leaving home, the course will require you to leave behind the comfort of what you already know, or think you know; you should be prepared to see the continent, its colonial history, and current problems in new ways. This journey will involve acknowledging that Africa's stories – past and present – are far more complex than they are commonly depicted to be in the American media. (In focusing almost exclusively on 'tribalism', corruption', 'famine', and 'poverty', newspapers and television mislead us into thinking that these topics sum up the totality of the continent's history and perhaps even its destiny.) History 348, therefore, has two explicit goals: to help you read news reports about Africa with a critical and informed eye; to help you discover the origins of Africa's current dilemmas.

In order to achieve these goals, we will start the course by framing specific questions about the contemporary face of the continent's problems. Then, via case studies, we will explore their historical background at each of the four points of the compass. Toward the end of the course we will return to the present to see how far the journey has brought us from what we used to know. Please note that our classes will usually focus on developments in particular places, while the assigned readings will set those histories within broader geographical, temporal, and conceptual contexts. I have chosen this approach for two reasons: first, the discipline of history is about the particular; second, we need to examine critically the conceptual baggage informing us about Africa – words like 'tribal', for example – hence the general readings.

The readings are designed to help you transcend your own experience. Our required texts, available for purchase at Barnes and Noble, are: 1. Kevin Shillington, History of Africa; 2. Trevor Getz and Liz Clarke, Abina and the Important Men; 3. RR Grinker et al., Perspectives on Africa, a reader in culture, history, and representation; 4. Nelson Mandela, Long Walk to Freedom. I recommend John Iliffe's Africans, the history of a continent, as supplementary reading. In addition, one novel has been assigned: Bab El-Oued City, by Merzak Allouache. These texts will be supplemented by films and guest speakers whenever possible; I hope to invite people from each of the four regions to come to class so that you may hear their views and interview them. The syllabus may be amended from time to time, especially by the addition of primary documents.

The ground rules for the course all aim to facilitate the above goals: 1. attendance will be taken daily; please tell me in advance if you must miss a class; 2. class begins
promptly at 12:30 and there should be no late arrivals; 3. because the course is a hybrid lecture-seminar, all readings must be completed by the day they are assigned so we can discuss them; 4. no late papers or make-up exams will be accepted without a medical excuse; 5. examinations will test rigorously your mastery of the facts and the sense you make of them.

Grading: assessments for the course will be based on 1. a midterm (30%) on 8 March, 2. a final (30%) – both exams will be based on the readings AND the lectures, 3. a short (7 page) essay due on 1 May (30%), and 4. class participation (10%). Your paper topic must be approved by me.

The CAS Honor Code, of course, applies in this course.

INTRODUCTION

1. 17 Jan. The Problem: Generating the questions you want this course to answer

2. 19 Jan. The Pre-colonial Inheritance: looking for core values and concepts
Getz and Clarke, Abina and the Important Men, pp. xv-79.
Perspectives on Africa (henceforth PoA), chapters 21 (elders), 26 (polygamy)

3. 24 Jan. The Precolonial Inheritance 2, and The Historian’s Craft
Abina, pp. 83-93 and 115-137
PoA, chapters 18 (witchcraft), 20 (philosophy)

4. 26 Jan. Heroes of Empire: why was Africa colonized, and why then?
Kevin Shillington, History of Africa, chapters 20 and 21
PoA, chapter 4 (Mudimbe)

WEST AFRICA

5. 31 Jan. The Gold Coast to Ghana: Cocoa and the Making of a Peasant Economy
PoA, chapter 25
Abina, pp. 99-111

6. 2 Feb. Nigeria 1: the colonial period
Shillington, chapters 23 and 24 (with special reference to 332-8, 348-363)
PoA, chapters 29 (Lugard) and 27 (Igbo women)

7. 7 Feb. Nigeria 2: the independent colossus with oil
PoA, chapters 22 (Igbo masks and politics) and 43 (scams)

NORTH AFRICA

8. 9 Feb. Morocco 1
Shillington, chapter 19 (with special reference to 273-6)

9. 14 Feb. Morocco 2
Shillington, chapter 25
10. 16 Feb. Algeria 1: the pieds noirs and the war for independence
Shillington, chapter 26 (with special reference to pp. 383-8)
PoA, chapter 34 (Fanon)

11. 23 Feb. Algeria 2: Islamism and the war of the 1990s
Shillington, pp. 443-5
Merzak Allouache, *Bab el-Oued City*

**EAST AFRICA**

12. 28 Feb. A general introduction
PoA, chapter 31 (Ranger on tradition), chapter 6 (tribe)
Shillington, pp. 338-40

13. 1 March Kenya Colony: the making of a settler economy
Shillington, chapter 26 with special reference to pp. 388-93
PoA, chapter 35 (Berman on Mau Mau)

14. 6 March Kenya 2: independence
PoA, chapter 32 (Ngugi)
Shillington, pp. 449-55

15. 8 March: MIDTERM

**SPRING BREAK**

**SOUTHERN AFRICA**

16. 20 March: Christian Missions in southern Africa
Shillington, chapter 22
PoA, chapter 15 (Livingstone)

17. 22 March South Africa 1: the pre-colonial inheritance
Shillington, chapter 18
PoA, chapter 1 (Comaroffs) and 7 (Vail on tribes)

18. 27 March South Africa 2: South Africa’s industrial revolution
Mandela, *Long Walk*, first fifth

19. 29 March South Africa 3: the nature of apartheid
Mandela, second fifth

20. 3 April South Africa 4: resistance against apartheid
Mandela, third fifth
Shillington, pp. 363-5, and chapter 27 with special reference to pp. 409-14

21. 5 April South Africa 5: the end of apartheid
Mandela, fourth fifth
Shillington, pp. 455-9
22. 10 April  South Africa 6: 14-Up in South Africa
   Mandela, finish Long Walk

23. 12 April  South Africa 7: Today
   PoA, chapter 28 (AIDS); PAPER TOPIC DUE

CONTEMPORARY ISSUES

24. 17 April  Rwanda
   Shillington, chapter 28 and pp. 453-4
   PoA, chapters 39 (violence 1994) and 42 (structural violence)

25. 19 April  Sudan
   PoA, chapters 5, 10, 16, 46 (on Nuer)
   Shillington, pp. 450-2

26. 24 April  Sierra Leone and Liberia
   Shillington, chapter 29 and pp. 445-8

27. 26 April  The problem of development -- political and economic -- in the post-
   colonial world
   Shillington, chapter 30
   PoA, chapters 41 (Ferguson), 44 (politics of the belly), 45 (democracy in Mozambique)

28. 1 May  SUMMING UP: what answers has this course generated to the questions
   asked in January; what new questions have arisen?
   Paper due