

CWU History 331 Colonial Africa (Dr. Maurice Amutabi)

Central Washington University
Department of History
History 331: Colonial Africa
Fall 2009

Instructor: [Dr. Maurice N. Amutabi](#)

Fall 2009

Office: 100G L & L Building

Office Hours: 11-12 daily and by appointment

Class Meeting Place and Time: L&L 236; Tuesday & Thursday 3:00 - 5.10 PM

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Course outline:

One old textbook on colonial history of Africa opens by stating that Africa did not matter a lot to Europe. This is certainly not true, as Africa was and remains very important in terms of natural and human resources for the rest of the world, and African slaves were responsible for industrialization. Studying colonial African history enables us to understand the Africa of today and how it has related to the rest of the world. When does "Colonial" Africa begin? Colonial Africa probably began with the Berlin conference of 1884/5 when European powers partitioned African among themselves, although European activities had started much earlier with the arrival of Portuguese missionaries and traders at the palace of King Afonso I of the Kongo kingdom in 1505. When did colonial rule end in Africa? Many scholars think that it ended in 1994 when Nelson Mandela became South Africa's first black President.

Africa's colonial history is still being written, and is therefore, by all means, still incomplete. There are many themes and topics, such as those covering memory and trauma of the Continent and history of women, which are only just starting to be, unraveled through contemporary research efforts. The main focus of this course will be the analysis of events and trends that have shaped Africa and its peoples in the past five hundred years during which the continent has been ruled by foreign invaders until 1994 when the last colonial state (South Africa) was liberated. Africa has experienced tremendous change from the colonial period to the present and transformed itself from a traditional to a modern society today. But this transition did not take place without the tragedy of the colonial enterprises of Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Portugal and Spain and European hegemony in Africa through Christendom. In this course we will be looking at the process of colonial occupation and subjugation of Africa. We will look at political, economic, social and transformations and exploitation of the African continent by these European powers. We will also need to look at the legacy of Europeans and impact on African cultures especially through Christianity and European languages. This can help explain the decisions and choices the people have made, both collectively and individually.

CWU History 331 Colonial Africa (Dr. Maurice Amutabi)**Learner outcomes:**

After completing this course students should be able to:

- 1) Identify main events in the history of colonial Africa. They should have a broad understanding of key actors in colonial Africa, differences and similarities in colonial policies of various European powers.
- 2) Using appropriate evidence, discuss historical issues orally and in writing and develop an analytical appreciation of diverse perspectives as represented by many writers on colonial African history.
- 3) Make distinctions between various colonial policies, and develop a better understanding of current events in Africa, being better able to analyze those events on their own, able to sort out why Africans and westerners often view and report those events differently.
- 4) Able to fit the challenges facing Africa today and in the future into a broader global context. Successful students should be able to make connections between their new historical knowledge and contemporary life and issues in a heterogeneous, global society.

After successfully completing this course you will have the background for understanding Africa as a continent; be able to put colonial Africa into an historical context; be able to discern both the traditional and modern contributions to Africa's development; gain a broader understanding of Africa as a whole; have an understanding of the process of colonization and change in Africa and be able to apply that knowledge to other late-developing, non-Western countries.

Blackboard website: The website below is the home of this course and you will use your university password to log in. I will monitor your participation in this course using this website. I will monitor your participation on the discussion board. Make sure you visit the site as regularly as you can for announcements, assignments and other tasks. You can access copies of the syllabus, assignments, and your course grades by going to the class web page through Blackboard at <https://courses.cwu.edu/> a variety of links to web pages on history. If you encounter any difficulties while trying to access the course web page, please contact me. There have been a few problems with accessing files on Blackboard through Internet Explorer due to the facility that blocks pop ups. If you experience this, use Mozilla/Firefox which you can download free at <http://www.mozilla.com/en-US/>

NB: Central Washington University policies and state and federal laws inform and support the following class policies, protocols and practices. They are considered obligatory and compulsory for all students enrolled in this class:

Equal Educational Opportunity/Special needs: although this is an online course where there will be on contact between instructor and students, it will be conducted according to rules and regulations governing classroom etiquette of Central Washington University. This course will provide reasonable accommodations for all individuals with disabilities. Students with disabilities that affect their ability to participate fully in class or to meet all course requirements are encouraged to bring this to my attention so that appropriate

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accommodations can be arranged. Accommodations are intended to minimize the functional limitations of a disability and provide the student equal access to the educational process. If accommodations are needed, please contact Disability Support Services 963-2171, so that I may better assist and support you. I am willing to allow for extra time on exams and provide other accommodations for confirmed needy cases.

Discrimination, Intimidation, & Harassment: It is the right of all students to have equal access to course content in an environment free of prejudice, discrimination, and harassment. This will be respected and upheld in this course. Hate speak, racist or sexist dialogue and behavior will not be tolerated on the discussion board. All illegal behavior will be reported to the proper university authorities.

Integrity and Professionalism:

All students are responsible for actively participating in all classroom and assigned activities in a positive, sensitive, and contributory manner. The nature of the course requires that each student be treated with respect, dignity, and sensitivity. All students' professionalism will be evaluated and graded based on their adherence to established class norms, expectations and professional participation.

Scholastic dishonesty: Scholastic dishonesty includes (but is not limited to) cheating on assignments or examinations, plagiarizing (misrepresenting as one's own anything done by another), submitting the same or substantially similar papers for more than one course without consent of all instructors concerned, depriving another of necessary course materials, sabotaging another's work and lifting material from online sources and presenting them as yours. All acts of misconduct in this course will be reported to the relevant high authorities. My general policy is to assign an "F" for the course to students found guilty of academic dishonesty. Be careful when using material from the Internet, and ensure that you cite the sources appropriately!! At this level, you are not allowed to use dictionaries and encyclopedias such as Encarta and 'Wikipedia' and other online encyclopedias that are regarded as too general and non-scholarly/academic. It is recommended that you access journal articles through <http://www.jstor.org/> and <http://muse.jhu.edu/> and that you use books for your assignments. Be warned that I will do everything to verify your sources.

Attendance Policy: Online on World Wide Web. Log on Blackboard at least two times per week.

Class Responsibilities: Log on Blackboard. Complete the assigned readings. Participate in discussions on Blackboard. I will provide outline lectures with bullet points and some PowerPoint slides on Blackboard.

Late Policy: I accept late assignments if you make prior arrangements with me. I will deduct five points from your grade on the term paper downwards for each day after the deadline. Therefore, late assignments will adversely affect overall percentage of your overall course grade. Also, note that no late assignment will be accepted after the

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assignment is graded and returned to the rest of the class, except by my special permission.

My office hours and consultation: Only online. I will respond to e-mails regularly. You can contact me through amutabim@cwu.edu or amutabi@yahoo.com.

About Your Course Developer—Maurice Amutabi

I hold a Ph.D. in African history from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. I am originally from Kenya. I have taught African history at Moi University in Kenya and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, before arriving at Central Washington University in 2005. For more information see 'Faculty Information' page on Blackboard.

Taking Tests and Exams On-line

Some tests for this class might be taken online, through Blackboard. In order for you to take tests and exams online, you will need to download Respondus LockDown browser which can be downloaded from a special link below:

<http://www.respondus.com/lockdown/information.pl?ID=715433924>

The CWU site license allows CWU students to access it and download it without a login and password. I have set all tests in this course to require the LockDown browser and you will not be able to take the test without it. Below is also a link for Student Quick Start Guide for using the LockDown Browser.

<http://www.cwu.edu/~media/cwuonline/stutorials/RLDB-Bb-Student.pdf>

Grade Distribution:

Class participation, pop-up quizzes and assignments - 25% of the total grade. This will cover short reflection (half-page) papers on films/videos/movies and novels. It will also include participation in class discussion of historical events, actors, and ideas. This is an important part of this course and everyone is encouraged and expected to participate. You must complete the assigned readings prior to class. Your comprehension of reading materials may be tested from time to time through unannounced pop quizzes in class. Watch out for them by keeping up with the required readings!! Short reaction papers on films/videos/movies and pop quizzes will be graded for analysis, interpretation and linkage to major historical periods as well as application to contemporary events.

Midterm Exam – 25% of total grade: This will be a sit in test, taken in class or online. This test will have IDs (short answer questions) and one essay. The exam will test for your factual knowledge as well as analytical thinking skills. To prepare for exams, you are advised to keep good notes made during reading of required texts and from attending lectures.

Term Paper- 25% of total grade: A term paper 7 -10 pages in length, based on outside reading of at least 6 books or 6 journal articles or 3 books and 3 journal articles, with some primary sources (such as newspaper articles) will be due in class on the given date on the syllabus. Papers may take up any issue covered in the course, and I (Dr. Maurice Amutabi) MUST approve the term paper topic. Lecture notes or class texts may not count

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as one of your sources for a term paper. The paper must be original and **MUST** not have been submitted to any other course before.

Final Exam - 25 % of total grade: The final exam will be based primarily on the material not covered on the midterm test. The IDs will not be cumulative. They will come from lectures after the hourly test. However, the essay questions will be cumulative and comprehensive and will be selected from the entire course. Taking the final exam is a course requirement. This will be a sit in exam, taken in class or online. I do not give advance exams for whatever reason other than medical, death in the family or for students traveling on official university business or going for university-authorized trips abroad.

The grading scale is as follows:

A= 90 - 100% (A= 95-100, A - = 90 - 94)

B= 80 - 89% (B+ = 87 - 89, B = 83 - 86, B - = 80 - 82)

C= 70 - 79% (C+ =77 -79, C =73-76, C- = 70-72)

D= 60 - 69% (D+ =67- 69, D = 63-66, D- = 60-62)

F= less than 59%

Course required texts (to be purchased by students enrolled for this class at the Wildcat Bookstore in SURC at CWU)

1. Toyin Falola (ed), *Africa Volume 3, Colonial Africa*, 1885-1939. Durham, North Carolina: Carolina academic Press, 2000. ISBN: 0-89089-770-0
2. Toyin Falola (ed), *Africa Volume 4, The End of Colonial Rule: Nationalism and Decolonization*, 1885-1939. Durham, North Carolina: Carolina academic Press, 2002. ISBN: 0-89089-202-40
3. Kevin Shillington, *History of Africa* Macmillan, 2nd edition
4. Tsitsi Ndingaregba, *Nervous Conditions* (Novel), Seattle: Seal, 1988 Or 2004.

Supplementary texts (not required, copies available in the CWU library)

1. John Iliffe, *Africans: The history of a Continent*, New York: Cambridge, 1995(in Brooks Library, CWU)
2. Gordon, Donald L. Gordon (eds), *Understanding contemporary Africa* Boulder, Colo. : Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2007. 4th Edition.

*****Book Review Assignment:**

Select any book on African history and bring it to me for approval before starting to read it. The book must not be on the required list for this course. It should not have been used

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in this course, or any other course that you are taking. It should be a book that you reading for the first time. After approval, write a 2-4-page critical evaluation of the book, which should include a summary and main arguments of the book, and its contribution to your understanding of the history of Africa. Do not reproduce reviews in journals for this assignment. **Due November 17, 2009 in class or online (as an attachment)**

***** Map Assignment: Due October 15 in class.** Prepare a current map of Africa (can be traced from a text book or traced from one printed from an online source), showing names of countries, the major international boundaries, rivers, lakes and capital cities. You must draw/trace this map and not download and print from an online source, for this assignment. Your knowledge of names of countries, capital cities and main rivers (such as the Nile, Niger, Benue, Zambezi, Limpopo, Rufiji, Tana, Gambia, Orange) and lakes (such as Victoria, Malawi, Chad, Tana) will be part of your midterm exam.

CLASS AND LECTURE SCHEDULE

September 24 – Introduction

Film: – Film: *Caravans of Gold*

*** start looking for a book on Africa to review (you should bring it for approval)

September 29

Lecture 1 - Africa on the Eve of Colonial Onslaught: An overview

Reading:

Shillington, *History of Africa*, 179-223

Toyin Falola (ed), *Africa Volume 3, Colonial Africa*, pp. 344 - 5

Lecture 2 – The Impact of the Slave Trade on Africa

Reading:

Shillington, *History of Africa*, 169 - 178

Toyin Falola (ed), *Africa Volume 3, Colonial Africa*, 291-3

Iiffe, *Africans: The history of a Continent*, 127-52; 224-239

****Start reading *Nervous Conditions* by Tsitsi Ndingaregba

October 1

Lecture 3 - Imperialism, Scramble and partition of Africa

Reading:

Shillington, *History of Africa*, 301-5; 321-331

Toyin Falola (ed), *Africa Volume 3, Colonial Africa*, pp. 3-7; 11-25; 347-55

Iiffe, 187-96

Lecture 4 - Shaka and the Rise of Zulu Empire

Reading:

Shillington, *History of Africa*, 258-60

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October 6

Lecture 5 - Mfecane/Difaqane: the Zulu Aftermath

Reading:

Shillington, *History of Africa*, 248-249; 260-3

Film: *This Magnificent African Cake* (by Basil Davidson)

October 8

Lecture 6 - Missionaries and Prelude to Empire in Tropical Africa

Reading:

Shillington, *History of Africa*, 288-300

Toyin Falola (ed), *Africa Volume 3, Colonial Africa*, pp. 44-8; 102-3; 139-40; 147-52; 157-72; 232-34

Iiffe, 153-8

Film: *The Bible and the Gun* (By Basil Davidson)

October 13

Lecture 7 - The Great Trek and the Afrikaner (Boer) Republics in South Africa

Reading:

Shillington, *History of Africa*, 317-20

Toyin Falola (ed), *Africa Volume 3, Colonial Africa*, pp. 323-9

Toyin Falola (ed), *Africa Volume 4, The End of Colonial Rule*, pp 427-446

Lecture 8 – African Reaction to Colonial Rule: Usman Dan Fodio

Reading: Shillington, *History of Africa*, 225-27

**** You should have identified a book for review by this time. Start reading your book and begin making notes.

October 15

Lecture 9 - African Independent Churches

Reading:

Shillington, *History of Africa*, 342-3

Toyin Falola (ed), *Africa Volume 3, Colonial Africa*, pp 172-81; 337

Film: *The Rise of Nationalism* (By Basil Davidson)

October 20

Lecture 10 – Ethiopia

Reading:

Shillington, *History of Africa*, 106 – 114; 283-87

Toyin Falola (ed), *Africa Volume 3, Colonial Africa*, pp. 397-410

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Lecture 11 - German Rule in East Africa and Maji Maji Rebellion

Reading:

Toyin Falola (ed), *Africa Volume 3, Colonial Africa*, pp. 367-8

Shillington, *History of Africa*, 313-6; 339-40

October 22

Lecture 12 - Egypt

Reading:

Shillington, *History of Africa*, 157-62; 279-282

Toyin Falola (ed), *Africa Volume 3, Colonial Africa*, pp. 91-2; 191-2; 290-1; 397-400;

411-2; 425-6

Toyin Falola (ed), *Africa Volume 4, The End of Colonial Rule*, pp 334-7

Lecture 13 – Uganda

Reading:

Shillington, *History of Africa*, 338; 390-1

Toyin Falola (ed), *Africa Volume 3, Colonial Africa*, pp. 100-1; 114-5; 117-9; 367-9;

October 27

Lecture 14 - Ghana (Gold Coast)

Reading:

Shillington, *History of Africa*, 377-80

Toyin Falola (ed), *Africa Volume 3, Colonial Africa*, pp. 56-61; 64-66; 115-6; 152-3;

205-7; 212-3; 252-3; 286-7; 295-8; 378-9; 390-1

Lecture 15 - Angola

Reading:

Shillington, *History of Africa*, 405-6

Toyin Falola (ed), *Africa Volume 3, Colonial Africa*, pp. 36-8; 96-7; 330-1; 343-7; 349-

54; 356-7

Toyin Falola (ed), *Africa Volume 4, The End of Colonial Rule*, pp 75-80; 386-88; 391-4

October 29

Lecture 16 - Mozambique

Reading:

Shillington, *History of Africa*, 400

Toyin Falola (ed), *Africa Volume 3, Colonial Africa*, 331-3

Toyin Falola (ed), *Africa Volume 4, The End of Colonial Rule*, pp 75-80; 388-9; 394-97

Lecture 17 - Namibia

Shillington, *History of Africa*, 340-2; 413-4

Toyin Falola (ed), *Africa Volume 4, The End of Colonial Rule*, pp 83-4; 421-2

Toyin Falola (ed), *Africa Volume 4, The End of Colonial Rule*, 83-4; 421-2

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November 3

***** Mid Term (administered and submitted online)**

From November 3, 2009 (You need to have [Respondus](#) lockdown browser on your system in order to access this test)

November 5

Lecture 18 - Zimbabwe

Reading:

Shillington, *History of Africa*, 322-4; 400-4

Toyin Falola (ed), *Africa Volume 3, Colonial Africa*, pp. 33-40; 101-2; 150-1

Toyin Falola (ed), *Africa Volume 4, The End of Colonial Rule*, pp 80 –3; 422-6

Film: *Flame* (CWU Library, Media Center, DV-1140, 85 minutes)

November 10

Discussion - Discussion of Tsitsi Ndingaregba's *Nervous Conditions* in class

*****2-3 page reflections paper** on the novel *Nervous Conditions* by Tsitsi Ndingaregba due in class. Note: This is not a book review but your own reflection on how this novel has helped you in understanding colonial history in Africa.

Due November 10, 2009 submitted online or in class

November 12

Lecture 19 – Africa and World War I

Reading:

Shillington, *History of Africa*, 344-7

Toyin Falola (ed), *Africa Volume 3, Colonial Africa*, pp.53-68; 71-2; 146-7; 192-4; 290-

91; 363-4; 369-74; 388-90; 429-30

Lecture 20 - Léopold Senghor and Négritude

Reading:

Shillington, *History of Africa*, 380-3

Toyin Falola (ed), *Africa Volume 3, Colonial Africa*, pp. 268-73; 293-5

Toyin Falola (ed), *Africa Volume 4, The End of Colonial Rule*, 304-8

November 17

Lecture 21 – Kenya

Reading:

Shillington, *History of Africa*, 339; 388-9

Toyin Falola (ed), *Africa Volume 3, Colonial Africa*, pp.119-20; 134-6

Toyin Falola (ed), *Africa Volume 4, The End of Colonial Rule*, pp 71-75

Lecture 22 - The Belgian Congo and the DRC

Reading:

Shillington, *History of Africa*, 390-3

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Toyin Falola (ed), *Africa Volume 3, Colonial Africa*, pp. 5-7; 35-7; 71-2; 100-1; 240-1; 345-6; 351-2

***** Book review assignment**

Due November 17, 2009 submitted in class or online as an attachment

November 19**Lecture 23 – Apartheid in South Africa**

Reading:

Shillington, *History of Africa*, 411-13

Toyin Falola (ed), *Africa Volume 3, Colonial Africa*, pp. 10-12; 20-23; 60-67; 71-2; 120-1; 157-8; 160-1; 175-6; 211-2; 235-6; 246-8; 266-8; 277-9; 297-8; 313-6; 348-50; 353-5

Toyin Falola (ed), *Africa Volume 4, The End of Colonial Rule*, pp 427-52

Lecture 24 - The Final Phase of Apartheid: The Decline and End of Apartheid

Reading:

Shillington, *History of Africa*, 455-7

Toyin Falola (ed), *Africa Volume 4, The End of Colonial Rule*, pp 453-61

November 24**Lecture 25 - African Socialism – Nyerere and Ujamaa in Tanzania**

Reading:

Shillington, *History of Africa*, 388-90; 427-30

Toyin Falola (ed), *Africa Volume 3, Colonial Africa*, pp. 364-8

Toyin Falola (ed), *Africa Volume 4, The End of Colonial Rule*, pp 369-71

Film: *In Search of Stability* (By Ali Mazrui)

November 26

Film: *The Legacy* (By Basil Davidson)

(Please note that there is no reaction paper expected for this film)

Term paper due November 26, 2009 submitted through Blackboard through message system, if this fails, send to my e-mail amutabim@cwu.edu or

Amutabi@yahoo.com

December 1 – preparation for the final exam and submission of Student Evaluation of Teaching forms, online.

December 3 – Final Exam - Blackboard site open for Final Exam (online)

administered and taken online – available from December 3 to 9, 2009