

## PROVISIONAL

### History 206-402 Seminar in African History **Religion and Colonial Rule in Africa**

Fall 2006, Wednesday 2-5  
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#### **Course Description**

This seminar will focus on the experience of Africans from the era of the European “Scramble for Africa” in the 1880’s to the years of African Independence in the 1960’s, through the lens of African religious practices and movements. We will explore the role of African Tradition Religions (ATRs), Islam, European missions and African churches, millenarian and reform movements, education and leadership, and religion and nationalism. Students will examine colonial documents, African oral traditions, spiritual songs and prayers and contemporary religious writings to gain an understanding of the meaning of religion in African life during a period of great change on the continent.

#### **Course objectives**

The purpose of this course is threefold. First, to develop in students awareness of the wide range of meanings of conversion and peoples’ motives in creating and adhering to religious institutions; Second, to examine the political, cultural, and psychological dimensions in the development of religious social movements in colonial Africa; And third, to investigate the role of religion as instrument of cultural and political resistance to European colonial domination.

#### **Course Requirements and Grading**

***Attendance and class participation:*** This is a seminar; therefore, regular attendance and participation in class discussions are essential. You are expected to be thoroughly familiar with the readings for each class and to participate actively in discussion. These readings will provide background to your individual research projects and help you complete the weekly assignment. Assigned reading is indicated in the syllabus for each week. It is the student’s responsibility to complete the required reading on schedule so as to participate fruitfully in

the weekly discussion. Both attendance and in-class participation will count towards your grade; unexcused absences will negatively affect your final grade.

***Weekly assignment:*** Each student will co-lead discussion for one or two class meetings and prepare two to three questions for discussion every week. 20% of your grade will be based on weekly class assignment and participation in class discussion.

***Exams:*** There will be two take home essays and one book report. Each essay will count for 20% of the total course grade and the book report for 10%. Essay questions will be distributed in class one week before due date. Late submissions will be penalized.

***Research project:*** Your research project will count for the remaining 30% of your grade. Each of you will prepare an individual paper of ten pages double-spaced, on a topic which is relevant to the course theme. In your research paper you should demonstrate that you have carefully read and thought through the material on your topic as it relates to the course theme and your own views. A strong and clear thesis statement, documented evidence and critical analysis are keys to a good paper. In writing this paper you are strongly encouraged to draw from the resources available in the different university libraries and to use the interlibrary loan service, if needed, to document your thesis and arguments. Sources used should be acknowledged properly through quotations, footnotes and a bibliography. The topic and outline of your research project must be discussed with the instructor by the second week of October. It is recommended that students verify the availability of material before selecting research topics. The revised paper is due December 15.

***Electronic resources:*** In this course we will be using Blackboard, which is course management software that provides space for the posting of course materials and allows fast and convenient communication between students and between students and instructor. The syllabus for this class will be posted on Blackboard as well as some additional readings and electronic resources (ER) related to specific course topics. Blackboard has a listserv that can be used to reach the class as a group or to communicate with individual students. Registered students with a Penn Net ID and an E-mail address are automatically listed on Blackboard. To access the course site point your browser to <https://courseweb.library.upenn.edu> and log in with your PennNet ID and password. For additional information about Blackboard see handout.

***Academic integrity:*** Students are expected to adhere to the university's academic integrity and plagiarism policies on all assignments. Plagiarism consists of using other people's ideas without proper acknowledgment. Students who violate the university's academic integrity policies may fail the course. (For more on academic integrity see Links on Blackboard.)

## **Readings**

### ***Required Books***

The following books are available for purchase at the Penn Book Center 34<sup>th</sup> St. and Sansom near the bank, and at the Rosengarten Reserve Desk at the Van Pelt library.

Achebe, Chinua, *Things Fall Apart* (New York: Anchor Books, 1994)

Boahen, Adu., *African Perspectives on Colonialism* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University, 1987).

Ray, B. C., *African Religions: Symbol, Ritual, and Community* / 2nd ed. (Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 2000).

### **Electronic resources on Blackboard**

Abbink Jon; M. de Bruijn and K. Van Walveren, *Rethinking Resistance: Revolt and Violence in African History* (Leiden-Boston: Brill, 2003): 1-38

Fields, K. E. *Revival and Religion in Colonial Central Africa*. New Jersey: Princeton U Press, 1985 (Reprint Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann, 1997.) 31-60; 99-126

Gwassa, G. C., and John Ilife, *Records of the Maji Maji Rising (East African Publishing House, n.d. Part 1)*.

Holt, P. M., *The Mahdist State in the Sudan, 1881-1898: A study of its Origins, Development and overthrow* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1958): 32-104

Horton, R., "African Conversion" *Africa*, vol. 41 2(1971): 85-108.

Ilife, J., "Organization of the Maji Maji Rebellion," *Journal of African History*, viii, (1967): 495-512

Kruger, N., *Zimbabwe's Guerilla War: Peasant Voices* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1992): 116-169.

Lan, D., *Guns and Rains: Guerillas and Spirit Mediums in Zimbabwe* (Berkeley, Los Angeles, London: James Currey and U of California Press, 1999): 3-8; ch 7-8.

Last, M. "The Colonial Caliphate" in D. Robinson and J. L. Triaud, eds., *Le Temps des Marabouts* (Paris, 1997): 67-82.

Maloba, W., *Mau Mau and Kenya: An Analysis of a Peasant Revolt* (Bloomington: Indiana U. Press, 1993): ch 1 and 2.

Pankenham, T., *The Scramble for Africa: White Man's Conquest of the Dark Continent From 1876 to 1912* (New York: Avon Books, 1991): 616-628.

Peel, J.D.Y., *Religious Encounter and the Making of the Yoruba* (Bloomington: Indiana U.Press, 2000): 1-26.

Triaud, Jean. L., "Islam in Africa Under French Colonial Rule," in Pouwels, R., N. Levtzion, eds., *The History of Islam in Africa* (Athens: Ohio U. Press, 2000); 169-187.

Ranger, T., "Connexions Between 'Primary and Resistance' Movements and Modern Mass Nationalism in East and Central Africa," *Journal of African History*, vol. 9 3(1968): 437-453.

Roberts, A., ed., *The Colonial Moment in Africa* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1992) Ch. 3 and 4.

Robinson, David, *Muslim Societies in African History* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2004) ch. 12.

Rotberg, R., *Central Africa: the Making of Malawi and Zambia, 1873-1964* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard U. Press, 1972).

Rotberg, R and A. Mazrui, *Protest and Power in Black Africa* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1970): 55-92.

Stanley, Brian, ed., *Missions, Nationalisms and the End of Empire* (B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2003), 1-33.

Thornton, J., *The Kongolesse Saint Anthony: Dona Beatriz Kimpa Vita and the Antonian Movement, 1684-1706* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1998) 1-9; 105-128.

## **Course schedule**

### Week1:

Sept 6: Organization and introduction  
Reading: Start *Things Fall Apart*

### Week 2:

Sept.13  
Africa at the Eve of the Colonial Conquest  
Reading: *Things Fall Apart*.

### Week 3:

Sept.20

The Scramble for Africa and African responses  
Reading: *African Perspectives on Colonialism*  
Film: *The Magnificent African Cake* (DT 20 A32)

Week 4:

Sept 27

Religion and Resistance

Reading: Abbink and Van Walraven ER; Ranger, ER.

Week 5:

Oct 4.

Introduction to African Traditional Religions

Reading: Ray 1-46; Horton, ER

Film: *The World began at Ile Ife*

Week 6:

Oct 11.

The Maji Maji and Mau Mau movements

Reading: Gwassa and Ilife ER; Pakenham ER, Maloba ER

**Topics for essay # 1 distributed in class**

Week 7:

Oct 18

Introduction to Islam

Reading: Ray 143-145; Stewart in Roberts ch.4 ER; Levtzion ER

Film: *Caravans of Gold*

Mid term review

**Essay #1 due**

Week 8:

Oct 25

Muslim militant movements in Sudan and Somalia

Reading: Robinson ER; Holt ER; Hess ER.

Week 9

Nov 1

Muslims under European colonial rule

Reading: Ray 160-166; Triaud ER., Last ER.

Week 10:

Nov 8

Christianity and colonialism in Africa

Gray in Roberts ER; Peel, ER, New peace on Missionaries

Week 11

Nov 15

Missionaries and colonial rule in Africa

Readings from the Comaroff. Stanley, 1-33. (tentatively)

**Topics for essay #2 distributed**

Week 12:

Nov 22

Christian messianic movements in central and southern Africa

Reading: Ray 159-165; Fields ER; ER; Rotberg, ER.

**Essay # 2 due**

Week 13:

No. 29

Guerillas and Mediums in Zimbabwe

Reading: Lan 3-8 ch 7 and 8 ER; Kriger ER

End of semester review

Week 14:

Dec 6

Paper presentations

**Term paper due Dec 15**