

HIST 764 / GLOBAL ST 764
GLOBAL POWER, LOCAL CULTURES: COMPARATIVE COLONIALISM IN AFRICA

Department of History, McMaster University
Winter 2009

Instructor: Dr. B. Ibhawoh
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Office Hours: T.2:30-3:30 [H] / W.12:00-2:00 [PS]
or by appointment

Class Time: Tue: 11:30 - 2:30pm
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Course Overview

This course examines the processes by which the global impulses of imperial power shaped the history of African peoples under colonial rule. It investigates the important but uncertain issues arising from the interplay between "global" materially grounded power relations and "local" social and cultural constructions. This is a reading seminar designed to provide students with an understanding of the key themes and theoretical debates about the place and meaning of colonialism in modern African history. The course proceeds from the premise that colonialism is a highly diverse process, with great variation geographically, historically, and culturally. It encompasses vastly different geographical regions, quite different historical periods, distinctive styles of colonialism among different European nations, and extraordinary diversity in the cultures of the peoples who were colonized. Understanding this diversity in contexts, processes and outcomes is crucial to understanding the history of colonialism in Africa and elsewhere in the colonized world.

In analyzing the various aspects of the colonial project in Africa our approach will be thematic, comparative and chronological. We will consider the nature and dynamics of the colonial state, economy, culture and society, and how Africans resisted, engaged and transformed colonial regimes in different societies. We will examine how colonialism operated as a political, economic, and cultural project of control through which new class, racial, ethnic and gendered hierarchies and identities were produced. We will explore the processes of decolonization and the legacies that the colonial experience left behind for African societies. These perspectives in the study of colonialism in Africa will provide the basis for broader discussions on the global processes of domination and resistance at the periphery of the world system. Although this course focuses primarily on Africa, our analysis will be comparative, drawing on colonial experience in other regions of the world.

Course Requirements

Seminar Presentation/Reflection papers (10% x 2)	20% (Due one week after presentation)
Seminar Participation	20%
Historiographic Review	20% Due Feb 24
Research Paper	40% Due March 31

Course Policies

Seminar Presentation/Facilitation

Each student will sign up for at least 2 seminar topics during the first two weeks of the term and will be required to make seminar presentations on the selected topic and readings. The presenters will be responsible for leading the seminar discussion for the week focusing on the main issues or ideas covered in the readings and raise questions for the class to discuss. The actual presentation should take no more than 30 minutes and ample time should be left for class discussion. The presenter/facilitator will subsequently write and submit a 3-5-page reflection paper outlining his/her own interpretations of the assigned readings and class discussions. Reflection papers are due in class a week after the presentation. Assessment of seminar presentation will be based on both oral presentation and reflection paper following these criteria: evidence of preparation and

understanding of the material, coverage of the material, clarity of thought and expression, quality of discussion/questions and time management. *Weight: 20%*

Seminar Participation

Active and meaningful participation is expected of all students. Students are expected to do the assigned readings and come prepared to for class discussions on the topic of the week.

Assessment of seminar participation will be based on the frequency, quality and relevance of contributions and questions. *Weight: 20%*

Historiographic Review

In this course we will concern ourselves not only with Africa's colonial past but also the process of recovering that past. In the first half of the term students will find 2 books and 2 academic articles from peer-reviewed *historical* journals that address specific themes in African history upon which they intend to write their research paper. Historiographic reviews should not simply be summaries of the author's arguments. Reviews should explore the manner in which historians have approached and examined the subject, the different points of view or schools of thought that they have advanced, and the ways that historians have interpreted available evidence to support their arguments. Attention should also be paid to any connections or contrasts between the reviewed books and articles. Materials already assigned for this course are not eligible for review.

Historiographic reviews should be approximately 10-15 pages and are due on **Feb. 24**. *Weight 20%*

Research Paper

This is the major writing assignment for this course. Research papers should be on a topic on any aspect of this course but must be approved by the instructor. In writing the paper, it is expected that some primary sources will be used and references drawn from the historiographic review earlier written. The research paper should be between 18-22 pages of text, but no more than 25 pages in total length. Pages within the body of the paper must be numbered. Details of this assignment will be discussed in seminar. Research papers are due on **March 31**. *Weight 40%*

PhD Minor Field:

Students taking this course as a PhD minor field will do the supplemental readings in this syllabus and may be supplied with an additional syllabus.

Academic Integrity

Statement of Academic Integrity and Dishonesty:

McMaster University and the Department of History state unequivocally that it demands scholarly integrity from all its members. Academic dishonesty, in whatever form, is ultimately destructive of the values of higher learning; furthermore, it is unfair and discouraging to those students who pursue their studies honestly. Academic dishonesty consists of misrepresenting by deception or by other fraudulent means and can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: "Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty"), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university. It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various kinds of academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, specifically Appendix 3, located at: http://www.mcmaster.ca/senate/academic/ac_integrity.htm

Timetable

Week 1: Jan. 6	Introduction; Seminar assignments; initial discussion
Week 2: Jan. 13	The Colonial State in Africa
Week 3: Jan. 20	Conceptualizing and Theorizing Colonialism
Week 4: Jan. 27	Law and Human Rights 1
Week 5: Feb. 3	Law and Human Rights 2

Week 6: Feb. 10	Economies and Material Culture 1
Week 7: Feb. 17	Mid-Term Break
Week 8: Feb. 24	Economies and Material Culture 2
Week 9: Mar. 3	Framing Identities: Race and Class
Week 10: Mar. 10	Framing Identities: Gender
Week 11: Mar. 17	Medicine and Health
Week 12: Mar. 24	Nationalism and Decolonization
Week 13: Mar. 31	Colonial Legacies and Post Colonialism
Week 14: Apr. 7	Course Review

Reading List

Most of the readings for this course are available in the courseware pack. Books are on reserve at the Mills Library. Some articles will be found either in the Library or on JSTOR (or other journal online sites). For a list of journals on African History available at McMaster Libraries see page 6 of this outline. You need not limit yourself to these journals. Other key readings taken from books will be copied and made available to members of the seminar. For those who would like to have broader foundational background in African History, I recommend the following texts:

- Erik Gilbert and Jonathan Reynolds, *Africa and the World: From Prehistory to the Present*
- Kevin Shillington, *History of Africa*

Week 1: Jan. 6.

Introduction; Seminar assignments; initial discussion

Week 2: Jan. 13.

The Colonial State in Africa

- Adu Boahen, "The Imposition of the Colonial System: Initiatives and Responses," in Adu Boahen, *African Perspectives on Colonialism* (1987).
- J. D. Hargreaves, "Conditions of Tranquility in Africa," in J. D. Hargreaves, *Decolonization in Africa* (1988).
- Crawford Young, "The Colonial State Institutionalized," in Crawford Young *The African Colonial State in Contemporary Perspective* (1994).
- Mahmood Mamdani, "Indirect Rule: The Politics of Decentralized Despotism," in Mahmood Mamdani, *Citizen and Subject* (1996).
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- Adu Boahen, *African Perspectives on Colonialism* (1987) [Required common reading]
- Young, Crawford. *The African Colonial State in Comparative Perspective* (1994).

Week 3: Jan. 20.

Conceptualizing and Theorizing Colonialism

- Amani Whitfield and Bonny Ibhawoh, "Problems, Perspectives and Paradigms: Colonial Africanist Historiography and the Question of Audience," *Canadian Journal of African Studies*, 39, 3, 2005.
- Arnold Temu and Bonaventure Swai, "The African Factor" in Arnold Temu and Bonaventure Swai, *Historians and Africanist History: A Critique* (1981).
- Ann Laura Stoler and Frederick Cooper "Between Metropole and Colony: Rethinking a Reserch Agenda" in Frederick Cooper and Ann Laura Stoler, *Tensions of Empire: Colonial Cultures in a Bourgeois World* (1997).
- Frederick Cooper, "Introduction: Colonial Questions and Historical Trajectories" in Frederick Cooper, *Colonialism in Question: Theory, Knowledge, History* (2005).
- Elizabeth Isichei, "Prelude: Africa and the Historians" in Elizabeth Isichei, *A History of African Societies to 1870* (1997).
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- Frederick Cooper and Ann Laura Stoler, *Tensions of Empire: Colonial Cultures in a Bourgeois World* (1997)
- V.Y. Mudimbe, V.Y. *The Invention of Africa: Gnosis, Philosophy, and the Order of Knowledge*(1988).

Week 4: Jan. 27.

Law and Human Rights 1

- Sally Merry, "Law and Colonialism," *Law and Society Review*, 25 4, 1991.
- Richard Roberts, "Introduction: Disputes without Significance: African Social History and Colonial Courts at a Time of Social Transformation" in *Litigants and Households: African Disputes and Colonial Courts in the French Soudan, 1895–1912* (2005).
- Martin Chanock, "Legal Culture, State Making and Colonialism" in *The Making of South African Legal Culture* (2007).

- Martin Chanock, *The Making of South African Legal Culture* (2007).
- Mann, Kristin and Richard Roberts Eds. *Law in Colonial Africa* (1991).

Week 5: Feb. 3.

Law and Human Rights 2

- Bonny Ibhawoh, "Stronger than the Maxim Gun: Law Rights and Justice" in *Imperialism and Human Rights: Colonial Discourses of Rights and Liberties in African History* (2007)
- Alice Conklin, "Colonialism and Human Rights: A Contradiction in Terms? The Case of France and West Africa, 1895-1914." *The American Historical Review*. 103, 2 (1998).
- Janice Boddy, "Clash of Selves: Gender, Personhood and the Human Rights Discourse in Colonial Sudan" *Canadian Journal of African Studies*, 41, 3 (2007).

- Bonny Ibhawoh *Imperialism and Human Rights: Colonial Discourses of Rights And Liberties in African History* (2007)
- Conklin, Alice. *A Mission to Civilize: The Republican Idea of Empire in France and West Africa 1895 – 1930* (1997).

Week 6: Feb. 10.

Economies and Material Cultures 1

- Walter Rodney, "Africa's Contribution to the Capitalist Development of Europe –The Colonial Period" in *How Europe underdeveloped Africa* (1981).
- Frederick Cooper, "African Workers and Imperial Designs" in *Black Experience and the Empire* (2006).
- Jeanne Penvenne, "Work for the White People, You will get Money: African Perspectives on Changing Labour Relations" in *African Workers and Colonial Racism: Mozambican Strategies and Struggles in Lourenco Marques, 1877-1962* (1995).

- Ralph Austen, *African Economic History* (1996).

Week 7: Feb. 16-20.

Mid-Term Break

Week 8: Feb. 24. Historiographic Review Papers Due

Economies and Material Cultures 2

- Jeremy Prestholdt, "On the Global Repercussions of East African Consumerism" *The American Historical Review*, 109, 3 (2005).
- Joseph Inikori, "Africa and the Globalization Process: Western Africa 1450-1850," *Journal of Global History*, 2, (2007).

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- Jeremy Prestholdt *Domesticating the World. African Consumerism and the Genealogies of Globalization* (2007).
 - P. T. Zeleza, *A Modern Economic History of Africa* (1993)

Week 9: Mar 3.

Framing Identities: Race and Class

- Patricia M. E. Lorcin, "Imperialism, Colonial Identity, and Race in Algeria 1830-1870" *Journal of Science History*, 90, (1999).
 - Keith Breckenridge, "The Allure of Violence: Men, Race and Masculinity on the South African Goldmines, 1900-1950" *Journal of Southern African Studies*, 24, 4, (1998).
 - Carolyn A. Brown, "African Workers and European Theories: The Enugu Coal Miners and West African Labour History," in *We Were All Slaves: African Miners, Culture, and Resistance at the Enugu Government Colliery* (2003).
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- N. L. Clarke and William H. Worger, *South Africa: The Rise and Fall of Apartheid* (2004)
 - A. McClintock, *Imperial Leather: Race, Gender, Sexuality and the Colonial Contest* (1995).

Week 10: Mar 10.

Framing Identities: Gender

- Jane Parpart, "'Where is Your Mother?': Gender, Urban Marriage and Colonial Discourse on the Zambian Copperbelt, 1924-1945," *International Journal of African Historical Studies* 27, 2 (1972).
 - Nakanyike Musisi, "The Politics of Perception or the Perception of Politics? Colonial and Missionary Representations of Buganda Women, 1900-1945" in *Women in African Colonial Histories* (2002)
 - Diana Jeater, "The British Empire and African Women in the Twentieth Century" in *Black Experience and the Empire* (2004).
 - Stephen F. Miescher and Lisa A. Lindsay, "Introduction: Men and Masculinities in Modern African History" in Lisa A. Lindsay and Stephen F. Miescher, *Men and Masculinities in Modern African History* (2003).
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- Lindsay, Lisa A. and Stephan F. Miescher, eds. (2003) *Men and Masculinities in Modern Africa*. Portsmouth: Heinemann.

Week 11: Mar 17.

Medicine and Health

- Meghan Vaughan, "Introduction: Discourse Subjectivity and Differences" in *Curing Their Ills: Colonial Power and African Illness* (1991).
 - Jane Turriffin, "Colonial Midwives and Modernizing Childbirth in French West Africa," in *Women in African Colonial Histories*, (2002)
 - Anna Crozier, "Sensationalising Africa: British Medical Impressions of Sub-Saharan Africa, 1890-1939," *The Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth History*, 35, 3, (2007).
 - Richard Keller, "Madness and Colonization: Psychiatry in the British and French Empires, 1800-1962," *Journal of Social History*, 35, 2, (2001).
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- Myron Echenberg, *Black Death, White Medicine: Bubonic Plague and the Politics of Public Health in Colonial Senegal, 1914-1945*, (2001).

Week 12: Mar. 24.

Nationalism and Decolonization

- J.D Hargreaves, "The Mobilization of African Discontent," *Decolonization in Africa* (1988)

- Crawford Young, "Towards African Independence" in *African Colonial State in Comparative Perspective* (1994).
- Bonny Ibhawoh "Second World War Propaganda, Imperial Idealism and Anti-Colonial Nationalism in British West Africa," *Nordic Journal of African Studies* 16, 2 (2007).
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- Toyin Falola, *Nationalism and African Intellectuals* (2001).
- John D. Hargreaves, *Decolonization in Africa*, (1996).
- Caroline Elkins, *Imperial Reckoning: The Untold Story of Britain's Gulag in Kenya*, (2005).

Week 13: Mar 31.

Colonial Legacies and Post Colonialism

- Rita Abrahamsen, "African Studies and the Postcolonial Challenge," *African Affairs*, 102, (2003).
- Mahmood Mamdani, "Defining the Crisis of Post Colonial Citizenship: Settler and Native in Political Identity" in *When Victims Become Killers: Colonialism, Nativism and the Genocide in Rwanda* (2002).
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- Mamdani, Mahmood. *Citizen and Subject: Contemporary Africa and the Legacy of Late Colonialism* (1996).
- Ankie Hoogvelt, *Globalization and the Postcolonial World: The New Political Economy of Development* (2001)
- Ania Loomba, *Colonialism/Postcolonialism* (1998).
- Sangeeta Ray, ed., *A companion to Postcolonial Studies* (2000).

Week 14: Apr. 7.

Course Review. Research Papers Due

Additional Resources

Websites

- <http://www.humanities.mcmaster.ca/africanhistory/> - (African History at McMaster website)
- <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/africa/africasbook.html>

Journals on African History Available at the Mills Library

- Africa: Journal of the International African Institute
- African Affairs
- Journal of the Royal African Society
- African Issues
- Issue: A Journal of Opinion
- African Studies Review
- African Studies Bulletin
- Canadian Journal of African Studies
- History in Africa
- International Journal of African Historical Studies
- African Historical Studies
- Journal of African Cultural Studies
- Journal of African History
- Journal of Modern African Studies
- Journal of Religion in Africa
- Journal of Southern African Studies