

Professor Abosedo George
ageorge@barnard.edu
Office Hours: Wednesdays 1:30 -3:30
LeFrak 224. Appts: <https://calendly.com/ageorge>

TAs: Thomas Zuber
Rebecca Glade

BC1760 Introduction to African History: 1700 – Present

M/W 11:40 – 12:55
Diana LL103

Description

This course is a general survey of African history from the 18th century to the contemporary period. Through lectures, readings, screenings, and class discussions we will explore six major themes in African History: Africa and the Making of the Atlantic World, Colonialism in Africa, the 1940s, Nationalism and Independence Movements, Post-Colonialism in Africa, and Issues in the Making of Contemporary Africa.

Student Learning Outcomes

- Demonstrate knowledge of the changing political geography of Africa in the 20th century.
- Identify and explain key events in modern African History.
- Systematically evaluate and Critique primary and secondary sources on African History.
- Demonstrate a Critical understanding of the relationship between past events and contemporary life in Africa.

Requirements

EARLY MAP QUIZ
COLONIAL AFRICA MAP QUIZ
CONTEMPORARY AFRICA MAP QUIZ
3pg READING RESPONSE PAPER
MID-TERM EXAM
FINAL EXAM

- Reading Response Papers:
Elements of a good reading response paper: Reading response papers are generally very tightly focused and get to their point quickly and forcefully. A good reading response paper will center primary sources. It may include a quick summary of a primary source or a set of primary sources, but a simple summary of the source(s) does not itself constitute a good response paper. A good reading response paper is built around an argument about a point made in the reading/s or suggested by the reading/s that was particularly interesting or provocative to you. It should incorporate evidence from the

sources/s. The subject of your analysis should be clearly stated. You should cite your sources using MLA format.

Ultimately, the most important thing is that your reading response demonstrates a substantive engagement with the reading(s) and that it conveys your honest, personal response in a coherent and clearly organized short essay format.

Grades

Map Quizzes	21 pts
Midterm Exam	20 pts
Final Exam	20 pts
Response Papers	19 pts
Participation	20 pts
Extra Credit*	up to 4 pts

Important Deadlines

W 1/31	EARLY MAP QUIZ
M 2/12	COLONIAL AFRICA MAP QUIZ
M 3/5	MIDTERM EXAM
M 4/2	DUE: READING RESPONSE PAPER
M 4/11	CONTEMPORARY AFRICA MAP QUIZ
TBA	FINAL EXAM

Policies

Attendance will be taken. Students are expected to appear on time every time class meets. More than three unexcused absences will result in an automatic F.

There will be NO make-up quizzes or exams.

Late response papers will not be accepted.

Students are responsible for material covered during lectures and section.

Attendance at section is mandatory.

Your participation grade is based on your performance in section.

Absences for severe health issues, interview appointments, college-related athletic obligations, and the like, are excused only if substantiated by a notice to the professor from the dean of your class year.

Students who may need disability related accommodations are very strongly encouraged to notify the professor as soon as possible, preferably within the first week of classes. Students who need testing or classroom accommodations must be registered in advance with the Office of Disability Services (ODS) in 105 Hewitt or with Disability Services at Columbia.

Terrible things sometimes happen that are not disability related. Students who are facing *extraordinary* challenges that may impair their academic performance are advised to make an appointment with the professor immediately issues emerge.

A+ (98 and above) / A (94 – 97) / A- (90-93) / B+ (87-89) / B (84-86) / B- (80-83) / C+ (77-79) / C (74-76) / C- (70-73) / D+ (67-69) / D (64-66) / D- (60-63) / F (59 and under)

*Students can accumulate extra points in the course by attending Africa events on campus and writing 2-page reviews that discuss the events in relation to key concerns of the class. Events can include public lectures, film screenings, performances, or debates. Each review is worth up to 2 pts. Interested students may wish to look to IAS, IRAAS, or the Africana Studies Program at Barnard for information on Africa events this semester. There are also a number of student groups that host Africa events. Reviews must be submitted within one week after the event occurred. Students may write a maximum of 1 extra credit paper AFTER the midterm. Extra credit reviews must be printed out and handed in directly to the professor.

Readings

Kevin Shillington, History of Africa
Frederick Cooper, Africa Since 1940
Ngugi wa Thiongo, Something Torn and New

All readings are either in the textbooks or on Courseworks

(Books for this class have been ordered through Book Culture on 112th St. btwn Bdwy & Amst.)

Films

Keita: L’Heritage du Griot
Ousmane Sembene, dir., Camp de Thiaroye
Jean-Jacques Flori & Stephane Tchalgadjeff, dir. Fela Kuti, Music Is the Weapon

January

Week 1
W 1/17 Introductions. Select *at least two* possible section times.

Week 2
M 1/22 **Studying African History**
FILM Keita: L’Heritage du Griot

W 1/24 **Mapping Africa through the Ages**
Guest lecturer: Yuusuf Caruso, PhD., Columbia University Libraries

Week 3
M 1/29 **Prelude**
Shillington Chaps 5/ 6/ 9
-“North and north-eastern Africa to 1000CE”
-“Trans Saharan trade and the kingdom of ancient Ghana”
- “Trading towns of the east African coast to the sixteenth century”

W 1/31 *****EARLY MAP QUIZ*****
Zamana Masafent: The Time of the Princes

Shillington Chpts 11/13/ 15

- “North and north-east Africa to the eighteenth century”
- “West African states and societies to the eighteenth century”
- “Southern Africa to the eighteenth century”

- Father Lobo, “Portuguese Missionaries in Ethiopia. 1620” In Robert O. Collins, ed. Documents from the African Past. Princeton: Markus Weiner Publishers, 2001

February

Week 4
M 2/5

African Slavery and Resistance in the Making of the African Diaspora

- Shillington Chapt 12, “The Atlantic Slave trade, sixteenth to eighteenth centuries”
- “Narrative of Samuel Ajayi Crowther” from Philip Curtin, Africa Remembered: Narratives by West Africans from the Era of the Slave Trade, 298 – 316
- Giovanni Cavazzi, “Queen Anna Nzinga. 1654” In Robert O. Collins, ed. Documents from the African Past. Princeton: Markus Weiner Publishers, 2001

Optional Readings:

- Edward Alpers, “The Other Middle Passage: The African Slave Trade in the Indian Ocean” in Migration and the Making of the Modern World (2007) 20 - 38

W 2/7

The Growth of Islam

- David Robinson, “Revolutions in the Western Sudan” in Levtzion and Pouwels, eds., History of Islam in Africa. 131-152
- “The Hijra and Holy War of Sheikh Uthman dan Fodio. 1804.” by Abd Allah ibn Muhammad, Tazyin al-Waraqat, trans from the Arabic by Mervyn Hiskett (Ibadan: Ibadan University Press, 1963) 107-109, 114-115

Optional Readings:

- “The Case Against the Jihad. 1813.” by Al-Kanemi from Thomas Hodgkin, Nigerian Perspectives (London: Oxford University Press, 1960) 198 – 201
- Beverly Mack and Jean Boyd, “Nana Asmau and the Scholarly Islamic Tradition” in One Woman’s Jihad. 1- 19

M 2/12

***** COLONIAL AFRICA MAP QUIZ *****

Prelude to Empire: The North

- Shillington Chapt 19 “North and north-east Africa in the nineteenth century”
- Napoleon in Egypt: Al-Jabarti’s Chronicle of the French Occupation, 1798 (Markus Wiener: Princeton, 1997) 17 – 48

W 2/14

Prelude to Empire: The Tropics

- Shillington Chapt 16 “West Africa in the nineteenth century and the ending of the slave trade”
- Shillington Chapt 20 “Prelude to empire in tropical Africa”
- Edward Wilmot Blyden, “The Call of Providence to the Descendants of Africa in America” A Discourse Delivered to Coloured Congregations in the Cities of New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Harrisburg, during the Summer of 1862, in Liberia’s Offering: Being Addresses, Sermons, etc. (New York: John A. Gray, 1862)

-George Washington Williams, "Open Letter to King Leopold on the Congo" 1890 in Adelaide Cromwell Hill & Martin Kilson, eds., *Apropos of Africa: Sentiments of American Negro Leaders on Africa From the 1800s to the 1950s* (London: Frank Cass and Company Limited, 1969)

Week 6
M 2/19

Prelude to Empire: The South

-Shillington Chapt 18 "Pre-industrial southern Africa in the nineteenth century"
- "The Great Trek. 1835." by Anna Elizabeth Steenkamp, "Record or Journal of Our Migration from Our Mother Country to Port Natal" Cape Monthly Magazine, September 1876. Reprinted in John Bird, *Annals of Natal* (Piertermaritzburg: P. Davis and Sons, 1888), vol 1, 459 – 468

W 2/21

The Scramble

- Shillington Chapt 21 "The European Scramble', colonial conquest and African resistance in east, north-central and west Africa"
- from Michael Crowder, *West African Resistance: The Military Response to Colonial Occupation*. Introduction 1 - 15
- Mohammed Abdille Hasan, "The Sayyid's Reply." 1904

Week 7
M 2/26

Consolidating Colonialism

- "Indirect Rule in Tropical Africa. 1900." from Frederick Lugard, *The Dual Mandate in British Tropical Africa* (London: William Blackwood and Sons Ltd., 1926) 200 – 207, 209 – 218

W 2/28

MIDTERM Review Session

March

Week 8
M 3/5
W 3/7

MIDTERM EXAM

High Colonialism to WWII

- Shillington Chapt 24 "Africa between the wars: the high tide of colonial rule"

Spring Break
3/12
3/14

NO CLASSES

NO CLASSES

Week 10
M 3/19

Africa and WWII

-Judith Byfield, "Producing for the War" in *Africa and World War II* in (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2015) 24 - 42

-Carolyn A. Brown, "African Labor in the Making of World War II" in (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2015) 43 - 67

Emperor Haile Selassie 1936 speech at the League of Nations from *Selected Speeches of His Imperial Majesty Haile Selassie I: 1918 – 1967* (Addis Ababa: Ministry of Information, 1967) 304 – 316

FILM: Ousmane Sembene, dir., *Camp de Thiaroye*

- W 3/21 **Nationalism, Pan-Africanism, Internationalism and the Crisis of Colonialism**
 - Frederick Cooper, “Workers, peasants, and the crisis of colonialism,” [Africa Since 1940](#). 20-37
 - Felix Eboue, “Native Policy and Political Institutions in French Equatorial Africa. 1941.” From Jean de la Roche and Jean Gottman, *La Federation Francaise* (Montreal: Editions de l’Arbre, 1945) 583 – 589.
 - Resolutions of the 5th Pan-African Congress in Manchester, England
<http://www.marxists.org/archive/padmore/1947/pan-african-congress/ch12.htm>
- Week 11
 M 3/26 **1960s Independence: Liberation at Last?**
 - Shillington Chapt 26 “The winning of independence (1)”
 - Josiah Mwangi Kariuki, *Mau Mau Detainee*. 53-73
- W 3/28 **Which Way Forward?**
 - Frederick Cooper, “Citizenship, self-government, and development” the possibilities of the post-war moment.” [Africa Since 1940](#). 38 – 65
 - Kwame Nkrumah, “I Speak of Freedom.” 1961 Speech.
<https://www.marxists.org/subject/africa/nkrumah/1961/speak-freedom.htm>
 -Julius Nyerere, ‘Ujamaa’: The Basis of African Socialism (1962)
- Week 12
 M 4/2 ***** DUE: READING RESPONSE PAPER *****
Meanwhile in Southern Africa
 - ANC. The Freedom Charter.
 - Nelson Mandela, Presidential Address at the Annual Conference of the African National Congress Youth League. December 1951.
- W 4/4 - Steve Biko, *I Write What I Like: Selected Writings* (University of Chicago Press, Chicago IL, 2002)
 “Black Consciousness and the Quest for a True Humanity” 87- 98
 “What is Black Consciousness?” 99 - 119
- Week 13
 M 4/9 **The Late Decolonizations**
 - Frederick Cooper, “The late decolonizations: southern Africa 1975, 1979, 1994,” [Africa Since 1940](#). 133 – 155
 - Nelson Mandela, Speech at the University of Natal Pietermaritzburg, March 13, 1993, 230 - 234
- W 4/11 ***** CONTEMPORARY AFRICA MAP QUIZ *****
Military Rule: The Era of the Strong Man
 - John Garang De Mabior, “The Genesis of the Sudan People’s Liberation Movement. 1983.” From *John Garang Speaks*, edited and introduced by Mansour Khalid (London: KPI Ltd., 1987) 19 – 25
 - FILM: Jean-Jacques Flori and Stephane Tchalgadjeff, dirs., *Fela Kuti, Music Is the Weapon*

Week 14

M 4/16

The Era of the Weakened State

- Paul Nugent, "Invasion of the Acronyms: SAPs, AIDS and the NGO takeover" in Africa Since Independence. 326 -367

W 4/18

Redefining Independence

Paul Nugent, Africa Since Independence. Chapt 9

"Democracy Rediscovered: Popular Protest, Elite Mobilisation and the Return of Multipartyism"

Week 15

M 4/23

The African Renaissance

- Ngugi Wa Thiongo, Something Torn and New

- Deputy President Thabo Mbeki, "The African Renaissance, South Africa, and the World" Speech at United Nations University April 9, 1998

W 4/25

Richard Grant, Africa: Geographies of Change. Chapt 13 "African Futures"

Week 16

M 4/30

FINAL Review Session