

**AFH 4253: Women and Gender in
Twentieth-Century African History**

**University of Florida
Spring 2015**

Meeting

T period 5-6 (11:45- 12:35, 12:50-1:40), Keene-Flint 011

TR period 6 (12:50-1:40), Keene-Flint 011

Instructor

Susan M. O'Brien

office: 437 Grinter; phone: 392-2017

office hours: Wednesday 2-5, Friday 2-3, & by appt.

smobrien@ufl.edu

Required Coursework: Your grade in this class will be based on the following criteria:

1) class attendance & participation (20%): includes attendance, completion of the assigned readings, and thoughtful, informed contributions to class discussion. This is not a lecture course, but rather will be run like a seminar in which discussion plays a central role. Therefore the success of our class depends on your thoughtful engagement with the readings and willingness to contribute to class discussions. Every student will serve as a class discussant at least once during the semester. Discussants will formulate questions and will guide discussion during class.

2) first response paper (10%): due in class **Tuesday, January 20th, (3 double-spaced pages)**: this paper will react to and analyze the previous weeks' readings. Further instructions on composing a successful response paper will be posted to the E-Learning course web-site.

3) essay assignment (20%): due in class **Thursday, February 19th (5-6 double-spaced pages)**: essay question will be provided by the instructor and will focus on course readings, lectures, class discussions, and films where applicable.

4) second response paper (15%): due in class **Thursday, March 26 (3 double-spaced pages)**: this paper will react to and analyze the previous weeks' readings. Further instructions on composing a successful response paper will be posted to the E-Learning course web-site.

5) short research papers (25%): due on **Friday, May 1st at noon** at the latest. (**8-10 pages**). Research paper topics will be chosen in consultation with the professor and students will present their research to the class during the last two weeks of the semester.

6) in-class presentation of research findings (10%): students will present their research in 20-25 minute time slots during the last two weeks of the semester.

Course Readings

The following required texts should be available at area bookstores and will also be made available on Reserve at Library West:

- Getz, Trevor and Liz Clarke, *Abina and the Important Men: A Graphic History* Oxford University Press, 2012.
- Jean Allman, Nakanyike Musisi, and Susan Geiger, *Women in African Colonial Histories*, Indiana University Press, 2002. [also available on-line through Library West Catalogue as an e-book].

Additional readings in the form of academic and news articles will be posted on our course page on the E-Learning web-site. These readings are marked by an asterisk * on the course schedule.

To access our course page go to the e-Learning Support Systems homepage [<http://lss.at.ufl.edu/>] and enter your Gatorlink username and password into the boxes. You must have an active GatorLink ID to access E-Learning. If you do not have a GatorLink ID, cannot remember your GatorLink login information, or your ID does not work, go to the GatorLink website [<http://gatorlink.ufl.edu>] or to the UF Computing Help Desk: The Hub, 392-HELP for assistance.

Overall letter grades for the course will be assigned according to the following scale:

Letter Grade	Numerical Equivalent	GPA Equivalent
A	Above 92	4.0
A-	90-92	3.67
B+	87-89	3.33
B	83-86	3.0
B-	80-82	2.67
C+	77-79	2.33
C	73-76	2.0
C-	70-72	1.67
D+	67-69	1.33
D	63-66	1.0
D-	60-62	0.67
E	Below 60	0.0

Classroom Policies and Ethics

Students are expected to arrive to class on time, be attentive and remain until class is over. Being consistently late is a disruption to the class and is not acceptable. Students who disrupt class will be asked to leave. Cell phones and laptops must be turned off at the beginning of the class.

All students should observe the University of Florida's standards of academic honesty. In the event that a student is found cheating or plagiarizing, s/he will automatically fail the course and will be reported to Student Judicial Affairs. Acts of plagiarism include:

- Turning in a paper that was written by someone else (i.e., papers written by another student, a research service, or downloaded off the Internet).
- Copying, verbatim, a paragraph or significant portion of text from the work of another author without properly acknowledging the source through a commonly accepted citation style and using quotation marks.
- Paraphrasing (i.e., restating in your own words) text written by another author without citing that author.
- Using a unique idea or concept, which you discovered in a specific reading, without citing that author.

Students with disabilities requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation. Anyone with a disability should feel free to see the professor during office hours to make the necessary arrangements.

Course Schedule

Week 1: Gender Difference in African History

T 1/6 Intro to class

R 1/8 Theorizing Gender Cross-Culturally/ Decolonizing Feminism?

* Oyeronke Oyewumi, 'Visualizing the Body: Western Theories and African Subjects,' *African Gender Studies: A Reader* (Palgrave MacMillan, 2005): 3-22.

* Oyeronke Oyewumi, 'Introduction: Feminism, Sisterhood, and Other Foreign Relations,' *African Women and Feminism: Reflecting on the Politics of Sisterhood* (Africa World Press, 2003): 1-24.

* The Case of Caster Semanya (read three news articles/editorials posted to course site)

Week 2: Religion, Gender and Power in Pre-Colonial Africa

T 1/13 The Asante Case

* Emmanuel Akyeampong and Pashington Obeng, 'Spirituality, Gender and Power in Asante History,' *African Gender Studies: A Reader* (Palgrave MacMillan, 2005): 23-48.

R 1/15 The Yoruba and Fon Cases

* Oyeronke Oyewumi, '(Re) Constituting the Cosmology and Sociocultural Institutions of Oyo-Yoruba: Articulating the Yoruba World Sense,' *African Gender Studies: A Reader* (Palgrave MacMillan, 2005).

* Edna G. Bay, 'Belief, Legitimacy and the Kpojito: An Institutional History of the 'Queen Mother' in Precolonial Dahomey,' *Journal of African History* 36, 1 (1995): 1-27.

Week 3: Women, Slavery, and Early Colonialism: A Case Study from the Gold Coast

T 1/20 Reconstructing the Past: The Evidence

- Getz & Clarke, *Abina and the Important Men*, Parts I & II (1-94).

**** FIRST RESPONSE PAPER DUE IN CLASS ****

R 1/22 The Context – Putting it all together

- Getz & Clarke, *Abina and the Important Men*, Parts III-V (95-148).

Week 4: The Colonial Experience: Initial Encounters

T 1/27 - Allman et al, *Women in African Colonial Histories*, 1-47.

R 1/29 - Allman et al, *Women in African Colonial Histories*, 48-91.

Week 5: The Impact of Colonialism on African Gender Roles and Relations

T 2/3 Colonial Perceptions and Representations of African Women

- Allman et al, *Women in African Colonial Histories*, 95-115.

R 2/5 Colonial Courts & the Changing Contours of Marriage/ Urbanization,
Migration and Colonial Control in Southern Africa

Allman et al, *Women in African Colonial Histories*, Chapters 5 & 10.

* Jean Allman, 'Rounding Up Spinsters: Unmarried Women and Gender Chaos in Colonial Asante,' *Africa* 67, 2 (1997): 296-321.

Week 6: Women & Gender in Colonial Kenya

T 2/10 The Politics of Female Circumcision

*Lynn Thomas, 'Ngaitana (I will circumcise myself)': The Gender and Generational Politics of the 1956 Ban on Clitoridectomy in Meru, Kenya," *Gender and History* 8 (1996), 338-63.

*Fuumbai Ahmadu, "Rites & Wrongs: An Insider/Outsider Reflects on Power and Excision," pp. 283-312.

R 2/12 Migration, Urbanization & Gender in Colonial Kenya

* Kenda Mutongi, "'Worries of the Heart': Widowed Mothers, Daughters and Masculinities in Maragoli, Western Kenya, 1940-60," *Journal of African History* 40 (1999): 67-86.

* Luise White, "Prostitution, Identity, and Class Consciousness in Nairobi During World War II," *Signs* 11, 2 (1986): 255-273.

Week 7: Women in Anti-Colonial Movements

T 2/17 Female Power and Protest in Igboland

* Judith Van Allen, "'Aba Riots' or 'Igbo Women's War'? Ideology, Stratification, and the Invisibility of Women," in *Women in Africa: Studies in Social & Economic Change*, pp. 59-86.

- Allman et al, *Women in African Colonial Histories*, 260-281.

R 2/19 **** ESSAY ASSIGNMENT DUE ****

Week 8: **** SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS 3/3 or 3/5 ****

Week 9: Women in Nationalist & Liberation Movements

T 3/10 Asante Nationalism/ Women in the Guinean Independence Movement

* Obeng, Pashtong, "Gendered Nationalism: Forms of Masculinity in Modern Asante of Ghana."

- Allman et al, *Women in African Colonial Histories*, 282-304.

R 3/12 Women in the Zimbabwean War of Liberation

- Allman et al, *Women in African Colonial Histories*, Chapter 13.

**** FILM in class: excerpts from 'FLAME' (1996) ****

Week 10: Women and Liberation Movements

T 3/17 Women in the Algerian Revolution

* Frantz Fanon, *A Dying Colonialism*, Chapter 1 'Algeria Unveiled,' pp. 35-68.

****FILM in class: excerpts from 'BATTLE FOR ALGIERS' ****

R 3/19 Women & Islamic Radicalism in Post-Colonial Algeria
(Reading TBA)

Week 11: Islamic Reform, Radicalism, & Democratization in West Africa

T 3/24 Islamic Revival & Shari'a in Niger & Nigeria

* Adeline Masquelier, excerpt from *Women and Islamic Revival in a West African Town*.

* Sanusi Lamido Sanusi, 'Amina Lawal: Sex, Pregnancy and Muslim Law,' letter published in the *Niger Delta Congress* 2002.

* Ayesha Imam, 'Islam and Women's Rights,' 2002 acceptance speech for Humphrey human rights award.

R 3/26 #BringBackOurGirls - Islamic Terrorism & the Abduction of the Chibok Schoolgirls in Nigeria

****SECOND RESPONSE PAPER DUE****

Week 12: Democracy, Women, and Development in Post-Colonial Africa

T 3/31 Reconstructing Post Civil War Liberia/ Wangarai Maathai & the Green Belt Movement in Kenya

* excerpts from Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, *This Child Will Be Great: Memoir of a Remarkable Life by Africa's First Woman President* (Harper, 2009).

* excerpts from Wangari Maathai, *Unbowed: A Memoir* (Anchor, 2007).

****FILM in class: 'IRON LADIES OF LIBERIA'
(Library West DVD 3641) ****

R 4/2 the Gendered Consequences of Illness in Africa: AIDs & Ebola

* Brizuela-Garcia & Getz, *African Histories: New Sources and New Techniques for Studying African Pasts*, chapter 12.

Week 13: Research

T 4/7 Student presentations

R 4/9 Student presentations

Week 14: Research Presentations

T 4/14 Student presentations

R 4/16 Student presentations

Week 15: Student Presentations

T 4/21 Student presentations

****FINAL PAPERS DUE BY NOON on FRIDAY, MAY 1st at the latest **
slip under my office door at 437 Grinter**