

**AFH 3200**  
**Africa since 1800**  
**Spring 2016**  
**111 Flint**  
**T/R 4/4-5**

Professor Luise White

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office hours: Tuesday 19 Keene-Flint 11:45am-12:45pm and Friday 488 Grinter 2-3pm or by appointment

**Objectives and Goals:** North Americans tend to know less about Africa than they do about any other continent, Africa is presented to us as a mess of jungles, warlords, and disease. The goal of this class is to help you understand the complexities of Africa and its rich, and richly diverse, history over the last 200 years. How do we understand the changes wrought by the history of enslavement, African state formation, Islamic reform movements, colonialism, nationalism and all the struggles that accompanied them? How do we understand these changes in a continent that is sometimes ravaged by disease and famine? There is a tendency to seek a single answer, to say that the slave trade, or colonialism, or radical nationalist movements have caused Africa's misery. In this course we will study Africa differently: we will not seek any single overarching cause of Africa's successes or failures. In fact, I will begin this course by asking you to unlearn much of what you think you know about Africa: we will start by talking about health and wealth on the continent in a time when poverty and disease are the exceptions, not the rule. In order to do this, and to have a concrete way to look at social change over the last 200 years, we will focus on slavery and its slow demise, the politics of colonialism and the politics of African nationalism in its many forms in the mid-twentieth century.

**Books:** The first reading – the essay by Wainaina – is required, as are the following books. They are available from various bookstores around campus and on line. All are in paperback. Buchi Emecheta, *The Slave Girl*; Jomo Kenyatta, *Facing Mount Kenya*; Chimamanda Adichie, *Half of a Yellow Sun* and Richard Reid, *A History of Modern Africa*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. If you're buying books on line please make sure you get the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of *A History of Modern Africa*; otherwise you won't have all the pages I assign.

**Announcements:** I use the class listserv a lot for announcements and assignments so please get into the habit of checking your ufl. account regularly.

**Assignments:** There will be two map quizzes for a total of 10% of your grade, a midterm (30%), a final (30%) and a short analytical paper (30%) of 3-5pp. The paper will be on an assigned topic which I will give you well in advance of when it's due.

**Attendance:** I will take attendance. I allow students to miss four classes without a medical or legal documentation: after that you are at risk to fail, as is consistent with university guidelines.

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

**Grades:** Consistent with UF policy you will be graded on your understanding of the materials presented in the readings and lectures and your ability to construct a clear and well-grounded argument:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

**Students with disabilities:** Students with disabilities requesting accommodation for exams should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor; she will sign this and you can return it to the Disability Resource Center; it will allow you to take exams there, with extra time. If you need this service, please make sure you get the procedure up and running early in the semester. The Disability Resource Center website is [www.dso.ufl.edu](http://www.dso.ufl.edu)

**Honor code:** UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” This website details which behaviors constitute violations of the honor code.

<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>

Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor.

**Counseling:** It is suggested that I give you the phone number and website for the Counseling and Wellness Center. The phone is 392-1575 and the website is

<http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx>

**Evaluations:** Students are requested to give feedback on a course and the quality of instruction therein during the last two or three weeks of the semester by completing on line evaluations. Students will be informed when this website is open to them: <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>.

Students can see the summary results of these assessments at: <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>

### **Class schedule:**

Week 1: January 5 and 7: how we think about Africa

For January 7 <http://granta.com/how-to-write-about-africa/>

Week 2: January 12 and 14: West Africa and East Africa after 1800

Reid, *Modern Africa*, 23-64

Week 3: January 19 and 21: warfare, jihad, and state-building in Africa after 1800  
Reid, *Modern Africa*, 65-111

Week 4: January 26 and 28: Europe encounters Africa after 1850  
Reid, *Modern Africa*, 113-180  
**1<sup>st</sup> map quiz at start of class on January 28**

Week 5: February 2 and 4: World War I and the consolidation of colonial rule  
Reid, *Modern Africa*, 183-217  
Start reading Emecheta, *The Slave Girl*

Week 6: February 9 and 11: Africans and the weakness of colonial rule  
Finish Emecheta, *The Slave Girl*  
**No class February 11**

Week 7: February 16 and 18: the Great Depression  
**Midterm Tuesday February 16**  
Reid, *Modern Africa*, 218-35

Week 8: February 23 and 25: Africans write back to colonialism  
Kenyatta, *Facing Mount Kenya*

Week 9: March 1 and 3  
**Spring break**

Week 10: March 8 and 10: World War II and the beginning of the end of empires  
Reid, *Modern Africa*, 236-75

Week 11: March 15 and 17: from colonial to post-colonial  
Reid, *Modern Africa*, 277-94

Week 12: March 22 and 24: nationalism and cultural nationalism  
Adichie, *Half of a Yellow Sun*

Week 13: March 29 and 31: nationalism and ethnic strife: Rwanda  
No required reading

Week 14: April 5 and 7: worse than before?  
Reid, *Modern Africa*, 298-352  
**Paper due Tuesday April 5**

Week 15: April 12 and 14: a future for Africa  
Reid, *Modern Africa*, 352-61  
**2<sup>nd</sup> map quiz at the start of class April 12**

Week 16: April 19: no class

**Final exam: 10am-12noon Friday April 29 in our class room**