

AFH 3200: AFRICA SINCE 1800

Spring 2021

Instructor:

Dr. Philip Janzen

Office Hours (online):

Wed 2:00-3:30 or by appt.

Email: pjanzen@ufl.edu

Course Schedule:

MWF period 5

0111 Keene-Flint Hall

(and online)

Course Overview

This course surveys the history of Africa since the early nineteenth-century. We will focus on political, social, economic, and cultural changes across three thematic units: Africa in the 19th century; Colonialism and Decolonization; and Postcolonial Africa. The course centers on Africa, but will also consider the wider impacts of colonialism and decolonization in Europe. Most weeks will incorporate a mix of large-scale narratives and the stories of individual lives and places. Because the continent contains a remarkable array of languages, societies, and peoples, we cannot hope for exhaustive coverage. Instead, we will consider a variety of case studies and will visit almost every major region at least once during the semester.

Learning Objectives

This course has two main objectives. The first is to provide you with an understanding of the complexities of historical and contemporary Africa. You may not remember every date or name that comes up, but it is more important is that you leave the course with a grounding in *how* to think about Africa as well as a better idea of *why* this is important. The second goal is to introduce you to the methodological challenges (and advantages!) of studying African history. You will have the opportunity to work with primary sources and will learn to assess and think critically about evidence. You will also learn how to construct your own arguments about the past.

Required Course Texts

All required texts are available through the UF bookstore or from another bookseller. I will post all other readings on Canvas.

Trevor Getz, *Abina and the Important Men: A Graphic History* (Oxford, 2012)

Binyavanga Wainaina, *One Day I Will Write About this Place* (Graywolf Press, 2011)

Evaluation

- Assignment #1: Prestholdt Article Précis (20%) 2/12
- Midterm Exam (take-home) (20%) 3/5
- Assignment #2: *Blame Me on History* (15%) 3/29
- Assignment #3: *One Day I Will Write...* (25%) 4/26
- Participation (20%)

I will provide more detailed guidelines for the assignments in the coming weeks.

Procedure

On Mondays and Wednesdays, I will present lectures in-class and simultaneously online via Zoom. On Fridays, we will meet to discuss the assigned weekly readings. These Friday discussions will be 100% online via Zoom. I expect you to attend the lectures, complete the readings, and participate actively in discussions. Your participation grade is based on quality contributions to class discussions.

Course Schedule

Week 1 Introduction to the Course

1/11-1/13 **Lectures:** Review Syllabus; Images of Africa

1/15 **Discussion Reading:** Binyavanga Wainaina, "How to Write About Africa"

UNIT I: AFRICA IN THE 19th CENTURY

Week 2 Islam and Trans-Saharan Trade

1/18 No class

1/20 **Lecture:** Trans-Saharan Trade and the spread of Islam in West Africa

1/22 **Discussion Reading:** Richard Reid, "Jihad: Revolutions in Western Africa," in *A History of Modern Africa*, 94-102.

Week 3 Slavery and "Legitimate" Trade

1/25-1/27 **Lectures:** Slavery in West Africa; Creeping Imperialism

1/29 **Discussion Reading:** Trevor Getz, *Abina and the Important Men: A Graphic History*.

Week 4 East Africa in the 19th Century

2/1-2/3 **Lectures:** Swahili Coast; Caravans and Communities

2/5 **Discussion Reading:** Jeremy Prestholdt, "On the Global Repercussions of East African Consumerism," *The American Historical Review* 109, no. 3 (2004): 755-781.

UNIT II: COLONIALISM AND DECOLONIZATION**Week 5 Colonial Occupations**

2/8-2/10 **Lectures:** Colonization; Central Africa

2/12 **Discussion Reading:** Kenda Mutongi, *Worries of the Heart: Widows, Family, and Community in Kenya*, 15-68.

ASSIGNMENT #1 DUE 2/12

Week 6 Impacts of Colonialism I

2/15-2/17 **Lectures:** Colonialism and the Family; Work and Gender

2/19 **Discussion Reading via Perusall:** Aimé Césaire, *Discourse on Colonialism*, 31-53.

Week 7 Impacts of Colonialism II

2/22-2/24 **Lectures:** Language, and Identity; Colonialism between Africa and Europe

2/26 **Discussion Reading via Perusall:** Aimé Césaire, *Discourse on Colonialism*, 54-78.

Week 8 Review and Midterm Exam

3/1-3/3 Review for Midterm Exam (online)

3/5 MIDTERM EXAM DUE ONLINE

Week 9 Decolonization in Africa and Europe

3/8-3/10 **Lectures:** Decolonization in Guinea and Angola; Decline of the French and British Empire-States

3/12 **Discussion Reading:** Frantz Fanon, "Colonial War and Mental Disorders," in *The Wretched of the Earth* (1961): 181-233.

UNIT IV: POSTCOLONIAL AFRICA

Week 10 Apartheid in South Africa

3/15-3/17 **Lectures:** Establishing and Ending Apartheid

3/19 **Museum Tour:** Tour Robben Island, where Nelson Mandela was a prisoner between 1964 and 1982 (via Google Arts & Culture link on Canvas).

Reading: Extracts from Bloke Modisane, *Blame Me On History* (1963): 92-101; 205-229; and 299-311).

Week 11 Development

3/22 **Lecture:** Debt, Aid, and NGOs; Global Health

3/24 No class – UF Recharge Day

3/26 **Discussion Reading:** Stephen Ellis, "Matters of State" in *Seasons of Rain: Africa in the World* (2011), 117-145; J. Ferguson, "Decomposing Modernity: History and Hierarchy after Development," in *Global Shadows: Africa in the Neoliberal World Order* (2007), 176-93.

Week 12 Postcolonial Violence

3/29-3/31 **Lectures:** Genocide in Rwanda

4/2 **Discussion Reading:** J.B. Kayigamba, "Without Justice, No Reconciliation: A Survivor's Experience of Genocide" (2009): 33-42; S. Warshauer et al, "Teaching History in Post-Genocide Rwanda," (2011): 297-315.

ASSIGNMENT #2 DUE 3/29

Week 13 Migration, Refugees, and Displacement

4/5-4/7 **Lectures:** Postcolonial Migration between Africa and Europe; Crossing the Mediterranean

4/9 **Discussion Reading:** Patrick Chamoiseau, *Migrant Brothers: A Poet's Declaration of Human Dignity*, xi-31.

Week 14 Popular Culture

4/12-4/14 **Lectures:** Music, Film, Visual art, Literature

4/16 **Readings:** Wainaina, *One Day I Will Write about this Place*, 1-127.

Week 15 Urban Africa

4/19-4/21 **Lectures:** African Cities; Course Wrap Up

Reading: Wainaina, *One Day I Will Write about this Place*, 128-253.

ASSIGNMENT #3 DUE 4/26

OTHER NOTES

Attendance

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at:

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

Office Hours

To schedule an appointment with me:

1. Click on "Calendar" in Canvas.
2. Click "Find Appointment" (on the right)
3. Select this course from the dropdown menu (AFH 3200).
5. Click on a date in the calendar in the top right.
6. Select and reserve one of the appointments for that date.

Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

Health and Wellness Resources

U Matter, We Care: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, 352-392-1575, or visit umatter.ufl.edu/ to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.

Counseling and Wellness Center: Visit counseling.ufl.edu/ or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.

Grading Scale

A	93-100	B-	80-82	D+	67-69
A-	90-92	C+	77-79	D	63-66
B+	87-89	C	73-76	D-	60-62
B	83-86	C-	70-72	E	Below 60

For information regarding current UF policies for assigning grade points, see:

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