

Syllabus

Africans in Europe

Graduate Seminar in History, European Studies & African Studies

Spring 2022

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Office hours: often available; Tuesdays, 3-4 (zoom), or Wednesdays 1.30-2.30 (in my Grinter 4th floor office), **yet both by appointment by 6pm the day before**, or an alternative time (email me with a suggestion). Please do not hesitate to get in touch.

This syllabus will be revised as the availability of texts and the learning goals of its student participants become clear. Within one month of beginning to work together, a final version will be issued.

This seminar will focus on African experiences in living, arriving, and attempting to arrive in Europe over a long historical duration, touching down on early modern times, the two world wars, and especially since 1989. We will take a deep look at the last decade of Europe's extraordinary African refugee crisis, and it will do so within longer histories of African migrations and diasporas into Europe.

Since 2010, there has been an explosion of new documentary and analytic materials, much of it very creative and innovative regarding the ways Africans are arriving into Europe, licitly and illicitly. What is striking is how interdisciplinary these materials are, with much hard data -- quantitative, legal, epidemiological, and social scientific -- created in and near European Union knowledge centers and data banks. Some of you may want to look at tensions within and methods of the European Union. Scholars and artists from the softer social sciences and the humanities have also been producing and documenting the experiences of African migrants entering Europe, from those with ghastly arrival stories to those who are artists, musician, academics, and novelists producing narratives (and songs and films) of diverse kinds.

Out central theme is: Africans in Europe. It involves diverse pasts and presents focusing on diverse moments and historiographies, from early modern times (with a focus on the evidence of paintings); African soldiers' fraught experiences fighting in Europe during the two world wars; and the presence of Africans in a range of western and eastern European cities from the 1920s through the 2010s. How did they get there? What have they been doing? How should we begin to understand diverse pasts in Europe and Africa? Some may want to investigate how to research and learn from the wide array of forms of knowledge -- hard and soft, quantitative and qualitative, policy-driven and aesthetically inspired. A fundamental question will return: when and how is history and historical consciousness useful? And, to accomplish what? Is there evidence of Africans living in Europe with a consciousness of history and pasts?

WHO??

The class is designed for students in History, Anthropology, European Studies, African Studies, Sociology, Geography, English, French, and other disciplines in the social sciences and the humanities. Talented undergraduates are welcome to contact the instructor for permission to join this seminar. This course received a Course Development Grant from the Center for European Studies College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

ASSESSMENT

We will meet weekly for a three-hour session, where we will discuss the week's readings, listen to each other's presentations, and plan and report on class projects.

The most important contribution you will make to this seminar is to prepare by reading and short research assignments, engaging the materials, and sharing your insights. We will begin with small 500-word critical reviews of the assigned materials per week, shared among us, with 1-2 discussant presentations per session. Over the course of the seminar, each student will prepare and make 3 presentations, usually quite brief.

Most students will undertake a final project which may draw upon or problematize the wide *epistemic spectrum* available on this subject. For most of you knowledge may be primarily anthropological or historical, though for others other disciplines or questions may be important.

Once students have presented their goals and aspirations, and initial ideas for a final project, the instructor will refine different modalities of writing for the course.

1. Ten 500-word critical reviews
AND
2. 3 short papers (10 pp), each critically reviewing 3 of our assigned books.
OR
3. 1-2 short papers and a final project, paper, or dissertation chapter

Each student will refine their course goals and responsibilities with a written contract by the fifth week of class, and attend office hours in relation to the same. A second required office hour session will come into play by week 10 of the course.

Course projects will be presented during the last 1-2 weeks of the class.

OUR KEY LIBRARY (BOOKS)

As the Library purchases digital versions of the following key books, our schedule will be decided.

- Pitts, Johnny. *Afropean: Notes from Black Europe* ISBN: 9780141987286
Betts, Paul. *Ruin and Renewal: Civilizing Europe after World War II* ISBN: 9781541672468
Otele, Olivette. *African Europeans: An Untold History* ISBN 9781541619678
Smith, Stephen. *The Scramble for Europe: Young Africa on its way to the Old Continent* ISBN: 9781509544579
Loftsdottir, Kristin. *We are All Africans Here: Race, Mobilities, and West Africans in Europe* ISBN 9781509534579
Campt, Tina. *Image Matters: Archive, Photography, and the African Diaspora in Europe* ISBN 978082235
Merrill, Heather *The Black Spaces: African Diaspora in Italy* ISBN 9781138549371
Lucht, Hans *Darkness before Daybreak: African Migrants Living on the Margins in Southern Italy Today* ISBN 9780520270718
Perlino, Elena *The Pipeline: Trafficking in Italy*. ISBN 978053308240
Mazzara, Federica. *Reframing Migration: Lampedusa, Border Spectacle, and the Aesthetics of Subversion*. ISBN 9783034318846
Proglio, and Odasso *Border Lampedusa: Subjectivity, Visibility, and Memory in Stories of Sea and Land* ISBN 9783319593296
MacGaffey and Bazenguissa-Ganga, *Congo-Paris: Transnational Traders on the Margins of the Law* ISBN-13 : 978-0253214027
Erpenbeck, Jenny *Go, Went, Gone* ISBN-13: 978-1846276224
Giordano, Christiana. *Migrants in Translation: Caring and the Logics of Difference in Contemporary Italy* ISBN-13: 978-0520276659

Miriam Ticktin *Casualties of Care: Immigration and the Politics of Humanitarianism in France*.
ISBN-13: 9780520269057

Alexander-Nathani, Isabella. *Burning at Europe's Borders: An Ethnography on the African Migrant Experience in Morocco* ISBN-13 : 978-0190074647

Navigating Socialist Encounters: Moorings and (Dis)Entanglements between Africa and East Germany during the Cold War
(Africa in Global History)

Additions

Earle and Lowe. *Black Africans in Renaissance Europe* ISBN 9780521176606

Kpomassie, Tete-Michel. *An African in Greenland* ISBN 9780940322882

French, Howard, *Born in Blackness: Africa, Africans, and the Making of the Modern World, 1471 to the Second World War*

Invisibility in African Displacements: From Structural Marginalization to Strategies of Avoidance (Africa Now)

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

5 January

Introduction and Self-Introductions

12 January

Pitts, Johny. *Afropean: Notes from Black Europe* ISBN: 9780141987286

19 January

TBA

26 January

TBA

Etec.

Other texts from our Key Library, with some additions in the way of articles.

Further Course Bibliography (many course texts to be chosen from this list).

THE SOCIAL SCIENCES

Geography, Economics, Security, and International Studies

Lorenzo Rinelli, *African Migrants and Europe: Managing the ultimate frontier* (Routledge Studies in African Politics and International Relations)

Asfa-Wossen Asserate, *African Exodus: Migration and the Future of Europe*

Peter Gatrell, *The Unsettling of Europe: How Migration Reshaped a Continent*

Paolo Gaibazzi, Stephan Dünwald, and Alice Bellagamba, eds. *EurAfrican Borders and Migration Management: Political Cultures, Contested Spaces, and Ordinary Lives*

Elisabeth Wacker, Ulrich Becker, et al. *Refugees and Forced Migrants in Africa and the EU: Comparative and Multidisciplinary Perspectives on Challenges and Solutions*

**Paul Nugent, ed. *Respacing Africa* (African-Europe Group for Interdisciplinary Studies)

Ali Bilgic, *Rethinking Security in the Age of Migration* (Routledge Research on the Global Politics of Migration)

THE HUMANITIES: History & Anthropology, Narratives and Visualities

Visuality Studies

Aine O’Healy, *Migrant Anxieties: Italian Cinema in a Transnational Frame*

Susan Libby and Adirenne Childs, eds. *The Black Figure in the European Imaginary*

Figurations, the Ethnographic, the Literary, and Personal Narratives

A. N. Okonoboh, *Fellow Nigerian's Blood: An African Migrants Thriller Novel* (Africa's Trek to Europe), 2019.

Alessandr Triulzi and Robert McKenzie, *Long Journeys: African Migrants on the Road* (Africa-Europe Group for Interdisciplinary Studies), strong collection of personal narratives

Ulrike Kubler, *The Route to Europe-African Migrant Experience in the Maltese Context: An Ethnographic Study on Departure, Way and Reception of Irregular Migrants from Sub-Saharan Africa on the Maltese*, 2010.

Daive Enia and Antony Shugaar, *Notes on a Shipwreck: A Story of Refugees, Borders, and Hope*, 2019, urgent memoir

Nathan Mogos, *Mottak, An African Tale of Immigration and Asylum*.

HISTORIES: DIVERSE PASTS and APPROACHES

Early Modern Studies

David Northrup, *Africa's Discovery of Europe, 1450-1850*

T. F. Earle, *Black Africans in Renaissance Europe*, 2010

Ben Vinson III, Joaneath Spicer, Natalie Zemon Davis, *Revealing the African Presence in Renaissance Europe*, 2012

Colonial and Decolonizing Times

N. MacMaster, *Colonial Migrants and Racism: Algerians in France, 1900-62*, 1997

Félix F. Germain, *Decolonizing the Republic: African and Caribbean Migrants in Postwar Paris, 1946–1974*

There is much to add here.

Diaspora Studies

Darlene Clark Hine, Trica Danielle Keaton, et al., *Black Europe and the African Diaspora* (New Black Studies Series), 2009.

Sabrina Marchetti, *Black Girls: Migrant Domestic Workers and Colonial Legacies* (Studies in Global Social History / Studies in Global Migration).

Annalisa Butticci, *African Pentecostals in Catholic Europe*

Caroline Bressey and Hakim Adi, *Belonging in Europe - The African Diaspora and Work*

Gurminder K. Bhambra and John Narayan, *European Cosmopolitanism: Colonial Histories and Postcolonial Societies* (International Library of Sociology)