

Fall 2016 HIST 262 (001)

A History of Modern Africa

Legacies of Colonialism and Liberation in Global Perspective

Dr. Benedict Carton, Robert T. Hawkes Professor of History, Mon-Wed 12:00-1:15 PM, Krug Hall 242

Office Hours: Rob B355B, Wed. 2:15-3:30 and 4:30-5:30 PM. Or by appointment: bcarton1@gmu.edu

From the 1800s to mid-1900s, European colonialism profoundly affected the continent of Africa and other world regions with links to Africa. Lectures and discussions will explore how this period of history shaped the Sub-Saharan region and global politics. Our course covers the following major themes: 1) anti-slavery crusades and “legitimate commerce”; 2) European imperialism, the Scramble for Africa, and different colonial rulers; 3) African “resistance” and “accommodation”; 4) worldwide evangelicalism, missionary influences, and independent African churches; 5) Congo human rights scandals and international anti-colonial campaigns; and 7) African liberation movements and decolonization.

A principal objective of this class is for you to engage in scholarly debates using primary materials, scholarly articles, and books to construct your own arguments. Throughout the semester, you will be encouraged to consider how the issues we study influenced the modern global system.

CLASSROOM CONDUCT

- 1. Please do NOT arrive late to class.**
- 2. Please turn OFF cell phones and all hand-held communication devices in class.**
- 3. You are not allowed to surf the web and write emails during class.**
- 4. Please do NOT eat or drink in class.**
- 5. When emailing your Professor, include the subject heading, “HIST 262”**
- 6. You are required to honor George Mason University’s academic policies and codes.**

READINGS

The following **required texts** can be purchased from the GMU Fairfax campus bookstore: 1) A. Adu Boahen, *African Perspectives on Colonialism*; 2) Dennis Laumann, *Colonial Africa, 1884-1994*; and 3) Adam Hochschild, *King Leopold’s Ghost*. **Other required and optional readings** (i.e., primary sources and journal articles) will be **posted on Blackboard**. Some sources will need to be downloaded from the Web, as well; please check your syllabus. **You are required to complete assigned readings before lecture and discussion.**

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

The requirements for the course include an in-class short-answer exam (15%); midterm exam (20%); second short-answer exam, with essay component (20%); final in-class exam with short-answer section and long essay (30%); and class participation (15%). **Please note that if you are absent for more than four classes during the entire semester, your overall course grade will likely drop. If you stop attending class near the mid-semester mark, you will fail the course. Passing HIST 262 requires consistent attendance, solid effort, and the prioritization of your educational goals.**

*****THE DATE OF YOUR FINAL EXAM is December 19, 10:30AM - 1:15 PM. You have 2 hours and 45 minutes to write this exam in our classroom, Krug Hall 242*****

GLOBAL UNDERSTANDING AND HIST 262

This course develops an understanding of global processes and their impact on societies in Africa and other continents, demonstrating the interconnectedness and diversity of an increasingly global world. During our class discussions, you will be encouraged to identify, evaluate and cite scholarship that enhances your awareness of global issues and individual responsibilities within global societies. For further information on how “global understanding” fits within the “triple pillars” of University General Education (Foundation, Core, and Synthesis Requirements), please see <http://provost.gmu.edu/gened/>

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

GMU is an Honor Code university. Please see the University Catalog for a full description of the code and the honor committee process. The principle of academic integrity is taken seriously and violations are treated gravely. What does academic integrity mean in this course? When you are responsible for a task, you will perform that task. When you rely on any aspect of someone else’s work, you will give full credit in the proper (academically accepted) form. Another aspect of academic integrity is the free play of ideas. Vigorous discussion and open debate are encouraged in this course, with the firm expectation that all aspects of our class will be conducted with civility for different ideas, perspectives, and traditions. When in doubt, please ask for guidance and clarification.

GMU EMAIL ACCOUNTS

Crucial messages about the requirements of HIST 300 will be sent to your university email. Thus, students must use their gmU.edu account to receive this important information.

DISABILITIES, ACADEMIC ACOMMODATIONS & RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCES

If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS) at 703-993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office. If you miss class for religious observances, please notify the professor.

IMPORTANT CAMPUS RESOURCES

WRITING CENTER: Rob A114; (703) 993-1200; <http://writingcenter.gmu.edu/>

UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES: <http://library.gmu.edu/>

COUNSELING AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES: (703) 993-2380.

METHODS OF EVALUATION

Attendance and Participation: Students are fully expected to attend all meetings of this Mon/Wed 12 Noon -1:15 PM course, i.e., lectures, discussions, exam reviews, and exams. Please be prepared to ask questions, think critically, and present your opinions, which should be informed by evidence, readings, lectures, and, above all, accurate historical contexts. **I strongly advise that you take notes in class.** To be considered for a good grade, you must finish assignments in a timely fashion and participate to the best of your ability in discussions. **If you have poor class participation**—due largely to absences, i.e., non-presence in discussions—your final grade will fall dramatically. In other words, if you average a B+ on assignments and have poor class participation, your final course mark could be C+ or lower. **I will not re-teach a missed class via email or in an office conference. Nor will I customize this course to fit a student’s work or personal schedule.** The statements above reflect the pedagogical regulations at GMU and your professor’s social contract with his students.

Writing Standards: A good essay must answer the question posed, present a clear argument, and critically evaluate a range of sources. Muddled prose, poor grammar, and superficial documentation will reduce your grade.

Exams and Deadlines: In accordance with university regulations, professors in the Department of History and Art History re-schedule exams after receiving written documentation of a medical or family emergency; **this documentation must be verified by the Dean of Student Life.** Work-related and personal/family obligations (business trips, personal holidays, graduation ceremonies, etc.) are not adequate excuses for re-scheduling an exam or obtaining an extension.

EXAM and EXAM-ESSAY DATES

First In-class Exam	15%	Sept. 19, 2016
Midterm Exam	20%	Oct. 5, 2016
Second In-class Exam, with Essay Component	20%	Nov. 2, 2016
Final Exam, with Major Essay	30%	Dec. 19, 2016, 10:30 AM–1:15 PM, Krug 242
Class participation	15%	Full semester

2016 FALL SEMESTER SCHEDULE

Week 1: Aug. 29/Aug. 31 – Course Introduction Mon. Aug. 29th. ***Mandatory Class***.

- **Read for Wed. Aug. 31st** C. Lowe, T. Brimah. P. Marsh, W. Minter, and M. Muyangwa, “Talking About Tribe” (a pdf of this article will be posted on Blackboard).

Discussion Wed. Aug. 31st: Assessing Africa and Troubling Tribe.

- **Read for Wed. Sept. 7th** Dennis Laumann, *Colonial Africa*, xi-xx.

Week 2: Sept. 5/Sept. 7 – **MON. SEPT 5th LABOR DAY HOLIDAY. UNIVERSITY CLOSED.**

- **Read for Wed. Sept. 7th** Dennis Laumann, *Colonial Africa*, xi-xx.

Lecture Wed. Sept. 7th: A Global Continent: African Histories, Cultures, & Politics.

- **Read for Mon. Sept. 12th** A. Adu Boahen, *African Perspectives*, 1-26.

Week 3: Sept. 12/Sept. 14 – Lecture and Discussion Mon. Sept. 12th: The African Renaissance in a 19th-century Global Age.

****Wed. Sept. 14th First In-class Exam Review****

Week 4: Sept. 19/Sept. 21 – *****MON. Sept. 19th FIRST IN-CLASS EXAM*****

- **Read for Wed. Sept. 21st** Laumann, *Colonial Africa*, 1-10; Edward Blyden, “The African problem, and the method of its solution. The annual discourse delivered at the seventy-third anniversary of the American colonization society, Church of the Covenant, Washington, D.C., 1890,” primary document (a word file of this source will be posted on Blackboard); Mary Kingsley, “The New Africa,” primary document (the web link displays 3 pages of this 4-page document):

<https://books.google.com/books?id=NIIjPqDBomQC&pg=PR10&lpg=PR10&dq=mary+kingsley+a+letter+to+the+editor+of+the+new+afrika&source=bl&ots=Moxxr1YNwm&sig=JpEApw5SxO9r4mB8s-9ER10jba0&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwjP5Y6WmtjOAhVMGsAKHZyhDIIQ6AEIITAB#v=onepage&q=mary%20kingsley%20a%20letter%20to%20the%20editor%20of%20the%20new%20afrika&f=false>

Lecture Wed. Sept. 21st: Prelude to Partition: African Ideas of Sovereignty and Destiny/ European Ideas of Exploration, Race, and “Civilizing Missions.”

- **Read for Mon. Sept. 26th** Boahen, *African Perspectives*, 27-57; Laumann, *Colonial Africa*, 10-14.

Week 5: Sept. 26/Sept. 28 – Lecture Mon. Sept. 26th: The Scramble for Africa: Resistance, Negotiation, and Conquest (1880s-1890s).

- **Read for Wed. Sept. 28th** Boahen, *African Perspectives*, 58-67; Laumann, *Colonial Africa*, 14-41.

Lecture Wed. Sept. 28th: Colonialism in Africa: Models of Rule, Modes of Accommodation (1890-1910). **We begin our midterm exam review.**

Week 6: Oct. 3/Oct. 5 – MON. Oct 3rd ** Midterm Exam Review.**

*****WED. Oct. 5TH MIDTERM EXAM*****

- **Read for Tues. Oct 11th and Wed. Oct. 12th** Laumann, *Colonial Africa*, 43-51; Adam Hochschild, *King Leopold's Ghost*, 1-5, 33-100.

Week 7: Oct. 10/Oct. 12 – MON. Oct 10th HOLIDAY. UNIVERSITY CLOSED. We meet Oct 11th.

Lecture and Discussion Tues. Oct 11th: Colonialism and Colonial Violence in Africa: Models Rule, Modes of Accommodation, Modes of Intimidation (1890-1910).

Lecture and Discussion Wed. Oct. 12th: How the Belgian King Got his Own Private Congo.

- **Read for Mon. Oct. 17th** Hochschild, *King Leopold*, 101-149; “Decree of Leopold II, King of Belgians, Sovereign of the Congo Independent State ‘Regarding Settlements for African Children, 21 July 1890’” (a word file of this primary source will be posted to Blackboard).

Week 8: Oct. 17/Oct. 19 – Lecture and Discussion Mon. Oct 17th: In the Heart of Darkness: Leopold’s Propaganda and Congo Ivory/Rubber Horrors.

- **Read for Wed. Oct. 19th** Hochschild, *King Leopold*, 150-166; B. Carton, “From Hampton [i]nto the Heart of Africa: How Faith in God and Folklore turned Congo Missionary William Sheppard into a Pioneering Ethnologist,” *History in Africa*, 36 (2009) (a pdf of this article will be posted on Blackboard).

Lecture and Discussion Wed. Oct. 19th: Crusading for International Human Rights: The Pioneering Activism of African-American Missionary William Sheppard in the Kuba Kingdom and Colonial Congo (1900-1910).

- **Read for Mon. Oct. 24th** Hochschild, *King Leopold*, 167-306.

Week 9: Oct. 24/Oct. 26 – Lecture and Discussion Mon. Oct. 24th: Colonialism on Trial: The Congo Reform Association (1910-1918) and End of Private Rule in Africa (?).

- **Read for Wed. Oct. 26th** Boahen, *African Perspectives*, 70-93; Laumann, *Colonial Africa*, 51-54, 62-68; “Marcus Garvey in Africa,” excerpts from the *Negro World* and *Cape Argus* newspapers; “Pan-Africanists: W.E.B. Du Bois and Blaise Diagne”; (pdfs of these primary sources will be posted on Blackboard).

Lecture Wed. Oct. 26th: Consolidated Colonialism, Pan-Africanism, and Global Freedom Movements (1918-1940s). **We review for the second in-class exam with essay component.**

Week 10: Oct. 31/Nov. 2 – MON. Oct 31st **Second In-class Exam Review.**

*****WED. Nov. 2nd SECOND IN-CLASS EXAM, with ESSAY COMPONENT****

- **Read for Mon. Nov. 7th** Tabitha Kanogo, Chapter 7, “Kikuyu Women and the Politics of Protest: Mau Mau,” in Terisa E. Turner, Teena J. Neal and Leigh S. Brownhill, eds. *Mau Mau Women* (<http://www.uoguelph.ca/~terisatu/MauMau/index.htm>); BBC Report, “Mau Mau Uprising: Bloody History of Kenya Conflict” (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-12997138>).

Week 11: Nov. 7/Nov. 9 – Lectures and Discussions Mon. Nov. 7/Wed. Nov. 9: An African Uprising in the Wake of World War/“Mau Mau” in Colonial Kenya (1950s).

This week we view and discuss a period documentary film on the “Mau Mau” Uprising (so-called “Mau Mau,” as you will see).

- **Read for Mon. Nov. 14th and Wed. Nov. 16th** Boahen, *African Perspectives*, 94-112; Laumann, *Colonial Africa*, 68-83.

Week 12: Nov. 14/Nov. 16 – Lectures and Discussions Mon. Nov. 14th/Wed. Nov. 16th: The Roots of Decolonization: Post-WW II Politics and African Nationalisms (1950-1960).

Week 13: Nov. 21/Nov. 23 – Lectures and Discussions Nov.21st: African Nations in the Age of Superpowers (1950-1960).

*****WED. Nov. 23rd NO CLASS. START OF THANKSGIVING BREAK ****

- **Read for Mon. Nov. 28th and Wed. Nov. 30th** Elizabeth Schmidt, “Introduction,” *Foreign Intervention in Africa: From the Cold War to the War on Terror* (Cambridge, 2013); this Web link contains most of the pages in Schmidt’s “Introduction”:
https://books.google.com/books?id=k2-2w-IVZUYC&pg=PA1&lpg=PA1&dq=elizabeth+schmidt+introduction+foreign+intervention+in+africa&source=bl&ots=IHLRNsS8Hz&sig=IG5-tDSE5D9VS2ezuI QEp_6Q_8&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwi57MqoxNrOAhXmDsAKHSybC6g4ChDoAQgaMAA#v=onepage&q=elizabeth%20schmidt%20introduction%20foreign%20intervention%20in%20africa&f=false

Week 14: Nov 28/Nov. 30 – Lectures and Discussions Mon. Nov. 28th/Wed. Nov. 30th: Independent Africa’s Inheritance: The Colonial Jigsaw Puzzle in the Cold War (1960-1970)/ New Africa, Neocolonial Africa, Foreign Interventions: Policy Challenges and Global Constraints (1970s-1980s).

Week 15: Dec. 5/Dec. 7 – Course Summary and FINAL EXAM REVIEW, particularly focusing on your major (exam) essay question.

****YOU TAKE THE FINAL EXAM on Dec. 19, 2016 (10:30AM-1:15 PM), Krug Hall 242****