

Spring 2012 HIST 262 (001)

A History of Modern Africa in the World: Legacies of Colonialism and Liberation

Dr. Benedict Carton, Associate Professor, Tue-Thur 12:00-1:15 PM, Enterprise, 174
Office Hours: Rob B355B, Tue/Thur 10:30-11:30 AM. Or by appointment: bcarton1@gmu.edu

From the 1800s to mid-1900s, European colonialism profoundly affected the continent of Africa and other societies 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 African churches; 5) Congo scandals inspiring international human rights campaigns; and 7) liberation movements, decolonization and independence.

A principal objective of this class is for you to engage in scholarly debates using primary materials, 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, write emails, and/or TEXT during class****
4. Please do not eat or drink in class.
5. When emailing your Professor, include the subject heading, “Africa History 262.”

READINGS

The following **required texts** can be purchased from the GMU bookstore: 1) A. Adu Boahen, *African Perspectives on Colonialism*; 2) Vincent Khapoya, *The African Experience*; and 3) Adam Hochschild, *King Leopold’s Ghost*. Some readings will be sent to you by GMU email in pdf files (i.e., primary sources and journal articles). Other sources will need to be downloaded from a website. **You are required to complete the assigned readings before lecture and discussion.**

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

The requirements for the course include an in-class short-answer exam, with essay (15%); mid-term exam (20%); a short-answer exam (20%); final in-class essay exam (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 May 15th. You have 2 hours and 45 minutes (between *10:30AM-1:15 PM*) to write this exam in our classroom, Enterprise 174*****

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 and respect for different ideas, perspectives, and traditions. When in doubt (of any kind) please ask for guidance and clarification.

GMU EMAIL ACCOUNTS

Crucial resources for HIST 262 will be sent through the university server to your GMU email accounts. Thus, students must use their Mason accounts—either the existing “MEMO” system or the new “MASONLIVE”—to receive important information, including key messages and required resources related to this class. Please see <http://masonlive.gmu.edu> for more information.

OFFICE OF DISABILITY SERVICES

If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS) at 993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through the ODS. <http://ods.gmu.edu>

OTHER IMPORTANT CAMPUS RESOURCES

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

UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES: <http://library.gmu.edu/mudge/IM/IMRef.html>

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

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

The University Catalog, <http://catalog.gmu.edu>, is the central resource for GMU policies affecting student, faculty, and staff conduct in academic affairs. Other policies are available at <http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/>. All members of the university community are responsible for knowing and following established policies.

METHODS OF EVALUATION

Writing Standards: A good essay is concise, clear, and documented; it must answer the question posed, present an argument, and integrate relevant details from assigned readings. Muddled prose and poor grammar will reduce your grade.

Exam Rules and Deadlines: In accordance with university regulations, professors in the Department of History and Art History re-schedule exams after receiving documentation of a medical emergency or family emergency; **often 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, obtaining any kind of extension or missing multiple classes.**

TEACHING AND LEARNING

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. These two statements are in accordance with pedagogical goals of George Mason University and your professor’s social contract with his students.

To be considered for a good grade, you **must** receive solid grades and participate to the best of your ability in class discussions. **The due dates for the short-answer and essay exams appear below in the “2012 Spring Semester Schedule.”**

Please note that CLASS PARTICIPATION (15% of your overall mark) is a crucial component of this course. If you have poor class participation—due largely to absences, i.e., non-presence during discussions—your final grade will fall dramatically. In other words, if you average a B+ on assignments and have poor class participation, your final mark will be C+ or lower. If you are absent for more than four classes (and you do not provide an adequate excuse, i.e., you do not notify me after your second missed class), you will lose considerable points from your class participation mark.

DROP/ADD

First day of classes; last day to submit Domicile Reclassification Application Payment due date; full semester waitlists removed	January 23
Last day to add classes— all individualized section forms due Last day to drop with no tuition penalty	January 31
Last day to drop with a 33% tuition penalty	February 14
Final Drop Deadline (67% tuition penalty)	February 24

2012 SPRING SEMESTER SCHEDULE

Week 1: Jan. 24/26 – Course Introduction Jan. 24th /Lecture Jan. 26th: Africa: Tribal Fictions and Troubling Facts.

Read for Thurs. Jan. 26th C. Lowe, T. Brimah. P. Marsh, W. Minter, M. Muyangwa, “Talking About Tribe” (a pdf will be emailed to the class). **Read for Tues. Jan. 31st** Vincent Khapoya, *African Experience*, 1-29, 39-56.

Week 2: Jan. 31/Feb. 2 – Lecture Jan. 31st: A Vast Continent in the World: African Peoples, Cultures, and Politics / Lecture Feb. 2nd: Africa on the Eve of Colonial Encounters.

Read for Thurs. Feb. 2nd A. Adu Boahen, *African Perspectives*, 1-11; Khapoya, *African Experience*, 87-90. **Read for Tues. Feb. 7th** Boahen, *African Perspectives*, 11-16.

Week 3: Feb. 7/9 – Lecture and Discussion Feb. 7th: The African Renaissance in a 19th-century Global Age.

****Thurs Feb. 9th Exam Review****

Week 4: Feb. 14/16 – *****TUESDAY Feb. 14th IN-CLASS EXAM***** Lecture Feb. 16th: Prelude to Partition: European Ideas of Exploration, Race, and “Civilizing Missions.”

Read for Thurs Feb 16th Boahen, *African Perspectives*, 16-26; Letter from Missionary in the Field, Rev. John Philip, South Africa, 1833” (a pdf of this primary source will be emailed to the class); Khapoya, *African Experience*, 115-116. **Read for Tues. Feb 21st** Boahen, *African Perspectives*, 27-57; Khapoya, *African Experience*, 126-135.

Week 5: Feb. 21/23 – Lecture Feb 21st: The European Scramble for Africa: Conquest and Resistance in Stages (1880s)/Lecture and Discussion Feb. 23rd: Colonialism in Africa: Models of European Rule, Modes of Local Accommodation (1880-1910).

Read for Thurs Feb 16th Boahen, *African Perspectives*, 58-70. **Read for Tues. Feb. 27th** Adam Hochschild, *King Leopold’s Ghost*, 1-5, 33-100.

Week 6: Feb. 28/Mar. 1 – Lecture Feb. 27th: How the Belgian King Got his Own Private Congo/Lecture and Discussion Feb. 29th: In the Heart of Darkness: Congo Ivory and Rubber Horrors.

Read for Thurs. Feb. 29th Adam Hochschild, *King Leopold’s Ghost*, 101-149.

Week 7: Mar. 6/8 – ****MID-TERM EXAM WEEK****

****Tues. Mar 6th Mid-term Exam Review****

****Thurs. Mar 8th MID-TERM EXAM****

Week 8: Mar. 13/15 – NO CLASS. SPRING BREAK. **Read for Tues. Mar. 20th** Hochschild, *King Leopold*, 150-275.

Week 9: Mar. 20/22 – Lectures and Discussions Mar. 20th/22nd: The Birth of an International Human Rights Campaign and Colonial “Reforms” (1900-1910).

Read for Thurs. Mar. 22nd Hochschild, *King Leopold*, 276-306. Read for Tues. Mar. 27th Boahen, *African Perspectives*, 71-93.

Week 10: Mar. 27/29 – Lectures and Discussions Mar 27th Mar. 29th: Consolidating Colonialism and Rising Resistance: Africa in the Twentieth Century/ Early Nationalist Movements, Freedom Struggles, and Pan-African movements (1910-1940).

Read for Thurs. Mar. 29th Khapoya, *African Experience*, 150-179; “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 emailed to students).

Week 11: April 3/5 – ****EXAM WEEK****

****Tues. April 3rd In-class Exam Review****

****Thurs. April 5th IN-CLASS EXAM**** Read for Tues. April 10th Tabitha Kanogo, “Kikuyu Women and the Politics of Protest: Mau Mau,” in *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 12: April 10/12 – Lectures and Discussions April 10th/April 12th: An African Uprising in the Wake of World War/ British Fear and “Mau Mau” in Colonial Kenya (1950s).

This week we view and discuss a documentary film on the “Mau Mau” Uprising (so-called “Mau Mau,” as you will see). Read for Tues. April 17th Khapoya, *African Experience*, 182-196.

Week 13: April 17/19 – Lectures and Discussions April 17th/April 19th: The Roots of Decolonization: African Nationalisms in an Age of Superpowers (1950-1960).

Read for Tues. April 24th Boahen, *African Perspectives*, 94-112; Khapoya, *African Experience*, 196-214; optional pages: 215-223.

Week 14: April 24/26 – Lectures and Discussions April 24th /April 26th: Independent Africa’s Inheritance: The Colonial Jigsaw Puzzle in the Cold War (1960-1970)/ New Africa or Neocolonial Africa? Policy Challenges and Global Constraints (1970s).

Week 15: May 1/3 – **COURSE SUMMARY AND FINAL EXAM REVIEW.**

*****YOU TAKE THE FINAL EXAM on May 15, 2012 (between 10:30AM-1:15 PM)*****