

HIS 110: THE MAKING OF MODERN AFRICA

Fall 2020

Elias Mandala

Office Location: Rush Rhees Library 439

Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday: 1530-1630

Phone Number: 585.275.2058

Email: elias.mandala@rochester.edu

The Class Meets 1400-1545, Monday, Wednesday Online

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course uses film, novel, and historical studies to examine the following themes in the making of modern Africa: the forging of new national identities, creation of wage laborers, and the restructuring of agricultural work, gender, and social age. Students will also explore how African women and men, from their homes and workplaces, and as part of nationalist or national liberation movements during and after the Cold War, have sought to redefine their place in the global economy against the backdrop of new opportunities and challenges presented by the HIV/AIDS pandemic, hunger, international debt, and engagement with China.

REQUIRED TEXTS

C. Achebe, *Things Fall Apart*

B. Emecheta, *The Joys of Motherhood*

P. Nugent, *Africa Since Independence: A Comparative History* (Pgrave Macmillan, 2004)

S. Ousmane, *God's Bits of Wood*

Ngugi wa Thiong'o, *Devil on the Cross*

REQUIREMENTS

(1) a Map Quiz, **September 14**; (2) a three- to-five-page appreciation of *Things Fall Apart*, due **September 28**, and *Devil on the Cross*, due **November 9**; (3) an essay of between 10 and 12 double-spaced pages (including foot- or endnotes) on a topic of one's own choice, due **December 2**; and (4) regular attendance and active participation in class discussions.

Research Paper should be based on books, articles, and other sources *beyond* the required readings. It should demonstrate you have consulted at least ten (10) scholarly (peer-reviewed) texts. Articles downloaded from online journals and electronic books are treated as "scholarly," but those from the Worldwide Web are not, and are not therefore permitted to form part of your bibliography.

Review: In a review of a book, article, film, or any other text, you are expected to (1) summarize the main ideas and arguments; (2) and state the relevance of the work to the debate being discussed at that point in the course.

GRADING

(1)Map Quiz, **5%**; (2) attendance and participation in class discussions, **25%**; (3) two book reviews, **25%** (4) essay: **45%**, of the final grade.

Please take note: (1) To give every student equal opportunity, I do NOT change a student's grade after its submission to the registrar's office. To uphold this principle means that I cannot possibly give additional work or re-grade a student's work after the grades of the class have been posted. If you want a "good" grade, work to earn it BEFORE the end of the semester (but not after). (2) Class attendance is mandatory. (3) Finally, students are expected to uphold the College's Academic Honesty guidelines, which can be found at www.rochester.edu/college/honesty.

Please, limit email correspondence to personal issues, emergencies, and other matters that cannot be publicly discussed in class. The instructor will not respond to other emails.

SCHEDULE

Aug 26 Introduction: Scope and Objectives of the Course

PART I: ORIGINS OF AFRICA'S UNDERDEVELOPMENT

Aug 31 Geography and History

Sept 2 Africa and the West, 1448-Present: An overview

Sept 7 Labor Day

Sept 9 Africa and the West: King Leopold's Ghost

Sept 14 The Transatlantic Slave Trade: Overview.

□ E. Mandala, "The Atlantic Slave Trade." (notes).

Sept 16 The Transatlantic Slave Trade: Key Debates

□ J. Inikori, “Africa and the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade,” in Toyin Falola, ed., *Africa, Volume I: African History before 1885* (Durham, NC: Carolina Academic Press, 2000): 389-412.

●●●MAP QUIZ TODAY●●●

Sept 21 European Imperialism: Major Interpretations

□ E. Mandala, “Theories of Imperialism,” (notes).

Sept 23 Peoples and Societies

□ Achebe, *Things Fall Apart*, I

Sept 28 Reactions to the Imposition of Colonial Rule

□ Achebe, *Things Fall Apart*, II

●●●BOOK REVIEW I (*THINGS FALL APART*) DUE TODAY●●●

PART II: THE LOOTING OF A CONTINENT

Sept 30 Land and Labor in Settler Colonies

□ R. Palmer, “The Agricultural History of Rhodesia,” in *The Roots of Rural Poverty in Central and Southern Africa*, eds. R. Palmer and N. Parsons (Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press, 1977): 221-254.

Oct 5 Capitalism and the Rise of New Laborers

□ E.R. Wolf, *Europe and the People Without History* (University of California Press, 1982), 354-63, 366-68.

Oct 7 Wage Labor and Women in the City

□ B. Emecheta, *The Joys of Motherhood*

Oct 12 Wives of Migrant Workers in Southern Africa

□ C. Meillassoux, *Maidens, Meal and Money: Capitalism and the Domestic Community* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1981 [1975]), 99-103.

□ Video: “Gold Widows” (52 minutes)

Oct 14 Peasants and Cash-Crop Agriculture

□ E. Mandala, “African Peasants and Peasantries,” 1-3.

Oct 19 Cash-Crop Agriculture and Food Security

- A. Isaacman, *Cotton is the Mother of Poverty: Peasants, Work, and Rural Struggle in Colonial Mozambique* (Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann, 1996), 150-170.
- E. Mandala, "African Peasants and Peasantries," 3-7.

Oct 21 Cash-Crop Agriculture and Rural Differentiation

- E. Mandala, "African Peasants and Peasantries," 7-9.

PART III: STRUGGLES FOR AUTONOMY

Oct 26 World War II and Decolonization

- B. Freund, *The Making of Contemporary Africa* (Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 1984): 191-233.

Oct 28 Social Dynamics of African Nationalism

- S. Ousmane, *God's Bits of Wood*

Nov 2 Class and Gender in Neocolonial Africa

- Ngugi wa Thiong'o, *Devil on the Cross*

Nov 4 Armed Struggle in Portuguese Africa, 1962-75

- Nugent, *Africa Since Independence*, 261-71.
- E. Mandala, "Mozambique." (Notes)

Nov 9 Socialist Experiments in Mozambique, 1975-83

- Isaacman and Isaacman, *Mozambique*, 109-170.
- BOOK REVIEW II (*DEVIL ON THE CROSS*) DUE TODAY ●●●

Nov 11 Counter-revolution in Mozambique, 1983-1995

- Nugent, *Africa Since Independence*, 280-87.

PART IV: NEW CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Nov 16 Debt and Structural Adjustment Programs (SAPs)

□ Nugent, *Africa Since Independence*, 326-47.

Nov 18 Malaria Rides on the Back of SAPs

□ R. Packard, *The Making of a Tropical Disease: A Short History of Malaria* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2007), 206-216.

Nov 23, 26 Thanksgiving Break

Nov 30 HIV/AIDS

□ Howard Phillips, "AIDS in South Africa: An Historical Perspective," *Society* (May/June (2003): 72-76; Nugent, *Africa Since Independence*, 357-67

Dec 2 Africa Welcomes China

□ Paul Zeleza, "The Africa-China Relationship: Challenges and Opportunities," *Canadian Journal of African Studies* 48, 1 (2014): 145-169.

●●●ESSAY DUE TODAY●●●

Dec 7 Chinese Aid

□ Deborah Brautigam, *The Dragon's Gift: The Real Story of China in Africa* (OUP, 2011), 131-188.

Dec 9 General Assessment of the Course

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