History 3120
Independence and Post-Colonial Wars in Africa

Spring 2009
T/Th: 11:30-12:45 pm
Venue: 322 St Paul’s College

Professor: J. M. Chadya
Office: 345 University College
Phone: 474-8219
Office Hours: Wednesday 1-3
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WELCOME!

Course Description
This senior undergraduate course explores the daily lives of African men and women, as combatants and as civilians, in warring zones. We will also examine state policies in relation to those wars. We begin by looking at the anti-colonial wars and then move on to post-colonial wars – largely a result of disenchantment emanating from either the politics of exclusion or the failure of the African state to deliver on the promises made during the struggle for independence. We will better understand and appreciate the present wars taking place in Africa by studying the myriad historical forces that helped bring about the wars. To make this course more accessible we will employ several themes as filters for the vast body of information that constitutes African history. An attempt has been made, where possible, to arrange the themes chronologically.

Requirements
We meet twice per week on Tuesday and Thursday 11:30-12:45 pm. Instruction is passed through a combination of lectures, discussions of readings, films and songs, music played and still plays a crucial role of boosting morale among soldiers. The films we are going to watch should not be seen as a form of entertainment but just as one of the historical sources available and should, therefore, be analyzed critically. Students are encouraged to take down notes during, as well as to pass analytical comments or ask questions after, the film. During lectures we will also have discussions focused on the readings and films for that week. Your preparation for these discussions is therefore absolutely necessary, as is your careful, critical and timely engagement with the readings. You should have completed the reading assignments for the week prior to lectures. While you are not required to do the recommended readings, it will be great if you can do them for further readings on the topic/s of the week. Preparation and participation in class and discussion sections will constitute a part of your grade. Remember, active listening is an integral part of a productive discussion. Discussion will take a variety of forms, including debate, group work, singing and dramatizing/empathizing, and class presentations.

Attendance and Deadlines: Attendance at all lectures is mandatory. There is a high correlation between students who receive good grades and those who attend class on a regular basis. Please contact the professor if you are going to be absent. Similarly, all deadlines for assignments are final except in extraordinary circumstances, which must be documented in writing. Assignments are due at the beginning of class on the date listed on the class syllabus. You might be penalized for late work, so please take note of the due dates on the main syllabus.
Policy on late work: Please plan ahead around the assignments that are listed in your syllabus. As a general rule extensions will not be granted for this class unless there are extenuating circumstances. Students should turn in their papers at the beginning of class of a specified date.

Required Texts: The following books have been ordered at the Bookstore.


All journal articles can be accessed through the University of Manitoba E-Library.

Written requirements include: 1 map quiz, one primary document analysis, an in-class mid-semester exam, and a short research paper and the final exam. Detailed instructions for each of these assignments will be distributed in class.

Map Quiz: Familiarity with African geography is absolutely essential. Students will take one map quiz, in class, during the semester. No make-up quizzes will be provided unless a student has an official excuse for her or his absence.

Analyzing a primary document: This is an exercise that will help students to read and use a primary document in history essays. Students have to use at least one primary source for their long paper. Primary sources will enable us to see how Africans themselves viewed their society and status.

Research Paper: Students’ critical and analytical skills also develop by writing. To that end, you are expected to formulate a specific topic of your own interest for research, examining in more depth one of the topics covered in class. Write an 8-10 page paper. The paper should be turned in a week before the last day of class (April 2). One of the major aims of this course is to hone the skills students need to write an African history essay. Therefore, where possible, you should strive to use primary and secondary sources when writing papers. For this semester’s paper, use at least one primary document. You can also use any novels and songs as long as they are about wars in Africa.

Examinations: Students will write one mid-term exam in the 7th week of the semester. The final requirement is the end of semester exam which you will sit during the exam period (April 13-29).
Grading:
1. Class Participation – 10%.
2. 1 map quiz – 5%.
3. Reading a Primary document – 10%.
4. Mid-semester exam – 20%.
6. Final Exam – 30%

All papers are graded on a percentage point system:

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Evaluate feedback will be provided prior to the voluntary withdrawal (VW) date of March 19, 2009. Students who wish to appeal a grade given for course work must do so within 10 working days of the term work grade first being made available to them.

Feel free to contact the professor with any problems via email, phone or in person.

Please note that it is a student’s duty to make sure that they meet all the course requirements in a timely manner.

Academic Integrity:
Students should acquaint themselves with the University policy on plagiarism, cheating, and other forms of academic dishonesty (see pg. 28 in the 2008-2009 University of Manitoba Undergraduate Calendar). The common penalty in Arts for plagiarism in a written assignment, test for examination is F on the paper and F on the course. For the most serious acts of plagiarism, such as the purchase of an essay or cheating on a test or examination, the penalty can also include suspension for a period of up to 5 years from registration in courses taught in particular department in Arts or all courses taught in this Faculty. The Faculty also reserves the right to submit students’ work that is suspected of being plagiarized to internet sites designed to detect plagiarism.
Lecture Topics and Readings

Week 1
Introduction
Film, *Amandhla*

Week 2
The Rise of Nationalism and the Struggle for independence

Required Readings:

Recommended Readings:

Map Quiz – in class

Week 3
Guerilla Warfare

Required Readings:
Recommended Readings:

Film - *Flame*

Week 4
Guerrilla Warfare II

Required Readings:

Recommended Readings:

1st Primary document analysis due at the end of class

Week 5
Colonial Counter-insurgency Measures

Required Readings:
Recommended Readings:
- Luise White, Poisoned Food, Poisoned Uniforms and Anthrax or How Guerillas Die in a War, Osiris, 19, Landscape of Exposure: Knowledge and Illness in Modern Environment, 2004: 220-233.
- J. K. Cilliers, Counter-Insurgency in Rhodesia:
- Ken Flower, Serving Secretly

Film: Selous Scouts
Discussion: Peter Godwin, Mukiwa: A White Boy in Africa

Week 6
Independence, disillusionment and the rise of Post-colonial Conflict

Required Readings:

Recommended Readings:

Sign up for a short meeting to discuss your paper topics (for week 8 or any other time by appointment) with the instructor.

Week 7
Mid-semester exam – no class on Tuesday but the exam is on Thursday.
Week 8
The Cold War Politics and South African Destabilization
Required Readings:

Recommended Readings:

Week 10
Blood Diamonds: African Civil Wars in the Context Minerals Wealth
Required Readings:

Recommended Readings:

Film: Diamonds of War: Africa's Blood Diamonds
Resources, Religion and Race: Sudan’s Protracted Civil War turned Genocide

**Required Readings:**

**Recommended Readings:**

**Film:** *Darfur Diaries* or *The Devil Came on a Horseback*

**Week 11**

**The Child Soldiers**

**Required Readings:**

**Recommended Readings:**

**Discussion:** Ismael Beah, *A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier*
Week 12
The Rwandan Genocide
Required Readings:

Recommended Readings:

Research Paper Due in Class

Film: Shake Hands with a Devil or Sometimes in April

Week 13
Refugees and Internal Displacement
Required Readings
**Recommended Readings:**