

## THE MAKING OF MODERN AFRICA

History 210-00  
Time: Tuesday/Thursday 3:00-4:15  
Location: University Hall 201  
Fall 2012

Professor Alicia C. Decker  
Office: University Hall 308  
Office Hours: Tu/Th 4:30-5:30 and by appt.  
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### Course Description

This course provides students with a comprehensive introduction to modern African history from 1800 to the present. Using a wide variety of primary and secondary source material, we will examine the major historical forces that have shaped African lives over the last two centuries. Emphasis will be placed on African experiences of slavery, colonialism, liberation struggles, and post-independence nation building. Students will also learn to analyze contemporary African issues within a larger historical context.

### Student Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, students will have a better understanding of modern African history and the state of Africa today. In addition, they will learn how to interpret historical texts from a number of different epistemic positions (i.e. paying attention to race, class, gender, sexuality, nation, and other axes of “difference”). Students can also expect to develop stronger writing skills, as well as to improve on critical thinking and oral articulation.

### Required Texts [Available at University Bookstores or on reserve at Hicks Library]

1. Richard Reid, *A History of Modern Africa*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed. (Wiley-Blackwell, 2012)
2. Trevor Getz and Liz Clark, *Abina and the Important Men* (Oxford, 2012)
3. Adam Hochschild, *King Leopold's Ghost* (Houghton Mifflin, 1998)
4. Course readings as PDF files available on Blackboard Learn

### Course Policies

- Everyone has the right to participate in this class. I expect the classroom to be a dynamic space where everyone can engage in a multiplicity of academic debates. Discussions will be based on the lectures, readings, and films—**NOT** on personal opinion.
- Students wishing to use a laptop computer may be asked to sit in the front row. If I find that you are using your computer for any other activity, you will be asked to leave the class. You then forfeit your “right” to use your computer in class from that time forward.
- Cell phones, Ipods, and MP3 devices are prohibited. Please leave them turned off and out of sight for the entire class. If I see you using them, you will be asked to leave.
- Plagiarism refers to the reproduction of another's words or ideas without proper attribution. University Regulations contains further information on dishonesty. Plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty are serious offenses, and will be treated as such in this class. You are expected to produce your own work and to accurately cite all necessary materials. Cheating,

plagiarism, and other dishonest practices will be punished as harshly as Purdue University policies allow. Any instances of academic dishonesty will result in a grade of F for the course and notification of the Dean of Students Office.

- If you have a university-recognized disability that requires an accommodation, please make an appointment with Dr. Decker to discuss your needs.
- In the event of a major campus emergency, course requirements, deadlines and grading percentages are subject to changes that may be necessitated by a revised semester calendar or other circumstances. Changes in this course will be announced on the Blackboard web page or by e-mail.

### **Grading Policies**

- All written work must be typed and double-spaced with one-inch margins and 12-point font. Everything must have page numbers and be properly cited using Chicago-style formatting. Grammar and presentation count, so please use the Writing Lab!
- Assignments are due at the beginning of class. No late papers will be accepted for full credit and will be penalized by one letter grade for every 24 hours late *unless* you have an excused absence.
- All assignments must be submitted in hard copy—no online attachments!
- Hold on to all graded material until you have received your final grade. If there are any grade discrepancies at the end of the semester, you must have the original document in order for me to consider a grade adjustment.

### **Course Evaluation**

- **Reading and Lecture Quizzes:** On most Thursdays at the beginning of class, you will be given a brief quiz that will cover the lecture from Tuesday, as well as the reading for the week. There will be 10 quizzes, although I will only count your top 8 scores. If you are late for class or have an unexcused absence, you cannot retake the quiz. Each quiz will be worth 40 points for a total of 400 possible points. Quizzes count as **40%** of your final grade.
- **Map Quizzes:** Africa is not a country. It is a vast continent with 55 countries (as of today). To understand African history, you must understand its basic geography. Therefore, you will be given map quizzes on three separate occasions: September 25, October 30, and November 27. See the following website: [www.lizardpoint.com/fun/geoquiz/afquiz.html](http://www.lizardpoint.com/fun/geoquiz/afquiz.html). Map quizzes will be worth 50 points each for a total of 150 possible points. They will count for **15%** of your final grade.
- **Media Reports:** Every three weeks, you will write a two-page critical analysis of a contemporary news item in Africa and/or affecting Africans. The news story that you reflect upon should be no more than two weeks old and should be related to a topic that we discussed during that period. For instance, if we discussed slavery in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, you might bring in a current article about modern-day slavery. If we discussed colonialism, you might bring in an article that describes a form of neo-colonialism. Your response should address the following three questions: What is the story about? What is your interpretation of the event or situation being described? How is it similar to and/or different from other historical precedents that we have discussed in class? Be sure to include a copy of the article with your response. Useful websites include <http://allafrica.com/>, <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world/africa/>, and <http://english.aljazeera.net/news/africa/>. Media reports are due on September 11, October 2, October 23, November 13, and December 4. Each report will be worth 30 points (150 points total). This activity counts for **15%** of your final grade.
- **Final Essay:** Your final assignment will require you to write a short essay (6-8 pages) synthesizing a variety of materials covered in the course. You will be given one week to respond to a question that I will send via e-mail on December 3. This is not a research paper, but instead, one that

requires you to articulate what you have learned through the course readings, films, and lectures. It will be due by noon on December 10 and is worth 300 points or **30%** of your final grade.

- **Extra Credit:** Over the course of the semester, you may have the opportunity to earn up to 30 extra credit points (or ten points per event). For every approved event that you attend, you will be required to submit a one-paragraph description about the lecture/event/film and what you learned. These will be due at the beginning of the **next** class period following the event. I will announce extra-credit opportunities in class or via e-mail as they arise.

### Grading Scale:

A	930-1030 points
A-	900-929
B+	870-899
B	830-869
B-	800-829
C+	770-799
C	730-769
C-	700-729
D+	670-699
D	630-669
D-	600-629
F	599 and below

### Course Schedule

Date	Class Topic	Reading	Coursework
Aug. 21	Course introduction		
Aug. 23	“Knowing” Africa	Lowe article Keim article	
Aug. 28	Slavery in West Africa	Reid, Chapter 2 Equiano PS	
Aug. 30	Slavery in East Africa	Reid, Chapter 3 Wright PS	Quiz 1
Sept. 4	Film: “Andaggaman”	Getz, pp. 5-79	
Sept. 6	Professor gone (no class)	Getz, pp. 83-93	
Sept. 11	Abina: Part 1	Getz, pp. 97-111	Media 1
Sept. 13	Abina: Part 2	Getz, pp. 115-137	Quiz 2

Sept. 18	Colonization of Southern Africa	Reid, Chapter 4	
Sept. 20	Resistance in Southern Africa	Sparrman PS Fynn PS Steenkamp PS	Quiz 3
Sept. 25	Islam in North Africa	Reid, Chapter 5	Map 1
Sept. 27	Islam in Sub-Saharan Africa	Reid, Chapters 6 & 7	Quiz 4
Oct. 2	Missionaries in Africa	Reid, Chapter 8 McAllister PS	Media 2
Oct. 4	Scramble for Africa	Reid, Chapter 9 Kipling PS	Quiz 5
Oct. 9	Fall Break (no class)		
Oct. 11	King Leopold: Part 1	Hochschild, pp. 1-100	
Oct. 16	Film: "King Leopold's Ghost"	Hochschild, pp. 101-208	
Oct. 18	King Leopold: Part 2	Hochschild, pp. 209-308	Quiz 6
Oct. 23	Conquest and Partition	Reid, Chapter 10	Media 3
Oct. 25	High Colonialism	Reid, Chapter 11	Quiz 7
Oct. 30	Protest and Resistance	Reid, Chapter 12 Pan-African Congress PS National Congress PS	Map 2
Nov. 1	World War II	Reid, Chapter 13 Roosevelt/Churchill PS	Quiz 8
Nov. 6	Post-War Africa	Reid, Chapter 14	
Nov. 8	Film: "Skin"		
Nov. 13	Rise of Nationalism	Reid, Chapter 15 Nkrumah PS	Media 4
Nov. 15	Routes to Independence	Reid, Chapter 16 Mandela PS	Quiz 9
Nov. 20	T-giving Break (no class)		

Nov. 22	T-giving Break (no class)		
Nov. 27	Challenges of Independence	Reid, Chapter 17	Map 3
Nov. 29	Film: "The Last King of Scotland"		
Dec. 4	Violence and Militarism	Reid, Chapter 18	Media 5
Dec. 6	Africa Today	Reid, Chapter 19	Quiz 10

**Note: Final Paper due December 10<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 in my office (University 301)**