

HIS 204-01 / INS 233A-04 History of Africa since 1870  
Spring 2009 – M/W 3:30 - 4:45, 1214 MHRA

Dr. Colleen Kriger  
Office: 2107 MHRA Building

Office Hours: T & W 11 to 12 PM  
and by appointment  
Telephone: 334-5205 (office); 334-5992 (department office)

Course Objectives:

When, how, and why did European nations colonize the African continent? And, an equally important question, What is the legacy of European colonialism in Africa today? This course examines major themes in recent African history, and discusses theoretical debates in the history of Africa during the colonial period and since.

Topics to be covered include: the imposition of colonial rule and wars of resistance; styles of colonial rule; theories of underdevelopment and the effects of colonial policies; Pan-Africanism, nationalism, and independence movements; the creation of apartheid; decolonization; and issues facing independent Africa such as neo-colonialism and the dismantling of apartheid. These themes will be studied with reference to the regions of west, east, central, and southern Africa.

Student Learning Goals – At the completion of this course, the student should be able to:

- Explain when and how European nations colonized Africa;
- Review the various ways African peoples resisted colonial rule and how they went about organizing liberation movements;
- Discuss the importance of contexts and chronologies of historical events.

Course requirements include writing an analytical paper based on course readings (6 pp., worth 30% of final grade); four tests (10% each, for a total of 40% of final grade); general class participation, attendance, and short writing assignments (worth 30% of final grade). **NO MAKE-UP EXAMS ARE ALLOWED; LATE PAPERS WILL BE PENALIZED; SHORT WRITING ASSIGNMENTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AFTER THE CLASS PERIOD DURING WHICH THEY ARE DUE.**

\*\*\*\*\* Attendance policy: Attendance at all lectures and discussions is mandatory; unexcused absences will lower the class participation grade; students with more than three unexcused absences may be dropped from the course; excused absences such as a family emergency must be documented. Pagers, laptops, cell phones, and other such devices must be turned off. \*\*\*\*\*

Required textbooks: Kevin Shillington, History of Africa (Palgrave MacMillan, revised edition, 2005)

Aimé Césaire, Discourse on Colonialism (Monthly Review Press, 2000)

Other required readings (on Blackboard) are listed in syllabus after the class calendar.

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