

RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE

Department of History

HIST 349-01: History of Contemporary Africa

Spring Semester

Instructor: *Dr Peter Karibe Mendy*

Classes: Mon/Wed., 11-00am – 12.20 pm

Course Description

This is an upper level course, which will examine contemporary African history from 1960, when most African countries gained independent statehood, to the present. While colonialism affected all fabric of African societies, the post-independence years have been a momentous time of change for Africans as they began to study and understand their own continent, take stock of their own capacities and potentials, search for solutions to their problems, and to stand equal and free with all humankind.

Themes to be examined will include the nature of freedom which Africans regained from their European overlords; the task of nation-building; post-independence socio-economic and political changes; the search for political stability and national/pan-African unity; the crisis of political ideologies; the military in politics; the role of women; regional cooperation; the HIV/AIDS pandemic; and the role of Africa in the New World Order.

Departmental Outcomes and Professional Standards:

As a result of successfully completing this course, students will know and be able to meet the following department outcomes and professional standards: ***History Department Learning Outcomes:*** 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, and 9; ***Rhode Island Beginning Teacher Standards:*** 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6, 2.7, 8.1, 8.2, 10.1, 10.2, 10.3, and 10.4; ***National Council for the Social Sciences Standards:*** 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 1.6, 1.7, 1.9, 2.1.1, 2.1.2, 2.1.3, 2.1.4, 2.1.5, 2.1.6, and 2.1.7

Required Texts

- ❑ Chazan, Naomi, *et al, Politics and Society in Contemporary Africa*, (Third Edition), Lynne Rienner Publishers, Boulder, Colorado, 1999.
- ❑ Davidson, Basil, *Modern Africa*, (Third Edition), Longman, London, 1994
- ❑ Gordon, April A. & Gordon, Donald L., (Eds.), *Understanding Contemporary Africa*, Lynne Rienner Publishers, Boulder, Colorado, 1996.

Note: *Textbooks will be supplemented with relevant journal articles, chapters in books, and excerpts of original documents.*

Class Approach:

Class participation is ESSENTIAL, and it requires coming to class prepared (having done the required reading), staying awake and focused, and being engaged (asking pertinent questions, making relevant comments, sharing related information, etc.).

Depending on the class size, class approach will be a mixture of lectures and discussions. As an upper level course, discussions will be structured in the form of oral presentations of specified topical issues. Students should be prepared to participate in these discussions both individually and in small groups from time to time.

At this level of study, students should begin to master the historian's art of scholarly writing. To this end, this course will place due emphasis on the use of a variety of historical sources. Apart from regular class reports and analyses of primary sources, every student will be required to write two critical essay papers that demonstrate evidence of thorough research, interpretive and analytical ability, as well as some degree of originality.

Evaluation and Grading:

Attendance, Participation and Class Presentations.....	15%
2 Critical Essay Papers.....	30%
Mid-Term Examination.....	20%
Film Review	10%
Final Examination.....	25%

PLEASE NOTE:

1. Mid-Term and Final Examinations must be taken on the specified dates unless prior arrangement for make-up was made with the instructor in the case of an emergency. **No make-up for quizzes, SO DO NOT MISS A QUIZ!**
2. All assignments MUST be submitted on the due dates. **LATE SUBMISSIONS OF ASSIGNMENT WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED!**
3. *Regular class attendance is REQUIRED for better comprehension and grades. USUALLY, STUDENTS LOSE POINTS FOR IRREGULAR ATTENDANCE, and WILL FAIL THE COURSE IF ATTENDANCE IS 50% OR LESS!*
4. Copying without acknowledgement, or misrepresentation, of someone else's words or ideas, constitutes PLAGIARISM. Besides being dishonest, **PLAGIARISM IS A SERIOUS VIOLATION OF COLLEGE RULES** - as outlined in the *Student Handbook*. A paper with evidence of plagiarism will be graded "F"!

CLASS SCHEDULES
(May be subject to modification)

I. Introduction

Jan. 25 A Continent and its Peoples: Perceptions and Approaches

II. Historical Overview

Jan. 27 Pre-Colonial Africa: Empires and Kingdoms, States and Stateless Societies
Colonial Africa: Domination and Exploitation
Reading: Gordon & Gordon, 23-52; Davidson, 11-30; Chazan, 253-258

III. Nationalism and Politics of Independence

Feb. 01 Nationalism and Independence Movements
Feb. 03 Decolonization and Independent Statehood
Reading: Gordon & Gordon, 58-65; Davidson, 61-103, 116-160

IV. The Question of Neo-Colonialism

Feb. 08 Legacies of Colonial Rule
Feb. 10 The Issue of Neo-Colonialism
*Reading: Gordon & Gordon, 53-58, 65-73, 93-95, 130-131;
Davidson, 98-102, 196-209; Chazan, 42-46, 258-261)*

Feb. 10 Map Quiz Due

V. Pan-Africanism and the Politics of African Unity

Feb. 15 Pan-Africanism: Origins and Impacts
Feb. 17 Organization of African Unity (OAU)/African Union (AU)
Reading: Gordon, 135-140; Davidson, 32-37, 248-254; Chazan, 364-382

VI. Factors of Instability

Feb. 22 Legacies of Division: Ethnicity
Class Divisions in Africa
Reading: Gordon, 371-376; Davidson, 197-210; Chazan, 107-130

Feb. 24 First Critical Essay Paper Due

VII. Post-Independence Africa in World Affairs

Feb. 24 Africa and Europe
The Cold War in Africa: US-Soviet Rivalry in Africa

Mar. 01 Africa and World Organizations: The UN, World Bank, and IMF
*Reading: Gordon, 80-82, 116-118, 120-124, 145-158; Davidson, 251-252;
Chazan, 421-459*

Mar . 03 Mid-Term Examination

VIII. Political Systems, Ideologies, and Governance

- Mar. 08** One-Party Systems
African Socialism
- Mar. 10** Multi-Party Systems and Democratization Processes
Reading: Gordon, 65-73, 83-86; Davidson, 212-217; Chazan, 46-69, 221-225

Mar. 15-22 Spring Recess

IX. The Military in African Politics

- Mar. 22** Military Interventions in Africa
The Record of Military Rule in Africa
Reading: Gordon & Gordon, 73-80; Davidson, 210-212; Chazan, 225-230

Mar. 24 *Film: In Search of Stability*

X. Conflicts and Civil Wars

- Mar. 29** Factional and Communal Conflicts
Civil Wars and Inter-State Disputes
The Costs of Conflicts
Reading: Davidson, 113-115, 160-161; Chazan, 361-392

XI. Issues of National Development

- Mar. 31** African Development: Ideology, Strategies and Policies
Development Achievements and Failures
Reading: Gordon & Gordon, 195-216, 95-102, 118-119; Davidson, 218-223, 224-245; Chazan, 239-245, 261-299.

Apr. 05 Class Presentations

Apr. 07 Class Presentations

XII. Population, Urbanization, and Health

- Apr. 12** Populations Trends and Urbanization Problems
- Apr. 14** HIV/AIDS in Africa: Magnitude and Impacts
Reading: Gordon, 167-190, 113-114, 102-114; Davidson, 223- 224; Chazan, 240-243; 292-299

Apr. 19 Second Critical Essay Paper

XIII. African Women and National Development

- Apr. 19** Women in Pre-Colonial and Colonial Africa
The Post-Independence Era
- Apr. 21** Women in the Economy
Women in Politics and Society
Reading: Gordon & Gordon, 249-268, 111-113; Chazan, 92-96

XIV. Regional Cooperation and Integration

- Apr. 26** Pan-Africanism in Action: Cooperation and Integration Efforts
Regional Integration Attempts: ECOWAS and SADC
- Apr. 28** Continental Integration Attempt: The African Union
Reading: Gordon & Gordon, 140-145; Davidson, 254-259; Chazan, 310-325.

XV. Africa in the Post-Cold War Order

- May 03** Post-Cold War Realities
Globalization and the Crisis of Development
Africa in the Post-9/11 World: Challenges and Opportunities
Reading: Gordon, 371-376, Davidson, 260-278; Chazan, 449-459, 491-498
- May 05 Review for Final Exam
- May 10-14 Final Examinations

Further Reading:

- ❑ Afigbo, A.E., et al, *The Making of Modern Africa*, Vol.2, Longman, London, 1971
- ❑ Ayittey, George, *African Betrayed*, St Martin's Press, New York, 1992.
- ❑ Davidson, Basil, *The Black Man's Burden*, Random House, New York, 1992.
- ❑ Freund, Bill, *The Making of Contemporary Africa*, Indiana University Press, Bloomington, 1984.