

Sociology 39  
African World Perspectives  
Spring 2007  
T/TH 1:30-3

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Course Description

This course examines some of the key events in African history from colonialism through apartheid in South Africa, the conflict in Northern Uganda, HIV/AIDS, the impacts of globalization and economic development, and contemporary intervention in Africa.

As a core course, the class will include the following:

Perennial Questions: We begin the course by examining the nature of colonial rule and its impact on African societies. We then move to examine apartheid in South Africa and ask the question: How have Africans managed to maintain cultural integrity and build societies in spite of the impact of racism? We move on to look at the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in South Africa with an aim to understand: what is the nature of human freedom and what are the limits of our ability to withstand oppression and forgive?

We then move into looking at the conflict in Northern Uganda, trying to understand both the global and local forces that create and perpetuate such situations of poverty and violence. In particular, we will ask the questions, "How do societies rebuild their communities after such extended periods of violence?" and, "What measures are appropriate for holding human rights violators accountable?"

We will then examine the related topics of globalization and development, considering how models of economic integration have helped and hindered growth and prosperity in Africa. We will critically examine the influence of regional and international development institutions (such as the World Bank and IMF), trade treaties and organizations, and corporations on the continent, and will consider the following

questions: What are the motivations behind the economic development of Africa and what is the appropriate role of institutions, communities, and individuals? How is development related to colonialism?

We will spend time on the issue of HIV/AIDS, assessing its impact economically, politically, and culturally. In particular, we will discuss the complex relationship between HIV/AIDS and conflict, the challenges of accessing treatment and care in Africa, as well as forms of social mobilization that strive to combat the epidemic.

Finally, we will turn to a discussion about contemporary intervention and Western-held perceptions of Africa. Through our analysis, we will attempt to identify critical elements for constructive engagement with Africa.

Cultural Diversity: The majority of the readings for the course were written by African people—rich and poor, urban and rural, male and female, black and white, old and young, gay and straight. Through engaging with their words and their lives you will come to appreciate the incredible diversity of opinions, experiences, and perspectives that African people have.

Historical Perspective: No study of Africa can proceed without looking at the historical events that produced the wars, famines, and poverty that are such an intrinsic part of life on the continent today. We will look at the relationship between larger socio-historical events such as the slave trade, colonialism, and the Cold War and the trajectory of individual African lives. We will also look at specific events (e.g. the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the conflict in Northern Uganda) as manifestations of larger socio-historical trends.

Methodology: The books we will read represent a variety of sociological perspectives and research methodologies. We will examine the ways in which various theoretical perspectives (Marxist, liberal, free market) shape the worldviews of our authors.

Writing component: During the course of the semester you will write a paper through which you will be encouraged to compare and contrast the different ways in which African peoples have dealt with the challenges posed by colonialism, racism, poverty, and underdevelopment.

Creating a personal philosophy: The aim of this course is to help you develop a greater awareness of and appreciation for how diverse life in Africa really is. You will be challenged to examine what stereotypes you previously held about life in Africa and to begin to think about Africans differently and appreciate the many ways in which Africans hold values that are both similar to and different from the values you hold.

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#### Required Texts

- Pumla Gobodo-Madikizela **A Human Being Died that Night: A South African Woman Confronts the Legacy of Apartheid.**
- Nelson Mandela. **Long Walk to Freedom.**
- Grace Akallo. **Girl Soldier.**
- S.Kiguli and V. Barungi. **I Dare to Say.**
- M.Maddy. **Learning to Love Africa.**

## Grading

Test 1: 20%  
Test 2: 20%  
Paper: 25 %  
Final: 25%  
Attendance: 10%\*

\* (Attendance will be taken every day. Several times during the course of the semester we will give an impromptu in-class writing assignment. If you have an unexcused absence and miss the assignment you miss the points for the day. No makeup will be granted).

You are also required to attend one evening session on **Wednesday, November 7, 7:30-9:30pm** where we will do an exercise called Urban Survival. The session will last two hours.

Due Dates:

Test 1: October 16  
Test 2: November 13  
Paper: November 29  
Final: December 1 at 12:30

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### **TOPIC I: HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES ON AFRICA AND COLONIZATION**

#### **September 4: Slide Show “The Image of Africa”**

- In class reading: “Mistaking Africa.” (p. 14-17)

#### **September 6: Film: “This Magnificent African Cake” (60 min.)**

- Adu Boahen. “The Imposition of the Colonial System.” in African Perspectives on Colonialism [Electronic Reserve]
- Adu Boahen. “The Colonial Impact.” In African Perspectives on Colonialism [Electronic Reserve]
- “Colonialism in Africa, 1914.”(map) Beyond Borders: Thinking Critically About Global Issues. [Electronic Reserve]

#### **September 11: Lecture/Discussion on Colonialism**

- Walter Rodney. “Africa’s Contribution to the Capitalist Development of Europe.” in How Europe Underdeveloped Africa [Electronic Reserve]
- Walter Rodney. “Colonialism as a System for Underdeveloping Africa.” In How Europe Underdeveloped Africa [Electronic Reserve]

### **TOPIC II: PERSPECTIVES ON APARTHEID**

#### **September 13: Lecture/Discussion on South Africa**

- Bernard Magubane. “The Impact of the Boer and British Societies on African Societies in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Centuries.” And “The Native Reserves (Bantustans) and the Migrant Labor System.” In The Political Economy of Race and Class in South Africa [Electronic Reserve]
- David Mermelstein, ed. The Anti-Apartheid Reader: chapter III “Afrikanerdom” by Fiona McLachlan [Electronic Reserve]

**September 18: Lecture/Discussion on South Africa**

- Nelson Mandela. Long Walk to Freedom. Part IV “The Struggle Is My Life”
- Nelson Mandela. Long Walk to Freedom. Part V “Treason”

**September 20: Lecture/Discussion on South Africa**

- Nelson Mandela. Long Walk to Freedom. Part VI, “The Black Pimpernel” Chapters 40-45
- Nelson Mandela. Long Walk to Freedom. Part VII “Rivonia” Chapters 49, 51, 53, 54-58

**TOPIC III: THE TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION**

**September 25: Film: “Facing the Truth” (part 1)**

- Antjie Krog. “None More Parted Than Us.” In Country of My Skull [Electronic Reserve]
- Ken Christie. The South African Truth Commission Chapter 5 (“The Question of Amnesty and Justice”) [Electronic Reserve]

**September 27: Lecture/Discussion Truth and Reconciliation Commission**

- Film “Facing the Truth: (part 2)
- Pumla Gobodo-Madikizela. A Human Being Died That Night (Ch. 2-4)

**October 2: Lecture/Discussion on Truth and Reconciliation Commission**

- Pumla Gobodo-Madikizela. A Human Being Died That Night (Ch. 5-7)

**TOPIC IV: THE CONFLICT IN NORTHERN UGANDA**

**October 4: Lecture/Discussion on the conflict in Northern Uganda**

- Tim Allen. Trial Justice: The International Criminal Court and the Lord’s Resistance Army. (Ch. 2 & 3) [Electronic Reserve]

**October 9: In-Class Film: Uganda Rising**

- Faith J. H. McDonnell & Grace Akallo. Girl Solider. (Intro, Chs. 1,3,5,7,9,11,13,14,15,17,19,21)

**October 11: Lecture/Discussion on Comparative Post-Conflict Analysis**

- Adam Branch. “Uganda’s Civil War and the Politics of the ICC Intervention.” [Electronic Reserve]
- Erin Baines. “The Haunting of Alice: Local Approaches to Justice and Reconciliation in Northern Uganda.” [Electronic Reserve]

**October 16: \*\*\*First Test\*\*\***

**TOPIC V: GLOBALIZATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

**October 18: Lecture/Discussion on Globalization, Development, and Key Global Institutions**

- Monique Maddy. Learning to Love Africa. (Ch. 3 & 4)

- Maggie Black. “The History of an Idea.” In The No-Nonsense Guide to International Development. (Ch. 1) [Electronic Reserve]

**October 23: Lecture/Discussion on Debt and Structural Adjustment**

- Monique Maddy. Learning to Love Africa. (Ch. 5 & 8)
- Wayne Ellwood. “Debt and Structural Adjustment” The No-Nonsense Guide to Globalization. (Ch. 3) [Electronic Reserve]
- Paul J. Kaiser. “Structural Adjustment and the Fragile Nation: The Demise of Social Unity in Tanzania.” [Electronic Reserves]

**October 25: Lecture/Discussion on Corporations, Trade, and Re-Colonization**

- Monique Maddy. Learning to Love Africa. (Ch. 12 & 13)
- International Forum on Globalization. “Invisible Government.” Introduction (p.1) and Invisible Government (p.2) Available on-line at <http://www.ifg.org/pdf/Invis%20Govt.pdf>
- Tetteh Hormeku. “US-Africa Trade Policy: In Whose Interest? Available on-line at <http://www.corpwatch.org/article.php?id=644&printsafe=1>
- Sunday Dare. “A Continent in Crisis: Africa and Globalization.” Available on-line at [http://www.thirdworldtraveler.com/Africa/Continent\\_Crisis.html](http://www.thirdworldtraveler.com/Africa/Continent_Crisis.html)

**October 30: In-Class Debate/Discussion: Rethinking Globalization and Development**

- Monique Maddy. Learning to Love Africa. (Ch. 15 & 16)
- Kofi Annan. “The Role of the State in the Age of Globalization.” In The Globalization Reader, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed. [Electronic Reserve]
- Zine Magubane and Paul Tiyambe Zeleza. “Globalization and Africa’s Intellectual Engagements.” In Rethinking Globalism. [Electronic Reserve]

**TOPIC VI: THE HIV/AIDS EPIDEMIC IN AFRICA**

**November 1: Lecture/Discussion on Social & Economic Effects of the HIV/AIDS Epidemic**

- Tony Barnett and Alan Whiteside. “Individuals, Households, and Communities.” In AIDS in the Twenty-First Century. [Electronic Reserve]
- Kaiser Family Foundation. “The Global HIV/AIDS Epidemic.” Available on-line at [http://www.kff.org/hivaids/upload/3030\\_09.pdf](http://www.kff.org/hivaids/upload/3030_09.pdf)
- Kaiser Family Foundation. “The HIV/AIDS Epidemic in Sub-Saharan Africa.” Available on-line at [http://www.kff.org/hivaids/upload/7391\\_05.pdf](http://www.kff.org/hivaids/upload/7391_05.pdf)
- Susan N. Kiguli and Violet Barungi. I Dare to Say. Foreword, Preface & “The Second Twin.”

**November 6: In-Class Film: A Closer Walk**

- Tony Barnett and Alan Whiteside. “Is Africa Exceptional?” in AIDS in the Twenty-First Century [Electronic Reserve]
- Stephen Lewis. Race Against Time. (Ch. 5) [Electronic Reserve]

**\*\*\*Required Evening Simulation: Urban Survival (Wed. November 7, 7:30-9:30pm)\*\*\***

**November 8: Lecture/Discussion on HIV/AIDS and Conflict**

- Nancy Mock. “Conflict and HIV.” [Electronic Reserve]

- Susan N. Kiguli and Violet Barungi. I Dare to Say. “Key to a New Life.”

November 13: \*\*\*Second Test\*\*\*

November 15: Lecture/Discussion on Access to Treatment and Care (South Africa)

- Melissa Faye Greene. There Is No Me Without You. (Ch. 28) [Electronic Reserve]
- Susan N. Kiguli and Violet Barungi. I Dare to Say. “Dance with a Wolf.”
- Additional reading to be announced.

November 20: In-Class Film: The State of Denial

- Samantha Power. “The AIDS Rebel.” Available on-line at:  
[http://www.pbs.org/pov/pov2003/stateofdenial/special\\_rebel.html](http://www.pbs.org/pov/pov2003/stateofdenial/special_rebel.html)
- Susan N. Kiguli and Violet Barungi. I Dare to Say. “Looking for Home.”

November 27: Lecture/Discussion Social Movements (TAC)

- Alex De Waal. AIDS and Power. (Ch. 3) [Electronic Reserve]
- Susan N. Kiguli and Violet Barungi. I Dare to Say. “In God’s Palm.”

## TOPIC VII: CONTEMPORARY INTERVENTION AND PERCEPTIONS IN AFRICA

November 29: Lecture/Discussion of Western Perceptions of Africa \*\*Paper Due\*\*

- Elfriede Fursich and Melinda B. Robins. “Africa.com: The Self-Representation of Sub-Saharan Nations on the World Wide Web.” [Electronic Reserve]
- Roland Bleiker and Amy Kay. “Representing HIV/AIDS in Africa: Pluralist Photography and Local Empowerment.” [Electronic Reserve]

December 4: Lecture/Discussion on Contemporary Intervention in Africa

- Mahmood Mamdani, “The Politics of Naming: Genocide, Civil War, Insurgency.” Available on-line at:  
<http://www.lrb.co.uk/v29/n05/mamd01.html>
- Uzodinma Iweala. “Stop Trying to Save Africa.” [Electronic Reserve]
- William Easterly. “What Bono Doesn’t Say About Africa.” [Electronic Reserve]

December 6: Lecture/Discussion on Models of Intervention

- Paul Farmer. “Pathologies of Power.” In Pathologies of Power. (Ch. 5) [Electronic Reserve]
- Other reading: students spend 1 hour reading online about various contemporary interventions in Africa (NGOs, advocacy campaigns, service trips, donors, UN, etc); a list of websites will be provided or students can choose their own focus.

Final Exam: Monday December 17 at 12:30 pm