

Sociology 39
African World Perspectives
Fall 2009
T/TH 9-10:20
Carney 102

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Course Description

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

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

Perennial Questions: We begin the course by examining 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 on to look at genocide in Rwanda. We will seek to understand the impact of history on culture and behavior. Specifically we will be trying to understand what impact politics and economics have on how identities are created, re-created, and destroyed.

We then move into looking at the conflict in Sudan, trying to understand both the global and local forces that create and perpetuate such situations of poverty and violence.

We will then spend time on the issue of HIV/AIDS, assessing its impact economically, politically, and culturally. We also examine the challenges of accessing treatment and care in Africa, as well as forms of social mobilization that strive to combat the epidemic.

We will also 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?

Cultural Diversity: Many of the readings and perspectives of this course come from 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 two papers 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; and the ways in which the world has responded to Africa's challenges through various models of engagement and intervention.

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. You will be encouraged to reexamine your role as an individual and what societal challenges help and hinder your own efforts to create change.

Required Texts

- P. Gourvetich. **We Wish to Inform You That Tomorrow We Will be Killed With Our Families: Stories From Rwanda.**
- Daoud Hari. **The Translator**
- Jean Hatzfeld. **Machete Season: The Killers in Rwanda Speak.**
- A. Krog. **Country of My Skull: Guilt, Sorrow, and the Limits of Forgiveness in the New South Africa.**
- S.Kiguli and V. Barungi. **I Dare to Say.**
- Pumla Gobodo-Madikizela **A Human Being Died that Night: A South African Woman Confronts the Legacy of Apartheid.**
- Mamdani, Mahmood. **Saviors and Survivors: Darfur, Politics, and the War on Terror.**
- Mamdani, Mahmood. **When Victims Become Killers.**
- Nelson Mandela. **Long Walk to Freedom.**

- Tom Zoellner and Paul Rusesabagina. **An Ordinary Man.**

Grading

Midterm: 25%
 Final: 25%
 Paper (#1): 25 %
 Paper (#2): 25%

Due Dates:

Paper # 1: October 27
 Midterm: November 10
 Paper #2: December 10
 Final: Monday December 21st at 9 AM.

TOPIC I: PERSPECTIVES ON APARTHEID

September 8: Lecture/Discussion: South Africa

- Nelson Mandela. Long Walk to Freedom. Part III: Birth of a Freedom Fighter
- Nelson Mandela. Long Walk to Freedom. Part IV “The Struggle Is My Life”

September 10: Lecture/Discussion: South Africa

- Nelson Mandela. Long Walk to Freedom. Part V “Treason”
- 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

September 15: Lecture/Discussion: South Africa

- Nelson Mandela. Long Walk to Freedom. Part IX, “Robben Island: Beginning to Hope,” Chapter 80
- Part X, “Talking With The Enemy,” 88, 89, 90, 92, 93, 94, 96, 97, 98, 99
- Nelson Mandela. Long Walk to Freedom. Part XI, “Freedom,” Chapter 101, 104, 108, 110, 112, 114, 115

TOPIC II: THE TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION

September 17: Film: “Facing the Truth” (part 1)

- Pumla Gobodo-Madikizela. A Human Being Died That Night (Ch. 2-4)
- A. Krog. Country of My Skull: Introduction, Chapters 2, 3, and 5

September 22: Lecture/Discussion: Truth and Reconciliation Commission

- Film “Facing the Truth: (part 2)
- Pumla Gobodo-Madikizela. A Human Being Died That Night (Ch. 5-7)

- A. Krog. Country of My Skull: Chapters 10 and 12

September 24: Discussion: Truth and Reconciliation Commission

- Please come to class prepared to discuss and debate the issues raised in the film and the readings for September 17 and 22

TOPIC III: GENOCIDE IN RWANDA

September 29:

- Film: Ghosts of Rwanda (part 1)
- P. Gourevitch, We Wish to Inform You, Ch. 4-9
- M. Mamdani. When Victims Become Killers, p. 34-39, 73-76, and Chapter 3.

October 1:

- Film: Ghosts of Rwanda (part 2)
- P. Gourevitch, We Wish to Inform You: Ch. 11
- M. Mamdani. When Victims Become Killers: Chapter 7

October 6: Genocide in Rwanda

- P. Rusesabagina. An Ordinary Man: Ch. 1-5
- J. Hatzfield. Machete Season: The Killers in Rwanda Speak:
 - “The Killers” (p. 245-253)
 - “How it was organized” (p. 10-16)
 - “The First Time” (p. 21-27)
 - “A Gang” (p. 28-35)
 - “Apprenticeship” (p. 36-40)
 - “Taste and Distaste” (p. 47-51)

October 8:

- P. Rusesabagina. An Ordinary Man: Ch. 6-11
- J. Hatzfield. Machete Season: The Killers in Rwanda Speak:
 - “Field Work” (p. 60-65)
 - “Punishment” (p. 71-76)
 - “Looting” (p. 82-87)
 - “Acquaintances” (p. 119-124)
 - “And God in All This?” (p. 140-147)
 - “Remorse and Regrets” (p. 157-164)
 - “Bargaining for Forgiveness” (p. 195-201)
 - “Pardons” (p. 202-207)
 - “Hatred of the Tutsis” (p. 216-221)

TOPIC IV: THE CRISIS IN DARFUR, SUDAN

October 13:

- M. Mamdani. Saviors and Survivors: Introduction, Ch. 1, 2
- D. Hari. The Translator: Pp. 3-61

October 15:

- M. Mamdani. Saviors and Survivors: Pp. 104-108, Ch. 5
- D. Hari. The Translator: Pp. 62-119

October 20:

- M. Mamdani. Saviors and Survivors: Part III “Rethinking the Darfur Crisis”
- D. Hari. The Translator: Pp. 120-179

October 22:

- First Paper Due in Class
- Open Discussion—Comparing Conflict and Forgiveness in S. Africa, Rwandan, and Sudan

TOPIC V: THE HIV/AIDS EPIDEMIC IN AFRICA

October 27: Lecture/Discussion: 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/3030-13.pdf>
- Kaiser Family Foundation. “The HIV/AIDS Epidemic in Sub-Saharan Africa.” Available on-line at <http://www.kff.org/hivaids/upload/7391-071.pdf>
- Susan N. Kiguli and Violet Barungi. I Dare to Say. Foreword, Preface & “The Second Twin.”

October 29: In-Class Film: A Closer Walk

- Tony Barnett and Alan Whiteside. “Is Africa Exceptional?” in AIDS in the Twenty-First Century [Electronic Reserve]
- Susan N. Kiguli and Violet Barungi. I Dare to Say. “Key to a New Life” and “Looking for Home.”

November 3: Lecture/Discussion: Access to Prevention, Treatment and Care

- Melissa Fay Greene. There Is No Me Without You. (Ch. 28) [Electronic Reserve]
- Patrick Bond. “Globalization, Pharmaceutical Pricing, and South African Health Policy: Managing Confrontations with U.S. Firms and Politicians.” In International Journal of Health Services, Volume 29, Number 4 / 1999, p. 765-792.
- The United States President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief. 2009, Jan. “PEPFAR Overview” Available on-line at: <http://www.pepfar.gov/press/81352.htm>
- Center for Health and Gender Equity. 2008 (Jul 30). “Press Release: Statement of Center for Health and Gender Equity Executive Director Serra Sippel in Response to President Bush Signing Bill to Reauthorize PEPFAR.” Available on-line at: <http://pepfarwatch.org/images/PEPFAR/pr2008.bushpepfar.pdf>

November 5: Lecture/Discussion: Social Movements and Community Mobilization

- Samantha Power. “The AIDS Rebel.” Available on-line at: http://www.accessmylibrary.com/coms2/summary_0286-23317123_ITM
- Irwin, Alexander C., Joyce V. Millen, and Dorothy Fallows. 2003. “Preface” and “Myth Ten: Nothing We Can Do.” In *Global AIDS: Myths and Facts: Tools for Fighting the AIDS Pandemic*. Boston: South End Press. [Electronic Reserve]
- Steven Friedman and Shauna Mottiar. “A Moral to the Tale: The Treatment Action Campaign and the Politics of HIV/AIDS” Available on-line at: <http://www.ukzn.ac.za/ccs/files/Friedman%20Mottier%20TAC%20Research%20Report%20Short.pdf>
- Susan N. Kiguli and Violet Barungi. I Dare to Say. “In God’s Palm.”

November 10:

- MIDTERM EXAM

TOPIC VI: GLOBALIZATION AND DEVELOPMENT

November 12: In Class Film “This Magnificent African Cake”

November 17: Lecture/Discussion: Colonialism—The Economic Impact

- Adu Boahen. “The Imposition of the Colonial System.” in African Perspectives on Colonialism [Electronic Reserve]

November 19: Lecture/Discussion: Colonialism—The Economic Impact

- Adu Boahen. “The Colonial Impact.” In African Perspectives on Colonialism [Electronic Reserve]

November 24: Lecture/Discussion: Globalization, Development, & Key Global Institutions

- Maggie Black. “The History of an Idea.” In The No-Nonsense Guide to International Development. (Ch. 1) [Electronic Reserve]
- Stiglitz, “Another World is Possible.” In Making Globalization Work. (Ch. 1)

December 1: Lecture/Discussion: Debt and Structural Adjustment

- Wayne Ellwood. “Debt and Structural Adjustment” The No-Nonsense Guide to Globalization. (Ch. 3) [Electronic Reserve]
- Howard Stein. “The World Bank and the IMF in Africa: Strategy and Routine in the Generation of a Failed Agenda.” [Electronic Reserve]
- Paul J. Kaiser. “Structural Adjustment and the Fragile Nation: The Demise of Social Unity in Tanzania.” [Electronic Reserves]

December 3: Lecture/Discussion: Trade and Corporations

- 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>

- Dambisa Moyo. “Let’s Trade.” In Dead Aid: Why Aid is Not Working and How There is a Better Way for Africa. (Ch. 8) [Electronic Reserves]
- Stiglitz, “The Multinational Corporation.” In Making Globalization Work. (Ch. 7) [Electronic Reserves]
- Sunday Dare. “A Continent in Crisis: Africa and Globalization.” Available on-line at http://www.thirdworldtraveler.com/Africa/Continent_Crisis.html
- Caroline Ekobu. “The Poverty Trap: A Ugandan Perspective on Globalization.” Available on-line at <http://mcc.org/economicglobalization/viewpoints/perspectives/globaleves/international/povertytrap.html>

December 8: Lecture/Discussion: Rethinking Globalization and Development

- Jeffrey Sachs. The End of Poverty. (p. 302-328) [Electronic Reserve]
- Kofi Annan. “The Role of the State in the Age of Globalization.” In The Globalization Reader, 2nd Ed. [Electronic Reserve]
- Zine Magubane and Paul Tiyambe Zeleza. “Globalization and Africa’s Intellectual Engagements.” In Rethinking Globalism. [Electronic Reserve]

December 10: Final Paper Due, Open Lecture/Discussion, Wrap Up

Final Exam, December 21 at 9 AM!!!