

Modern Africa

HIAF 111
Winter 2014
PCYNH 121
Tues-Thurs, 3.30-4.50

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Our perceptions of Africa have been shaped by stereotypes of the continent as historically isolated and naturally prone to famine, disease, and war. This course challenges these images by outlining (1) how such myths of Africa have taken shape, and (2) alternative ways of perceiving African realities. Since common stereotypes have filtered through the lenses of racism, imperialism, and colonialism, the course will interrogate each of these topics in multiple contexts. Just as important, as a means to dispel presumptions of African isolation we will investigate Africa's historical relation to other world regions before, during, and after colonization. Though we will stress the uniqueness of specific local, national, or regional circumstances, we will address each through themes such as spirituality, nationalism, and economy that affected people across the continent and drew them into larger spheres of relation. In this way we can appreciate common circumstances across Africa as well as divergences of experience.

In order to draw connections between Africa's precolonial, colonial, and postcolonial histories the course spans the late nineteenth century to the present. We will not uncouple Africa's colonial history from the present but instead recognize the legacies of colonialism for contemporary Africa. Though not rigidly chronological, the lectures and readings follow a rough chronology that can help map large-scale changes over nearly a century and a half. Interconnectivity, foreign intervention, and the politics of identity will be unifying themes as we consider the complexities of Africa's recent past and assemble a tool-kit to more critically appraise contemporary interpretations of Africa.

Required readings: available at the UCSD bookstore

Buchi Emecheta, *The Joys of Motherhood*. Heinemann: London, 1994.

Adam Hochschild, *King Leopold's Ghost: A Story of Greed, Terror, and Heroism in Colonial Africa*. New York: Mariner Books, 1999.

Paul Rusesabagina, *An Ordinary Man: An Autobiography*. New York: Penguin, 2007.

Ngugi wa Thiong'o, *Matigari*. Trenton, NJ: Africa World Press, 1998.

EXAMS & ASSIGNMENTS:

EXAMS: Two exams will be administered over the course of the quarter. Both will be take home exams. You will be given the questions for the first exam at the end of class on February 6. **Your responses to all essay questions must be drawn from the lectures and readings.** The midterm exam must be submitted in class on February 11. The final must be submitted by 4.30pm on **March 18** to the bin marked **'HIAF**

111' on the fifth floor of HSS. **NO FINALS WILL BE ACCEPTED BY EMAIL.**

The two exams will consist of essay questions. **The final will be cumulative, so you will be responsible for bringing material from throughout the semester to bear on your responses.**

ASSIGNMENTS: We will watch multiple films over the course of the quarter. You are required to write a **one-page (600 words), single-spaced response to one of the films.** *You may decide which one you would like to review. THE ONLY RULE IS THAT IT CANNOT BE THE LAST FILM.* The response should not be a comprehensive outline of the film but should instead be a reflection on the themes, ideas, and messages of the movies. What did the film attempt to convey? In what ways was it successful? What were its faults? What did you like? What didn't you like? Each response is due **one week** from the day we view the film. **NO ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED BY EMAIL.**

EVALUATION:

Final grades will be calculated in the following manner:

- 1) Exams: 90 percent (45% midterm, 45% Final)**
 - 2) Film responses: 10 percent**
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SCHEDULE OF CLASS MEETINGS

| Meeting | Reading |
|---|--|
| 01.07 Introductions 01.09 Perceptions | none <i>King Leopold's Ghost</i> , 1-60 |
| 01.14 Diasporas 01.16 Global Economies | <i>King Leopold's Ghost</i> , 61-114 <i>King Leopold's Ghost</i> , 115-181 |
| 01.21 Belief Systems 01.23 Invasions | <i>King Leopold's Ghost</i> , 185-224 <i>King Leopold's Ghost</i> , 225-274 |
| 01.28 Making Tribes 01.30 Labor | <i>King Leopold's Ghost</i> , 275-318 <i>Joys of Motherhood</i> , 1-55 |
| 02.04 Apartheid 02.06 Discussion | <i>Joys of Motherhood</i> , 56-150 <i>Joys of Motherhood</i> , 151-224 |
| 02.11 Nationalisms | <i>Matigari</i> , 1-60 |

MIDTERM EXAM DUE IN-CLASS

| | | |
|-------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 02.13 | Film: <i>Catch a Fire</i> | none |
| 02.18 | Postcolonial Conflict | <i>Matigari</i> , 61-100 |
| 02.20 | Film: <i>Taking Root</i> | <i>Matigari</i> , 101-156 |
| 02.25 | HIV/AIDS | <i>Matigari</i> , 157-210 |
| 02.27 | Film: <i>Black Gold</i> | <i>An Ordinary Man</i> , 1-40 |
| 03.04 | Genocide 1994 | <i>An Ordinary Man</i> , 41-90 |
| 03.06 | Petroleum Futures | <i>An Ordinary Man</i> , 91-140 |
| 03.11 | Film: <i>Stolen Seas</i> | <i>An Ordinary Man</i> , 141-190 |
| 03.13 | Discussion and exam preparation | <i>An Ordinary Man</i> , 191-224 |

FINAL EXAM questions will be handed out at the end of class on March 13. The essays must be submitted by 4pm on Tuesday, **March 18** to the file bin opposite the elevators, HSS floor 5. Place your essay in the bin labeled "HIAF 111".