

University of Wisconsin-Madison
 Department of History
 Spring 2007

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 Off. hours: T 10:45-11:45—R 1:00-2:00

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 Learn@UW : 600-2

History 600-2 : Popular Cultures in 20th century Africa
 R 11:00 am-1:00 pm, 5255 Humanities



**Chéri Chérin, Moké: le début de la fin? 2001. Acrylic on canvas, 142 x 293
 Africa Remix Exhibit.**

Grading:

ORAL (30%)

An important core of our work will be intensive weekly discussions of assigned readings. Discussion are based on a careful analysis of the assigned readings for the week. They also depend on your willingness to share the ideas, questions and comments that the readings suggest to you. Taking the time and energy to contribute to class discussion, and move it forward whether with a comment, question, doubt or criticism, is a crucial component of this. Active participation in the discussions will count as 30% of your final grade, and will be evaluated on a weekly basis according to the criteria just outlined.

WRITTEN (70%)**Two Response Papers (20%)**

- Week 2: write a one-page (words: 450 minimum-500 maximum) response paper on readings. See guide question for response paper (abbreviated as RPQ) for the week.
- Week 8-10: on one week of your choice, write a one-page (words: 450 minimum-500 maximum) response paper on readings for the week. See RPQ for each week. The response paper is due in class during the chosen session.

Two Longer Essays (20% + 30%)

- Essay 1—due week 8: using class materials from week 1-6, write a 4-6 page (words: 1000 minimum-1500 maximum) on one of the following topics:
 - A. How did perceptions of the human body and corporeal practices change during colonialism? How can this illustrate the influence of the colonial context? African resistance? Use specific examples to support your argument.
 - B. Choose and analyze a few examples of the ways in which colonialism used material objects and places to shape power relationships in Africa. How could this be undermined by African subjects? Conclude on whether or not these struggles uncover important elements in the nature of colonial power.
- Essay 2—due week 15: After choosing a topic related to the themes studied in week 11-14, and clearing your choice with me, you will write a 8-10 page research paper. You can also choose to write on a topic unrelated to week 11-14, but still need to clear you project with me.

Writings tips and Course regulationsAn excellent paper

- contains arguments based on specific examples from the readings and lecture materials.
- has original ideas and is thought-provoking.
- has a clearly evident one-sentence thesis statement in the introductory paragraph. This statement of the paper's argument is systematically developed in the body of the paper, and summarized in a concluding paragraph.
- is nuanced and complex (using expressions such as: according to XXX...this suggests...probably...)
- uses active voice, and avoids contractions and informal language.
- notes all references to sources consistently following any standard form of citation.
- uses normal police for characters (max. 12) and reasonable margins.

Course regulations

- No make-ups for being absent, late, or late in turning assignments. Missed exams will only be excused with doctors notes or other formal documents.
- Two absences affect the final grade. More than three unexcused absences mean a failed course (graded F).
- Late written assignments will be marked down a grade (e.g.: from a "B" to a "C") for each school day missed, and will not be accepted after three school days after the due date (thus marked "F"). Papers put under instructors' office door will not be graded. Papers turned late can be put in our mailbox ONLY if signed, dated and timed by administrator at History Department front desk.

Readings:

E-Articles are available online at Learn@UW (click on 600-2, and on contents).

The following books (required) are available at the University Book Store and on reserve at Helen C. White. Readings marked with a * are recommended only and can serve as material for your response papers and essays.

Karin Barber, ed. *Readings in African Popular Culture* (1997) [abbreviated as RIAPC]
 Phyllis Martin, *Leisure and Society in Colonial Brazzaville* (1995) [abbreviated as LSCB]
 Christopher Steiner, *African Art in Transit* (1994)
 Tsitsi Dangarembga, *Nervous Conditions :A novel* (1998)
 John Iliffe, *The African AIDS Epidemic : A History* (2006)
 Paul Stoller, *Money Has No Smell. The Africanization of New York City* (2002)

***** SCHEDULE *****

01/25 Week 1. Introduction—

Movie: Amandla! (Lee Hirsch, 2003)
 RIAPC: K. Barber, Views of the Field, 1-12
 *RIAPC: V. Erlmann, Africa Civilized, Africa Uncivilized, 171-77

Section I : Colonial Era

02/01 Week 2. The Colonial City

RPQ: *To what extent can we argue that 'leisure' in Brazzaville was first and foremost a white/western concept & experience? Why?*

LSCB: pp. 1-98
 Video: On Kinshasa

02/08 Week 3. Labor Culture and Gender Identities

RIAPC: David Coplan, Lesotho's Migrant Songs
 E-Article: P. Harries, Kimberley and a New Working Class, 48-80

02/15 Week 4. Leisure and Resistance

LSCB: Football is King, 99-126
 E-article: E. Akyeampong, What's In A Drink ?

02/22 Week 5. Visual Cultures

RIAPC: B. Jewsiewicki, Painting in Zaire, 99-110
 E-Articles: P. Landau, Empires of the Visual: Photography and Colonial Administration in Africa, 141-71; or: Eric Gable, Bad Copies, 294-319 [choose one]

03/01 Week 6. Christianity and the Sacred

E-Articles: Sandra Greene, Sacred Sites, chap. 3 to 5 and conclusion, 61-137
 Terence Ranger, Taking Hold of the Land, 158-94

03/08 Week 7. Essay Preparation.

Section II: Postcolonial Cultures

03/15 Week 8. Music, Fashion, and Liberation Struggles

RPQ: In which ways does popular music serve as a moral compass for African audiences? How did this change according to different contexts in time?

*****Essay 1 due in my mailbox Tuesday 03/13 before 10:00 am*****

LSCB: pp. 127-200

E-Article: D. Gondola, Dream and Drama

RIAPC: E. Linnebuhr, Kanga: Popular Cloth with Messages, 138-41

*RIAPC: A. Pongweni, Chimurenga Songs of the Zimbabwean War of Liberation, 63-72

*RIAPC: Diawara, Mande Oral Popular Culture Revisited by the Electronic Media, 40-48

[COME TO MY OFFICE HOURS TO CLEAR ESSAY 2 TOPIC]

03/22 Week 9. Gender Wars

RPQ: Choose and discuss a specific aspect of gender tensions in the readings.

Tsitsi Dagarengba, Nervous Conditions (all)

*E-Article: E. Akyeampong, Wo pe tam won pe ba

*RIAPC: Bisi Adeleye-Fayemi, Either One or the Other, 125-31

[COME TO MY OFFICE HOURS TO CLEAR ESSAY 2 TOPIC]

03/29 Week 10 Poverty and Wealth.

RPQ: Discuss popular opinions' contradictory images of wealth. What solutions are proposed to solve these contradictions?

Movie: La petite vendeuse de soleil (Djibril Diop Mambety, 1999)

RIAPC: K. Barber, Popular Reactions to the Petro-Naira

E-Article: B. Meyer, Commodities and the Power of Prayer

03/31-04/08 SPRING BREAK

04/12 Week 11. Screens and Stages: TV, Cinema and Theater.

RIAPC: Ngugi wa Thiong'o, Women in Cultural Work

E-Articles: C. Ambler, Colonial Films and Popular Audiences

P. Richards, Videos and Violence: Youth Exposure to Modern Media

04/19 Week 12. African Art.

Christopher Steiner, African Art in Transit (all)

Search the following sites and prepare in-depth comments on an artist, a work, or an exhibit:

- **100% Africa**—Guggenheim Museum- Bilbao (Spain)-- 2006-7
www.guggenheim-bilbao.es/ingles/exposiciones/las_exposiciones.htm
- **Africa Remix.** Exhibition of Contemporary African Art –2005-6
www.universes-in-universe.de/specials/africa-remix/english.htm
<http://www.africaremix.org.uk/>
- **Contemporary African Art Collection**-Jean Pigozzi Collection
www.caacart.com [click on artists]
- **African Art Now**—Masterpieces from the Jean Pigozzi Collection.
Smithsonian Institution- (DC)-- 2005-6
www.nmafa.si.edu/exhibits/pigozzi/index.html

04/26 Week 13. HIV-AIDS.

John Iliffe, The African AIDS Epidemic (all)

*E-Article: C. Bledsoe, The Politics of AIDS, Condoms and Heterosexual Relations

05/03 Week 14. Diasporic Cultures—The Empire Strikes Back?

Paul Stoller, Money Has No Smell (all)

*On 2005 riots in France, see:

E-article: E. Sciolino, Ban Religious Attire in France (New York Times)

Paul Zeleza, The Postcolonial Uprising in France, article online at:

<http://zeleza.com/blog/index.php?p=33&more=1&c=1>

05/10 Week 15. Conclusion-- *Essay 2 due in class*****

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Additional references

Electronic resources

Africa Focus: Sights and Sounds of a Continent (UW Digital Library):

<http://digicoll.library.wisc.edu/AfricaFocus/>

AllAfrica- Distributes the content of numerous African news and media outlets:

<http://allafrica.com/>

AfroPop Worldwide: Guide to Africa music: <http://www.afropop.org>

Africa Action—Activism Since 1953: <http://www.africaaction.org/index.php>

Books (a* indicates a general text book)

Allman, Jean. 2004. *Fashioning Africa. Power and the Politics of Dress*. Bloomington : Indiana University Press

*Appiah, Kwame A. & Gates, Henry Louis Jr. Eds. 1999. *Africana. Encyclopedia of the African and African-American Experience*. New York: Perseus Books.

Beoku-Betts, Josephine A. 1995. "We Got Our Way of Cooking Things: Women, Food, and Preservation of Cultural Identity among the Gullah." *Gender and Society* 9(5): 535-555.

Bender, Wolfgang. 1991. *Sweet Mother : Modern African Music*. Chicago : University of Chicago Press

*Boahen, A. Adu. 1989. *African Perspectives on Colonialism*. Baltimore, Md. : Johns Hopkins University Press.

Clifford, James. 1997. *Routes: Travel and Translation in the Late Twentieth Century*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, esp. 'Diasporas,' pp. 244-79.

Comaroff, Jean and Comaroff, John. 1993. *Modernity and Its Malcontents. Ritual and Power in Postcolonial Africa*. Chicago & London: University of Chicago Press.

*Cooper, Frederick. 2002. *Africa Since 1940. The Past of the Present*. Cambridge: Cambridge U. P.

*Curtin, P., Feierman, S. and Vansina, V. 1995. *African History*. New York: Longman.

Deutsch, Jan-Georg, Probst, Peter and Schmidt, Heike. 2002. *African Modernities*. Portsmouth, NJ: Heinemann.

Diouf, Sylvianne A. 1997. *Senegalese in New York: A Model Minority?*, Bloomington: Indiana University Press.

Gilroy, Paul. 2002. *There Ain't No Black in the Union Jack: The Cultural Politics of Race and Nation*.

Gomez, Michael. 1998. *Exchanging our Country Marks. The Transformations of African Identities in the Colonial and Antebellum South*. Chapel Hill. University of North Carolina Press.

James, Allison. 1997. "How British is British Food?" Pp. 71-86 in *Food, Health and Identity*, Pat Caplan, ed. London: Routledge.

*Kwamena-Poh, M. 1983. *African History in Maps*. New York: Longman.

MacGaffey, Janet and Bazenguissa-Ganga, Rémy. 1999. *Congo-Paris. Transnational Traders on the Margins of the Law*. Bloomington and Indianapolis: Indiana University Press.

Martin, Phyllis. 1995. *Leisure and Society in Colonial Brazzaville*. Cambridge: Cambridge U.P.

*Middleton, John. Ed. 1997. *Encyclopedia of Africa South of the Sahara*. New York: Charles Scribner's.

Mudimbe, Vincent Y. 1988. *The Invention of Africa*, Bloomington: Indiana University Press.

Okpewho, Isidore, Boyce Davies, Carole & Mazrui Ali. 1999. *The African Diaspora. African Origins and New World Identities*. Bloomington and Indianapolis: Indiana University Press.

Ranger, Terence. 1983. "The Invention of Tradition in Colonial Africa," in Eric Hobsbawm and Terence Ranger, eds. *The Invention of Tradition*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Thiong'o, Ngũgĩ Wa. 1986. *Decolonising the Mind : The Politics of Language in African Literature*. Portsmouth, N.H. : Heinemann.