

# MPhil in African Studies

## Core Course Reading List, 2013-14

**Lecturer:** Ruth Watson, [riw21@cam.ac.uk](mailto:riw21@cam.ac.uk)

**Office hour:** Mondays from 1615-1700 in Centre of African Studies (CAS) Meeting Room

**Class time and location:** Tuesdays, 14.00-16:00, Room S3, Alison Richard Building

### **Brief description of the course:**

This interdisciplinary compulsory core course aims to introduce you to theoretical and methodological issues in African studies, whilst at the same time conveying substantive information about the histories, cultures, politics and economies of Africa. The course is taught for 12 weeks through Michaelmas term and the first half of Lent term via weekly two-hour seminar discussion classes. Readings and weekly topics are set in advance. Films and fictional works are set alongside academic literature, and you will also attend the *African Studies Film Club*, which runs fortnightly on Wednesday afternoons (1.30pm-3.30pm) during Michaelmas term. The films relate to some of the weekly topics; you are encouraged to compare how academic literature and film offer different perspectives on key issues and debates.

### **Teaching:**

Teaching consists of a weekly seminar discussion class, lead by Dr Watson. You are expected to participate actively in the weekly discussions and to do the reading, of which there is a significant amount. All students will be required to offer at least one presentation on one of the weekly topics (a very short discussion paper of no more than 15 minutes (1,500-2000 words). Should you wish to further your knowledge, there are optional Africa-related lectures running in other faculties and departments across the University, including POLIS, History, Archaeology and Anthropology, and Geography. These lectures are intended mainly for undergraduates, but they will provide relevant context and background information to many of the topics we study.

### **Assessment:**

You will submit one essay of 5,000 words (excluding references and bibliography) on 14 March 2014; this essay constitutes 100% of your final mark for the Core Course. The MPhil Office will provide you with a list of essay questions on 14 January 2014. Degree regulations require that you write your essay on one of these prescribed questions; you are not permitted to develop your own. Examples of past essay topics can be obtained from the MPhil Office. Your mark for the core course counts for 20% of the final mark in the MPhil African Studies.

### **Course Structure:**

The debates and issues covered by this course are extremely broad and diverse, both in terms of chronological scope and geographical spread. African Studies is also by definition interdisciplinary, thus readings are drawn from a wide range of disciplines in the humanities and social sciences. To help you navigate this intellectual complexity, the reading list is structured into sections. A useful starting point is the list of *General* books, which offer an overview of some of the key themes.

Under each of the weekly topic descriptions you will find *Seminar*, *Core* and *Supplementary* readings. The *Seminar* readings, usually one or two journal articles, are essential reading. Ensuring we have all read something in common enables us to start our discussion 'on the same page' and gives us a shared base of ideas. The *Core* readings are useful for the seminar discussions and essays. The *Supplementary* reading lists are provided for those who want to dig deeper into particular issues. Included here are novels and films that may enhance your understanding and offer an alternative perspective from academic literature. You are of course encouraged to do your own bibliographic searches on specific topics, and you are required to do so for your essays.

The key library for this course is the **Centre of African Studies Library**, where most core texts are available, some on overnight loan. You can also try other libraries across the University, including your College libraries, the University Library, and the PPS, Haddon, Marshall, Seeley, and Geography libraries. Consult the 'Cambridge Libraries Gateway' for more information. Most of the journal articles listed are available on-line via the UL eresources webpage, or try using the LibrarySearch+ catalogue to find links to full text articles that you can download or print. You are warmly encouraged to suggest additions to the reading list, and indeed to propose deletions.

### **List of weekly topics:**

- Week 1: Africa in the *longue durée*
- Week 2: People, politics and power in precolonial Africa
- Week 3: Colonialism in the history and historiography of Africa
- Week 4: God, gods, missionaries and their African translators
- Week 5: Imagining African futures
- Week 6: From colonialism to postcolonialism
- Week 7: Conflict in postcolonial Africa
- Week 8: Popular culture in African history and politics
- Week 9: Poverty and wealth in Africa
- Week 10: Aid, development, power and knowledge
- Week 11: Health and healing in Africa: past and present
- Week 12: Population, environment and climate change

## General Books:

These books are not textbooks for the core course or a substitute for the weekly readings. However, they will introduce you to key ideas and debates and provide useful context.

K.A. Appiah, *In my father's house: Africa in the philosophy of culture* (London, 1992)

R.H. Bates, V.Y. Mudimbe, & J. O'Barr (eds.) *Africa and the disciplines: the contributions of research in Africa to the social sciences and humanities* (London, 1993)

Frederick Cooper, *Colonialism in question: theory, knowledge, history* (Berkeley, 2005)

John Iliffe, *Africans: the history of a continent*, 2nd ed (Cambridge, 2007)

V.Y. Mudimbe, *The idea of Africa* (London, 1994)

Paul Nugent, *Africa since independence* 2nd ed (Basingstoke, 2012)

Richard J. Reid, *A history of modern Africa: 1800 to the present* 2nd ed (Oxford, 2011)

Ann Brower Stahl, *African archaeology; a critical introduction* (Oxford, 2005)

Crawford Young, *The postcolonial state in Africa* (Madison, 2012)

Tom Young, *Africa: a beginner's guide*, (Oxford, 2010)

## Weekly Discussion Readings

### WEEK ONE: Africa in the longue durée

This class focuses on the importance of understanding something of Africa's deeper past and longer cultural history, and the methodological challenges involved in that. For example, we will discuss the utility of linguistic and archaeological evidence in African history, debates about oral historical methodologies and the drawbacks of 'presentism' when studying Africa, and the shifting meaning of concepts such as 'ethnicity' and 'motherhood' when seen through the long distant past.

### Seminar Readings

Spear, T. 'Early Swahili history reconsidered' *International Journal of African Historical Studies* 33 (2000), 257-90

Stahl, A.B. 'The archaeology of African history' *The International Journal of African Historical Studies* 42 (2009), pp. 241-255

### Core Readings

Nugent, P. 'Putting the history back into ethnicity' *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 50 (2008): 920-948

Nurse, D. 'The contributions of linguistics to the study of history in Africa' *Journal of African History* 38 (1997): 359-391

Reid, R. 'Past and presentism: The precolonial and the foreshortening of African history' *Journal of African History* 52 (2011): 135-155

Stahl, A.B. *Making history in Banda: anthropological visions of Africa's past* (Cambridge, 2001), Chapters 2-5

Schoenbrun, D. 'Mixing, moving, making, meaning: possible futures for the distant past' *African Archaeological Review* 29 (2012): 293-317

Stephens, R. 'Birthing wealth? Motherhood and poverty in East-Central Uganda, c. 700-1900' *Past and Present* 215 (2012): 235-268

### Supplementary Readings

Austen, R. A. *Trans-Saharan Africa in world history* (Oxford, 2010)

Austen, R. A. *In search of Sunjata: the Mande oral epic as history, literature and performance* (Bloomington, 1999)

Connah, G. *African civilizations: an archaeological perspective* 2nd edn, (Cambridge, 2001)

Christopher Ehret, *The civilizations of Africa: a history to 1800* (Oxford, 2002)

McIntosh, R.J. *The peoples of the Middle Niger: The island of gold* (Oxford, 1998)

Philips, J.E (ed), *Writing African history* (Rochester, 2005), Chapters 2-3 & 6-7.

Schrire, C. (ed), *Past and present in hunter gatherer studies* (Orlando, 1984) Chapters 6-9

Schoenbrun, D. 'Conjuring the modern in Africa: Durability and rupture in histories of public healing between the Great Lakes of East Africa' *American Historical Review* 111 (2006): 1403-1439

Schoenbrun, D., *A green place, a good place: Agrarian change, gender and social identity in Great Lakes region to the 15th century* (Portsmouth, 1998)

Spear, T. 'The interpretation of evidence in African history' *African Studies Review* 30 (1987): 17-24

Stephens, R. 'Lineage and society in precolonial Uganda' *Journal of African History* 50 (2009): 203-21

Vansina, J. 'Oral tradition and its methodology' in J Ki-Zerbo (ed), *General History of Africa: methodology and African prehistory, Volume I* (Paris, 1981): 142-165

Vansina, J. *How societies are born: governance in West Central Africa before 1600* (Charlottesville, 2004)

- Novels and Films

Armah, A. K. *Two Thousand Seasons* (Ghana, 1973)

Ouologuem, Y. *Le Devoir de Violence/Bound to Violence* (Mali, 1968/1971).

Available in *The Yambo Ouologuem Reader* (Trenton NJ, 2008)

*Keita!* Directed by D. Kouyaté (Burkina Faso, 1994)

*Sankofa* Directed by Haile Gerima (Ethiopia, 1993)

## **WEEK TWO: People, politics and power in precolonial Africa**

In this class we will focus on debates on the nature of the state in precolonial Africa, of power relations and social organization. This will include discussions of the theory that pre-colonial Africa was a 'labour-constrained' continent, the character of labour regimes and domestic slavery, the relationship between gender, generation and power, as well as the role of violence and warfare in state formation.

### Seminar Readings

Vaughan, M. 'Africa and the birth of the modern world' *Transactions of the Royal Historical Society* 16 (2006): 143-162

McCaskie, T.C. 'Denkyira in the making of Asante c. 1660-1720' *Journal of African History* 48 (2007): 1-25

### Core Readings

Austin, G. 'Resources, techniques and strategies south of the Sahara: revising the factor endowments perspective on African economic development, 1500-2000' *Economic History Review* 61 (2008): 587-624

Bay, E. *Wives of the leopard: Gender, politics and culture in the kingdom of Dahomey* (Charlottesville, 1998) Chapters 1-4

Doyle, S. *Crisis and decline in Bunyoro: population and environment in western Uganda 1860-1955* (Oxford, 2006) Chapters 1-2

McCaskie, T.C. *State and society in pre-colonial Asante* (Cambridge, 1995) Chapter 2

Reid, R. *Political power in pre-colonial Buganda: Economy, society and warfare in the nineteenth century* (Oxford, 2002) Part 2

Wilks, I. *Forests of Gold: Essays on the Akan and the kingdom of Asante* (Athens, 1993), Chapters 2-3

### Supplementary Readings

Achebe, N. *Farmers, traders, warriors, and kings: Female power and authority in Northern Igboland* (Portsmouth, 2005)

Alpers, N. 'Kingalu mwana Shaha and political leadership in nineteenth-century eastern Tanzania' in G. Maddox & J. Giblin (eds), *In search of a nation* (Oxford, 2005): 33-54

Doyle, S. *Crisis and decline in Bunyoro: population and environment in western Uganda 1860-1955* (Oxford, 2006) Introduction & Chapters 1-3

Iliffe, J. *Honour in African History* (Cambridge, 2005) Part One: Hero and Householder

Hanson, H. 'Mapping conflict: Heterarchy and accountability in the ancient capital of Buganda' *Journal of African History* 50 (2009): 179-202

- Kodesh, N. *Beyond the royal gaze: clanship and public healing in Buganda* (Charlottesville, 2010)
- Medard, H. and Doyle, S. *Slavery in the Great Lakes Region of East Africa* (Oxford, 2007)
- Feierman, S. *The Shambaa Kingdom* (Madison, 1974)
- Law, R. *The Oyo empire c. 1600-1836: A West African imperialism in the era of the Atlantic slave trade* (Oxford, 1977)
- Peires, J.B. *The house of Phalo: A history of the Xhosa people in the days of their independence*
- Reid, R. *War in pre-colonial eastern Africa: The patterns and meanings of state-level conflict in the nineteenth century* (Oxford, 2007)
- Vansina, J. *Paths in the rainforest: toward a history of political tradition in equatorial Africa* (Madison, 1990)
- Wilks, I. *Asante in the nineteenth century: The structure and evolution of a political order* 2nd ed (Cambridge, 1989)

- Novels and Films

- Achebe, C. *Things Fall Apart* (Nigeria, 1958)
- Condé, M. *Segu* (Mali, 1987)
- Mofolo, T. *Chaka* (South Africa, 1931)
- Wend Kuuni: God's Gift* Directed by Gaston Kaboré (Burkina Faso, 1982)
- Tilai* Directed by Idrissa Ouedraogo (Burkina Faso, 1990)
- Buud Yam* Directed by Gaston Kaboré (Burkina Faso, 1997)
- Taafé Fanga* 'Skirt power' Directed by Adama Drabo (Mali, 1997)

### **WEEK THREE: Colonialism in the history and historiography of Africa**

This class focuses on the place of colonialism in the history and historiography of Africa. In the light of revisionist work on empire, and new work on African history that stresses African 'agency', how do we assess the impact of colonialism? How convincing is the argument that colonialism was simply an 'episode' in African history versus the contention that experiences of living under colonial rule were completely transformative for Africans?

#### Seminar Readings

- Bernault, F. 'Body, Power and Sacrifice in Equatorial Africa' *The Journal of African History* 47 (2006): 207-239
- White, L. *Speaking with vampires: Rumor and history in colonial Africa* (Berkeley, 2000)  
Chapter 5

### Core Readings

- Bernault, F. 'The shadow of rule: colonial power and modern punishment in Africa', in F Dikötter & I Brown (eds), *Cultures of confinement* (Ithaca, 2007)
- Cooper, F. 'Conflict and connection: rethinking colonial African history' *American Historical Review* 99 (1994): 1516-1545
- Lawrance, B. et al (eds) *Intermediaries, interpreters and clerks: African employees in the making of colonial Africa* (Madison, 2006) Introduction & Chapters 4-7
- Lonsdale, J. & Berman, B. 'Coping with the contradictions: the development of the colonial state in Kenya' *Journal of African History* 20 (1979): 487-505
- Ranger, T 'The invention of tradition revisited: The case of colonial Africa' in T Ranger & O Vaughan (eds.) *Legitimacy and the state in twentieth century Africa* (Basingstoke, 1993)
- Spear, Thomas 'Neo-traditionalism and the limits of invention in British colonial Africa' *Journal of African History* 44 (2003): 3-28

### Supplementary Readings

- Ade Ajayi, J. F. 'Colonialism: an episode in African history' in L H Gann and P Duigan, *Colonialism in Africa, 1870-1960 Vol. I* (Cambridge, 1969)
- Allman, J et al (eds) *Women in African colonial histories* (Bloomington, 2002)
- Ambler, C H. 'The renovation of custom in colonial Kenya' *Journal of African History* 30 (1989): 139-156
- Cooper, F. *Colonialism in question: Theory, knowledge, history* (Berkeley, 2005)
- Gray, C J. *Colonial rule and crisis in equatorial Africa* (Rochester, 2002)
- Feierman, S. *Peasant Intellectuals: Anthropology and history in Tanzania* (Madison, 1990)
- Killingray, D. 'The maintenance of law and order in British colonial Africa' *African Affairs* 85 (1986): 411-37
- Lindsay L. & Miescher, S. *Men and masculinities in modern Africa* (Portsmouth, 2003)
- Memmi, A. *The colonizer and the colonized* (Corrêa, 1957)
- Mamdani, M. *Citizen and subject: Contemporary Africa and the legacy of late colonialism* (Princeton, 1996), chs 1-3
- Ranger, T. 'The invention of tradition in Africa' in E Hobsbawn and T Ranger, *The invention of tradition* (Cambridge, 1983)
- Schmidt, E 'Negotiated spaces and contested terrains: men, women and the law in colonial Zimbabwe' *Journal of Southern African Studies* 16 (1990): 622-48
- Tilley, H & Gordon, R (eds) *Ordering Africa: Anthropology, European Imperialism, and the politics of knowledge*, (Manchester, 2007)
- wa Thiong'o, N. *Decolonising the mind* (London, 1986)

- Novels and Films

*Chocolat* Directed by Claire Denis (France, 1988)

*Nowhere in Africa* Directed by Caroline Link (Germany, 2001)

Bâ, A H., *The Fortunes of Wangrin* (Mali, 1973)

Soyinka, W. *Death and the King's Horseman* (Nigeria, 1976)

## **WEEK FOUR: God, gods, missionaries and their African translators**

This class examines the rich literature on the history of Islam and Christianity in Africa and their relationship to pre-existing cosmologies and systems of thought. The class also examines the politics of religion in colonial and postcolonial Africa.

### Seminar Readings

Loimeier, R. 'Patterns and peculiarities of Muslim reform in Africa' *Journal of Religion in Africa* 33 (2003): 237-62

Meyer, B. 'Christianity in Africa: from African independent to Pentecostal-Charismatic churches' *Annual Review of Anthropology* 33 (2004): 447-74

### Core Readings

Becker, F. 'Commoners in the process of Islamization' *Journal of Global History* 3 (2008): 227-249

Englund, H. 'Pentecostalism beyond belief: trust and democracy in a Malawian township' *Africa* 77 (2007), pp. 477-500

Hunwick, J. 'Sub-Saharan Africa and the wider world of Islam: historical and contemporary perspectives' *Journal of Religion in Africa* 26 (1996): 230-257

Landau, P. "'Religion" and Christian conversion in African history' *Journal of Religious History* 23 (1999): 8-30

Meyer, B. 'If you are a devil, you are a witch and, if you are a witch, you are a devil.' The integration of 'pagan' ideas into the conceptual universe of Ewe Christians in southeastern Ghana, *Journal of Religion in Africa* 22 (1992): 98-13

Larson, P. 'Capacities and modes of thinking: intellectual engagements and subaltern hegemony in the early history of Malagasy Christianity' *American Historical Review* 102 (1997): 968-1001

### Supplementary Readings

Becker, F. 'Rural Islamism during the 'war on terror': a Tanzanian case study' *African Affairs* 105 (2006): 583-603



- Comaroff, J. & J. *Of revelation and revolution: Christianity, colonialism, and consciousness in South Africa* Vols 1 and 2 (Chicago, 1991)
- Fields, K. *Revival and rebellion in colonial central Africa* (Princeton, 1985)
- Geschiere, P. *The modernity of witchcraft* (Charlottesville, 1997)
- Loimeier, R. *Muslim societies in Africa: A historical anthropology* (Bloomington, 2013)
- Marshall, R. *Political spiritualities: the Pentecostal revolution in Nigeria* (Chicago, 2009)
- Masquelier, A. *Prayer has spoiled everything: possession, power, and identity in an Islamic town of Niger*, (Durham, 2001)
- Meyer, B. *Translating the devil* (Edinburgh, 1999)
- Moore, H L and Sanders, T. *Magical interpretations, material realities: modernity, witchcraft and the occult in postcolonial Africa* (London, 2001)
- Olupona, J K (ed). *African spirituality: Forms, meanings and expressions* (New York, 2000)
- Peel, J. D.Y. *Religious encounter and the making of the Yoruba* (Bloomington, 2000)
- Rosanders, E. & Westerlund, D. (eds) *African Islam and Islam in Africa* (Athens, 1997)
- Soares, B. and Otayek, R. *Islam and muslim politics in Africa* (2007)

- Novels and Films

- Ceddo* Directed by Ousmane Sembène (Senegal, 1978)
- Guelwaar* Directed by Ousmane Sembène (Senegal, 1992)
- Bâ, M. *So Long a Letter* (Senegal, 1991)
- Soyinka, W. *Ake: The years of childhood & Isara: A voyage around essay* (Nigeria, 1981)

## **WEEK FIVE: Imagining African Futures**

This class considers the contribution of African political thought and intellectual history to our understanding of twentieth-century Africa. Especially during the decolonisation period, African nationalists and their constituents articulated various theories of liberation and developed different visions of African futures. We will explore these impassioned debates by focusing especially on the writings of Amilcar Cabral, Kwame Nkrumah and Julius Nyerere, among others.

### Seminar Readings

- Cabral, A. 'Identity and dignity in the national liberation struggle' *Africa Today* 19 (1972): 39-47 & 'National liberation and culture' *Transition* 45 (1974): 12-17
- Nkrumah, K. *I speak of freedom: a statement of African ideology* (London, 1961) Chapters 13-15 & 21
- Nyerere, J. 'Freedom and unity' *Transition* 14 (1964): 40-45 & "From Uhuru to Ujamaa' *Africa Today* 21 (1974): 3-8

### Core Readings

- Ahlman, J. 'The Algerian question in Nkrumah's Ghana, 1958-60: Debating "violence" and "nonviolence" in African decolonization' *Africa Today* 57 (2010): 67-84
- Chabal, P. (ed.) *Political domination in Africa: reflections on the limits of power* (Cambridge, 1986) Chapter 5
- Fanon, F. *The wretched of the earth* (Harmondsworth, 1967)
- Shivji, I. 'Nationalism and pan-Africanism: decisive moments in Nyerere's intellectual and political thought' *Review of African Political Economy* 39 (2012): 103-116
- Martin, G. *African political thought* (Basingstoke, 2012), Chapters 4-6
- Wallerstein, I. *Africa: the politics of unity. An analysis of a contemporary social movement* (New York, 1967)

### Supplementary Readings

- Biney, A. *The political and social thought of Kwame Nkrumah* (Basingstoke, 2011)
- Cabral, A. *Unity and struggle: speeches and writings* (London, 1980)
- Chabal, P. *Amilcar Cabral: Revolutionary leadership and people's war* (Cambridge, 1983)
- Falola, T. *Nationalism and African intellectuals* (Rochester NY, 2001)
- July, R. *The origins of modern African thought: Its development in West Africa during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries* (Trenton NJ, 2004)
- Mkandawire, T. (ed.), *African intellectuals: rethinking politics, language, gender and development* (Dakar, 2005)
- Mazrui, A. *Towards a Pax Africana: a study of ideology and ambition* (Chicago, 1967)  
Chapter 3. See also Mazuri's 1979 BBC Reith Lecture series on 'The African condition': <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00h4n4v>
- Nyerere, J. *Freedom and unity* (Dar es Salaam, 1966)
- Nyerere, J. *Freedom and socialism* (Dar es Salaam, 1968)
- Nkrumah, K. *Africa must unite* (London, 1963)
- Peterson, C.F., *Dubois, Fanon, Cabral: The margins of elite anti-colonial leadership* (Lanham, MD, 2007)
- Senghor, L. *On African socialism* (New York, 1964)

- Novels and Films

- The Battle of Algiers* Directed by Gillo Pontecorvo (Algeria, 1966)
- Lumumba* Directed by Raoul Peck (Congo, 2000)
- Césaire, A. *Notebook of a return to my native land* (Martinique, 1939)
- Senghor, L. *Nocturnes* (London, 1969)

## **WEEK SIX: From colonialism to postcolonialism**

This class examines the extent to which the postcolonial politics of Africa can be seen as a legacy of the colonial period. Has ethnicity become more politically significant in postcolonial Africa? Are African states simply predatory on their people? What has been the impact of structural adjustment and political 're-democratization' in Africa? To what extent have political solutions to Africa's problems been imposed from outside, rather than formulated on the continent?

### Seminar Readings

Bayart, J-F. 'Africa in the world: a history of extraversion' *African Affairs* 99 (2000): 217-67  
 Berman, B. 'Ethnicity, patronage and the African state: the politics of uncivil nationalism' *African Affairs* 97 (1998): 305-341

### Core Readings

Bayart, J F *The state in Africa: The politics of the belly* (London, 1993)  
 Branch, D. 'Democratization, sequencing and state failure in Africa: Lessons from Kenya' *African Affairs* (2009): 1-26  
 Clapham, C. 'Rethinking African states' *African Security Review* 10 (2001): 6-16  
 Kaiser, P J. 'Structural adjustment and the fragile nation: the demise of social unity in Tanzania' *Journal of Modern African Studies* 34 (1996), pp. 227-237  
 Mustapha, R. 'Coping with diversity: The Nigerian state in historical perspective' in Samatar, A.I. (ed.) *The African state: reconsiderations* (Portsmouth NH, 2002)  
 Reno, W. 'Congo: from state collapse to 'absolutism' to state failure', *Third World Quarterly* 27 (2006), pp. 43-56

### Supplementary Readings

Adebajo, A. *The curse of Berlin: Africa after the cold war* (London, 2010)  
 Allen, C. 'Understanding African politics' *Review of African Political Economy* 22 (1995): 301-320  
 Bates, R. *When things fell apart: State failure in late-century Africa* (Cambridge, 2008)  
 Bayart, J F et al *The criminalization of the state in Africa* (Oxford, 1999) Chapters 1-2  
 Berger, M. 'From nation-building to state-building' *Third World Quarterly* 27 (2006): 5-25  
 Berman, B et al (eds). *Ethnicity and democracy in Africa* (Oxford, 2004)  
 Bratton, M & Van de Walle, N. *Democratic experiments in Africa* (Cambridge, 1997)  
 Chabal, P & Daloz J. *Africa works: Disorder as political instrument* (Oxford, 1999)  
 Englebort, P. 'The contemporary African state: Neither African nor state' *Third World Quarterly* 18, no. 4 (1997), 767-775  
 Ferguson, J. *Global Shadows: Africa in the neo-liberal world order* (Durham, 2006)

- Herbst, J. *States and power in Africa* (Princeton, 2000)
- Mamdani, M *Political violence and state formation in post-colonial Africa*, IDC Working Paper Series, No. 1 (October 2007) [available online]
- McFerson, H M. 'Governance and hyper-corruption in resource-rich African countries' *Third World Quarterly* 30 (2009) pp. 1529-1547
- Rotberg, R. *When states fail: Causes and consequences* (Princeton, 2004)
- Young, C. *The postcolonial state in Africa* (Madison, 2012)

- Novels and Films

- *Xala* Directed by Ousmane Sembène (Senegal, 1975)
- *Afrique, je te plumerai* Directed by Jean Marie Téo (Cameroon, 1993)
- Achebe, C. *Anthills of the savannah* (Nigeria, 1988)
- Armah, A K *The beautiful ones are not yet born* (Ghana, 1969)

## **WEEK SEVEN: Conflict in postcolonial Africa**

This class explores conflict and civil wars in Africa after independence, assessing the role of colonial legacies, Cold War politics, competition for natural resources, the significance of ethnic and religious divisions within African states, and the manipulation of 'youth'. We will compare conflicts in different regions of Africa, including Rwanda and the DRC, Sudan and Darfur, as well as Somalia and West Africa.

### Seminar Readings

- McGovern, M. 'Writing about conflict in Africa' *Africa* 81 (2012): 314-330
- Straus, S. 'Wars do end! The changing face of violence in sub-Saharan Africa' *African Affairs* 111 (2012): 179-201

### Core Readings

- Cramer, C. (ed.) *Researching violence in Africa* (Leiden, 2011)
- Lemarchand, R. *The dynamics of violence in central Africa* (Philadelphia, 2009)
- Marchal, R. 'A tentative assessment of the Somali Harakat Al-Shabaab' *Journal of Eastern African Studies* 3 (2009): 381-404
- Reno, W. *Warfare in independent Africa* (Cambridge, 2011)
- Richards, P. (ed.) *No peace, no war: An anthropology of contemporary armed conflicts* (Oxford, 2005)
- Young, C. 'Contextualizing Congo conflicts' in J.F. Clark, *The African stakes of the Congo war* (Basingstoke, 2002)

### Supplementary Readings

- *Democratic Republic of Congo / Rwanda*

Prunier, G. *Africa's world war* (Oxford, 2009); also published as: *From genocide to continental war* (London, 2009)

Reyntjens, F. *The great African war: Congo and regional geopolitics, 1996-2006* (Cambridge, 2009)

Straus, S. *The order of genocide* (London, 2006)

- *Darfur / Sudan*

Daly, M.W. *Darfur's sorrow* 2nd ed. (Cambridge, 2010)

Flint, J. & de Waal, A. *Darfur: A new history of a long war* 2nd ed. (London, 2008)

Johnson, D.H. *The root causes of Sudan's civil wars* 2nd ed. (Oxford, 2011)

Mamdani, M. *Saviours and survivors: Darfur, politics and the war on terror* (London: 2009).

See also 'commentaries' in *African Affairs* 108 (2009): 655-77

- *Somalia*

Hoehne, M. (ed.) *Milk and peace, drought and war* (London, 2010)

Menkhaus, K. 'The crisis in Somalia' *African Affairs* 106 (2007): 357-390

Marchal, R. 'Warlordism and terrorism: how to obscure an already confusing crisis? The case of Somalia' *International Affairs* 83 (2007): 1091-1106

- *Liberia, Sierra Leone, Côte d'Ivoire*

Abdullah, I. (ed.) *Between democracy and terror: The Sierra Leone civil war* (Dakar, 2004)

Chauveau, J-P. & Richards, P. West African insurgencies in agrarian perspective: Côte d'Ivoire and Sierra Leone compared' *Journal of Agrarian Change* 8 (2008): 515-52

Ferme, M. *The underneath of things: Violence, history, and everyday life in Sierra Leone*. (Berkeley, 2001)

McGovern, M. *Making war in Côte d'Ivoire* (Chicago, 2011)

- Novels and Films

Adichie, C.N. *Half of a yellow sun* (Nigeria, 2006)

Andrzejewski, B.W. & Lewis, I.M. *Somali poetry: an introduction* (Somalia, 1964)

Beah, I. *A long way gone: memoirs of a child soldier* (Sierra Leone, 2007)

Farah, N. *Maps* (Somalia, 1986)

Hari, D. *The Translator* (Sudan, 2008)

Kourouma, A. *Allah is not obliged* (Côte d'Ivoire, 2006)

*Sometimes in April* Directed by Raoul Peck (Rwanda, 2005)

*Ezra* Directed by Newton I. Aduka (Nigeria, 2007) [About Sierra Leone]

*Johnny Mad Dog* Directed by Jean-Stéphane Sauvaire (Liberia, 2008)

## **WEEK EIGHT: Popular culture in African history and politics**

This class engages with African popular culture, drawing especially on the cultural output of Nigeria and South Africa. We will consider the myriad forms of African cultural expression both past and present, and ask to what extent popular culture in Africa has offered a political critique of state and society and challenged or perpetuated negative stereotypes of Africans.

### Seminar Readings

Barber, K, 'Popular arts in Africa' *African Studies Review* 30 (1987): 1-78

### Core Readings

Barber, K. *Readings in African popular culture* (London, 1997) Introduction and Chapters by Hannerz & Horn

Ballantine, C. 'Gender, migrancy and South African popular music in the late 1940s and the 1950s' *Ethnomusicology* 44 (2000): 376-407

Becker, H. 'Anthropology and the study of popular culture: a perspective from the southern tip of Africa' *Research in African Literatures* 43 (2012): 17-37

Furniss, G. 'Video and the Hausa novella in Nigeria' *Social identities* 11 (2005): 89-112

Haynes, J. 'Political critique in Nigerian video films' *African Affairs* 105 (2006): 511-533

Waterman, C.A. 'Our tradition is a very modern tradition: Popular music & the construction of pan-Yoruba identity' *Ethnomusicology* 34 (1990)

### Supplementary Readings

Ansell, G. *Soweto blues: jazz, popular music and politics in South Africa* (New York, 2005)

Barber, K. *The generation of plays: Yoruba popular life in Theater* (Bloomington, 2000)

Chapman, M. *The Drum decade: stories from the 1950s* (Pietermaritzburg, 2001)

Cole, C. *Ghana's concert party theatre* (Bloomington, 2001)

Coplan, D. *In township tonight! South Africa's black city, music and theatre* (Johannesburg, 1985)

Edmondson, L. *Performance and politics in Tanzania: the nation on stage* (Bloomington, 2007).

Haynes, J. 'African cinema and Nollywood' *Situations* 4 (2011): 67-90

Krings, M. and Okome, O. *Global Nollywood: the transnational dimensions of an African video film industry* (Bloomington, 2013)

Osumare, H. *The hiplife in Ghana: West African indigenization of hip-hop* (New York, 2012)

Simone, A. 'Some reflections on making popular culture in urban Africa' *African Studies Review* 51, 3 (2008): 75-89

Weiss, B. *Street dreams and hip hop barbershops: Global fantasy in urban Tanzania* (Bloomington, 2009)

White, B.W. *Rumba rules: The politics of dance music in Mobutu's Zaire* (Durham, 2008)

- Novels and Films

*Living in bondage* Directed by Chris Opi Rapu (Nigeria, 1992)

*Music is the weapon* Directed by Jean-Jacques Flori and Stephané Tchagadjieff  
(France/Nigeria, 1982) [About Fela Kuti] Available on vimeo.

*Benda Bilili!* Directed by R. Barret & F. de La Tullaye (Congo, 2010)

Newell, S. (ed) *Readings in African popular fiction* (London, 2002) [Extracts]

### **WEEK NINE: Poverty and wealth in Africa**

Why are so many people in Africa so poor? This class examines debates over the nature of poverty in Africa, addressing its longer history as well as the impact of colonial and postcolonial policies. However, the other side of poverty is wealth. What are the historical patterns of wealth creation in Africa? How should we assess the prospects for economic growth and wealth distribution in the future?

#### Seminar Readings

Guyer, J.I. *Marginal Gains: Monetary transactions in Atlantic Africa* (Chicago, 2004) Part III

Hopkins, A. G. 'The new economic history of Africa' *Journal of African History* 50 (2009):  
155-177

#### Core Readings

Austin, G. 'The "reversal of fortune" thesis and the compression of history: perspectives from African and comparative economic history' *Journal of International Development* 20 (2008): 996-1027

Bryceson, D. 'The scramble in Africa: reorienting rural livelihoods' *World Development* 30 (2002): 725-739

Guyer, J. 'Soft currencies, cash economies, new monies: Past and present' *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 109 (2012): 2214 – 2221

James, D. 'Money-go-round': Personal economies of wealth, aspiration and indebtedness' *Africa* 82 (2012): 20-40 [See also other relevant articles in this special issue on 'Popular economies in South Africa']

MacGaffey, J. *The real economy of Zaire: the contribution of smuggling & other unofficial activities to national wealth* (London, 1991) Introduction and Part I

van de Walle, N. *African economies and the politics of permanent crisis, 1979-1999* (Cambridge, 2001) Introduction & Chapters 1-2

#### Supplementary Readings

- Anderson, D. & Broch-Due, V. (eds) *The poor are not us: poverty and pastoralism in Eastern Africa* (Oxford, 1999)
- Berry, S. 'Marginal gains, market values, and history' *African Studies Review* 50 (2007): 57-70 [Special issue on Guyer's *Marginal Gains*]
- Bond, P. *Looting Africa: the economics of exploitation* (London, 2006) Chapters 1-4
- Callaghy, T. & Ravenhill, J. (eds) *Hemmed in: Responses to Africa's economic decline* (New York, 1993)
- Collier, P. *The bottom billion: why the poorest countries are failing and what can be done about it* (Oxford, 2007)
- Englund, H. *Prisoners of freedom: Human rights and the African poor* (Berkeley, 2008)
- Guyer, J.I. 'Niches, margins and profits: persisting with heterogeneity' *African Economic History* 32 (2004): 173-191
- Guyer, J. et al. (eds) *Money struggles and city life: Devaluation in Ibadan and other urban centers in southern Nigeria, 1986-1996* (Portsmouth OH, 2002)
- Iliffe, J. *The African poor: A history* (Cambridge, 1987)
- Isichei, E. *Voices of the poor in Africa: moral economy and the popular imagination* (Rochester, 2004)
- Meagher, K. *Identity economics: Social networks and the informal economy in Nigeria* (Woodbridge, 2010)
- Mills, G. *Why Africa is poor and what Africans can do about it* (Johannesburg, 2010)
- White, H & Killick T *African poverty at the millennium* (Washington, 2001)
- World Bank *World development report*. <http://wdronline.worldbank.org/> See also: <http://data.worldbank.org/topic/poverty>

- Novels and Films

- Emecheta, B. *The joys of motherhood* (Nigeria, 1979)
- wa Thiong'o, N. *Matigari* (Kenya, 1989)
- Hyenas* (Hyènes) Directed by Djibril Diop Mambéty (Senegal, 1992)
- Tourists of the revolution: The waking giant* (BBC, 2000)
- Stealing Africa; Land Rush*, 2012 (On Zambia and Mali respectively) Available: <http://www.whypoverty.net/en/videos/>

## **WEEK TEN: Aid, development, power and knowledge**

This class examines the history of development interventions in Africa from the post-war period to the present day. Has international aid benefited the people of Africa, or has it disempowered them? What role have NGOs played in African politics?



Seminar Readings

- Cooper, F. 'Modernizing bureaucrats, backward Africans and the development concept' in *International development and the social sciences* eds. F. Cooper and R. Packard (Berkeley, 1997): 64-92 (See also chapter by Diouf on Senegal, pp. 291-319)
- Ferguson, J. *The anti-politics machine: 'development', depoliticization and bureaucratic power in Lesotho* (Minneapolis, 1990) Preface and Introduction.

Core Readings

- Bernstein, H. 'Agricultural "modernisation" and the era of structural adjustment: observations on sub-saharan Africa' *Journal of Peasant Studies* 18 (1990): 3-35
- de Waal, A. 'Democratizing the aid encounter in Africa' *International Affairs* 73 (1997): 623-639
- Ferguson, J. *Global shadows: Africa in the neoliberal world order* (Durham, 2006) Introduction & Chapters 1-3
- Lal, P. 'Self-reliance and the state: the multiple meanings of development in early postcolonial Tanzania' *Africa* 82 (2012): 212-34
- Matthews, S. 'Investigating NEPAD's development assumptions' *Review of African Political Economy* 31 (2004): 497-511
- Tandon, Y. 'Aid without dependence: an alternative conceptual model for development cooperation' *Development* 52 (2009): 356-362

Supplementary Readings

- Berg, E. *Accelerated development in sub-Saharan Africa* (Washington, 1981)
- Beckman, B. et al (eds.) *Labour regimes and liberalization: the restructuring of state-society relations in Africa* (Harare, 2001)
- Cowen, M.P & Shenton, R.W *Doctrines of development* (London, 1996)
- de Waal, A. *Famine crimes: politics and the disaster relief industry in Africa* (Bloomington, 1997) Chapters 1-4 and 11
- Glennie, J. *The trouble with aid: why less could more for Africa* (London, 2008)
- Jennings, M. *Surrogates of the state: NGOs, development and ujamaa in Tanzania* (Bloomfield, 2008)
- Leys, C. *Underdevelopment in Kenya: the political economy of neo-colonialism* (Nairobi, 1975)
- Moyo, D. *Dead aid: Why aid is not working and how there is another way for Africa* (London, 2009)
- Rist, G. *The history of development* (London, 1997) Chapters 1-5, 12-14
- Roe, E. *Except-Africa: remaking development, rethinking power* (New Brunswick NJ, 1999)
- Sen, A. *Development as freedom* (Oxford, 1999) Introduction & Chapter 2

Tandon, Y. *Ending aid dependence* (Geneva, 2008)

Van Beusekom, M. *Negotiating development: African farmers and colonial experts at the Office du Niger, 1920-1960* (Portsmouth, 2002)

- Non-fiction and Films

Wrong, M. *It's our turn to eat: The story of a Kenyan whistleblower* (London, 2010)

*Bamako* Directed by Abderrahmane Sissako (Mali, 2007)

*Our friends at the bank* Directed by Peter Chappell (France/Uganda, 1998)

*The trouble with aid* (BBC, 2012)

*Give us the money*, 2012 (About Live Aid): <http://www.whypoverty.net/en/videos/>

Global Development blog at <http://www.theguardian.com/global-development>

### **WEEK ELEVEN: Health and healing in Africa: past and present**

This class traces histories of health and disease in Africa, with a focus on the HIV/AIDS epidemic. We will examine debates around the nature of African sexualities and gender relations and their role in understanding the course of the epidemic, as well as the longer-term history of disease and medical interventions in Africa. The seminar will also trace the politics of AIDS, patient activism, the creation of new forms of 'therapeutic citizenship' and the long-term impacts of HIV/AIDS.

#### Seminar Readings

Schoepf, B G. 'Assessing AIDS research in Africa: twenty-five years later' *African Studies Review* 53 (2010): 105-142

Olumwullah, O.A. 'Health and healing in twentieth-century African history' *Dis-ease in the colonial state: Medicine, society, and social change among the AbaNyole of western Kenya* (London, 2002)

#### Core Readings

Caldwell, J.C. & Quiggin, P. 'The social context of AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa' *Population and Development Review* 15, 2 (1989): 185-234

De Waal, A. 'How will HIV/AIDS transform African governance?' *African Affairs* 102 (2003): 1-23

Hunter, M 'The changing political economy of sex in South Africa: The significance of unemployment and inequalities to the scale of the AIDS pandemic' *Social Science and Medicine* 64, 3 (2007): 689-700

Livingston, J. 'Insights from an African history of disability' *Radical History Review* 2006 (2006): 111-126

Stillwaggon, E. 'Racial metaphors: interpreting AIDS in Africa' *Development and Change*, 34, 5 (2003), 809-832

Schoepf, B G. "'Mobutu's disease": a social history of AIDS in Kinshasa', *Review of African Political Economy* 29 (2002): 561-573

### Supplementary Readings

Baylies, C.L. & Bujra J.M. *AIDS, sexuality and gender in Africa: Collective strategies and struggles in Tanzania and Zambia* (London, 2000)

Becker F. & Geissler, P.W. *AIDS and religious practice in Africa* (Leiden, 2009)

Dilger, H. & Luig, U. (eds) *Morality, hope and grief: anthropologies of AIDS in Africa* (New York, 2010)

Dube, M.W. & Kanyoro, M. (eds) *Grant me justice! HIV/AIDS & gender readings of the Bible* (Pietermaritzburg, 2004)

Fassin, D. *When bodies remember: Experiences and politics of AIDS in South Africa* (Berkeley, 2007)

Feierman, S. & Janzen, J. (eds). *The social basis of health and healing in Africa* (Berkeley, 1992)

Feldman, D. (ed.) *AIDS, culture, and Africa* (Gainesville, 2008)

Geissler, P.W. and Prince, R.J. *The land is dying: contingency, creativity and conflict in western Kenya* (London, 2010)

Hunt, N.R. *A colonial lexicon of birth, ritual, medicalization and mobility in the Congo* (Durham, 1999)

Iliffe, J. *The African AIDS epidemic: a history* (Ohio, 2007)

Livingston, J. *Debility and the moral imagination in Botswana* (Bloomington, 2005)

Stillwaggon, E. *AIDS and the ecology of poverty* (Oxford, 2006)

Vaughan, M. *Curing their Ills: colonial power and African illness* (Stanford, 1991)

- Non-fiction and Films

Epstein, H. *Invisible cure: why we are losing the fight against AIDS in Africa* (London, 2008)

Nolen, S., *28: stories of AIDS in Africa* (London, 2007)

Steinberg, J. *Three letter plague* (London, 2009)

*Yesterday* Directed by Darell Roodt (South Africa, 2004)

*Life, above all* Directed by Oliver Schmitz (South Africa, 2010)

### **WEEK TWELVE: Population, environment and climate change**

In this class we will examine debates about the changing natural environments of Africa, such as discussions on environmental degradation, population growth and distribution; the

impact of 'green revolution' technologies; competition over resources; gender and the environment, and the impact of structural adjustment policies on the distribution of natural resources such as water. What has been the impact both of climate change and the international politics of climate change on Africa?

### Seminar Readings

Bassett, T. & Crummey, D. *African savannas: global narratives and local knowledge of environmental change* (Oxford, 2003) Chapter 1.

McCann, J. 'Climate and causation in African history' *International Journal of African Historical Studies* 32 (1999): 261-279

### Core Readings

Fairhead, J. & Leach J. *Reframing deforestation: studies in West Africa* (London, 1998) Chapter 1

Murton, J. 'Population growth and poverty in Machakos', *The Geographical Journal* 165 (1999): 37-46

Neumann, R P. *Imposing wilderness: struggles over livelihood and nature preservation in Africa* (Berkeley, 1998) Chapters 1-2

Sunseri, T. "“Something else to burn”": Forest squatters, conservationists and the state in modern Tanzania' *Journal of Modern African Studies* 43 (2005): 609-640

Watts, M. 'Violent environments: petroleum conflict and the political ecology of rule in the Niger delta' in *Liberation ecologies: environment, development, social movements* eds. Peet, R & Watts, M. (eds.) 2nd edition (London, 2004)

Williams, G. 'Modernizing Malthus: the World Bank, population control and the African environment' in Crush, J. (ed.) *Power of development* (London, 1995): 153-170

### Supplementary Readings

Anderson, D. and Grove. R. *Conservation in Africa: people, policies and practices* (Cambridge, 1987)

Anderson, D. *Eroding the commons: The politics of ecology in Baringo, Kenya 1890-1963* (Oxford, 2003)

Brockington, D. 'The politics and ethnography of environmentalisms in Tanzania' *African Affairs* 105 (2006): pp. 97-116

Fairhead, J and Leach, M. *Misreading the African landscape* (Cambridge, 1996)

Jacobs, N.J. *Environment, power and injustice* (Cambridge, 2003)

Leach, M. & Mearns, R. *The lie of the land: challenging received wisdom on the African environment* (Oxford, 1996)

Maddox, G. *Sub-Saharan Africa: an environmental history* (Santa Barbara, 2006)

Maddox, G., Giblin, J. and Kimambo, I. (eds.) *Custodians of the land: ecology and culture in the history of Tanzania* (Oxford, 1996)

- McCann, J.C. *Green land, brown land, black land* (Portsmouth, 1999)
- Mortimore, M. *Roots in the African dust: sustaining the drylands* (Cambridge, 1998)
- Robbins, P. *Political ecology: A critical introduction* 2nd ed. (Oxford, 2012)
- Tiffen, M., Mortimore, M. and Gichuki, J. *More people, less erosion: environmental recovery in Kenya* (Chichester, 1994)
- Toulmin, C. *Climate change in Africa* (London, 2009)
- Watson, E E. *Living terraces in Ethiopia: Konso landscape, culture and development* (Oxford, 2009)

- Non-fiction, Websites and Films

International Institute for Environment and Development <http://www.iied.org>

Drylands Research: <http://www.drylandsresearch.org.uk>

UNU Institute for Environment and Human Security: <http://www.ehs.unu.edu>

Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change: <http://www.ipcc.ch>

al-Koni, I. *The bleeding of the stone* (Libya, 2002)

Maathai, W. *Unbowed* (Kenya, 2006)

Maathai, W. *The green belt movement* (Kenya, 2006)

*Yeelen* Directed by Souleymane Cissé (Mali, 1987)