

Modern Africa

HIAF 111
Fall 2014
WLH 2111
Tues-Thurs, 12.30-1.50

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Our perceptions of contemporary 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 how such myths have taken shape and 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 and free through the library, where noted.

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

AVAILABLE FREE AT <http://roger.ucsd.edu:80/record=b6657064~S9>.

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 October 30. **Your responses to all essay questions must be drawn from the**

lectures and readings. The midterm exam must be submitted in class on November 6. The final must be submitted by 12pm on **December 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 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.**

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

It is your responsibility to know and observe all of the UCSD rules concerning academic integrity and plagiarism. You should familiarize yourself with your responsibilities and rights under the UCSD Policy on Integrity of Scholarship <http://senate.ucsd.edu/Operating-Procedures/Senate-Manual/Appendices/2>. Any student found to have committed a substantial violation of the university rules concerning academic integrity will fail the entire course *and* the professor will initiate a charge of academic misconduct that may be noted on your academic record. A second offense will generally result in suspension or permanent expulsion from the university. If you have any questions about what constitutes plagiarism, how to credit the work of others properly, or how to evaluate sources for quality and reliability and how to avoid it, please talk to the reader and/or me to discuss the matter.

EVALUATION:

Final grades will be calculated in the following manner:

- 1) Exams: 90 percent (45% midterm, 45% Final)**
- 2) Film response: 10 percent**

SCHEDULE OF CLASS MEETINGS

Meeting	Reading
10.02 Introductions	none
10.07 Perceptions	<i>King Leopold's Ghost</i> , 1-60
10.09 Diasporas	<i>King Leopold's Ghost</i> , 61-114

10.14	Global Economies	<i>King Leopold's Ghost</i> , 115-181
10.16	Belief Systems	<i>King Leopold's Ghost</i> , 185-224
10.21	Invasions	<i>King Leopold's Ghost</i> , 225-274
10.23	NO MEETING, READING DAY	<i>King Leopold's Ghost</i> , 275-318
10.28	Making Tribes	<i>Joys of Motherhood</i> , 1-55
10.30	Labor	<i>Joys of Motherhood</i> , 56-150
11.04	Apartheid	<i>Joys of Motherhood</i> , 151-224
11.06	Nationalisms	<i>Matigari</i> , 1-60
MIDTERM EXAM DUE IN-CLASS		
11.11	Film: <i>Catch a Fire</i>	none
11.13	Postcolonial Conflict	<i>Matigari</i> , 61-100
11.18	Film: <i>Taking Root</i>	<i>Matigari</i> , 101-156
11.20	HIV/AIDS	<i>Matigari</i> , 157-210
11.25	Film: <i>Black Gold</i>	<i>An Ordinary Man</i> , 1-40
11.27	NO MEETING, THANKGIVING HOLIDAY	
12.02	Genocide 1994	<i>An Ordinary Man</i> , 41-90
12.04	Petroleum Futures	<i>An Ordinary Man</i> , 91-140
12.09	Ecologies	<i>An Ordinary Man</i> , 141-190
12.11	Discussion and exam preparation	<i>An Ordinary Man</i> , 191-224

FINAL EXAM questions will be handed out at the end of class on **December 11**. The essays must be submitted by 12pm on **December 18** to the file bin opposite the elevators, HSS floor 5. Place your essay in the bin labeled "HIAF 111".