HI 419/519: History of East Africa
Professor Melissa Graboyes
University of Oregon—Spring 2014
T/Th 10-11.20 am; 185 Lillis

Office Hours: Tuesdays, 11.30-1.00; Office: 370 PLC graboyes@uoregon.edu

Course Description
This course is an introduction to the cultural, social and political history of the East Africa region, which includes the countries of Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda, and Burundi.

We will begin with early history and the archeological record of the Great Lakes region going back over the past two millennia. However, a bulk of our time will be spent on the past 200 years, beginning with sustained German and British contact in the late 1800s, the workings of the colonial era (c. 1890s-1960), the struggles for independence in the late 1950s and early 1960s, and a review of the countries in the independent era.

As a warning: the readings for this course are numerous, but they will help us engage with a set of themes that are rich and intellectually challenging. Our course texts bring us to the pre-colonial Swahili Coast, where we examine early examples of globalization and cosmopolitanism and use fashion as a lens onto the political. From the beginnings of the imperial project, we then look more closely at colonial science and medicine in the 1940s and 1950s. In the 1950s, nationalist campaigns against the British colonial government emerge in various forms. One of our texts presents life history research to illustrate the vital role women played in the creation of the Tanganyikan nationalist party, TANU, and in helping to bring to power Julius Nyrere and his ujamaa policies. As a counterpoint to the relatively peaceful nationalism of Tanganyika, we will closely examine the Mau Mau insurgency in Kenya, which was a violent and prolonged fight that led to the election of Jomo Kenyatta. We read a Pulitzer-prize winning historical account of how the British brutally responded to Mau Mau with the creation of gulags and concentration camps, and pair it with a memoir by the Kenyan author, Ngũgĩ wa Thiong’o, who was raised in the midst of Mau Mau. The class concludes by considering the 1994 Rwandan genocide. We rely upon a methodologically innovative book that places the tragedy in a longer historical frame while revealing the hollowness of past explanations of “tribalism” or “ethnic hatred.”

For as many themes as we do cover, there will be many more than we leave out. Ten weeks provides an introduction to a few of the many people, places, and events that have come to define this region of the world. This course will also serve as a primer of the practice of doing history with particular attention to methods and sources. During the quarter we will discuss how archeological evidence, environmental data, ethnographic accounts, oral tradition, life histories, photographs, and film are used and critically analyzed by historians of Africa.

Required Texts (to be purchased)


Required Readings (available on Blackboard)

Binyavanga Wainaina, ”How to Write About Africa,” Granta 92 (Winter 2005).


Assignments and Grades
Students will be assessed based on a map quiz, class participation and two types of essays.

Map Quiz: Understanding the geography of the places we are discussing is important! Therefore there will be a map quiz during week 3. Maps will be shown and discussed in class and then posted on blackboard. The map quiz is worth 10% of your total grade.

Participation: Class participation is worth 25% of the total grade, and is a combination of two factors: daily preparedness and leading part of a class discussion and explaining that day’s readings. Preparedness is determined if students are in attendance with readings completed, notes taken, and ready to discuss materials. All students will also be required (either individually or in a small group) to summarize one of the class readings and create discussion questions. I will be evaluating how well you are able to summarize the reading’s major arguments, point out inconsistencies, raise provocative questions, and link the reading to other topics we have discussed in class.

Essays: The first writing assignment is a primary source analysis essay, 3 pages in length, which will be worth 25% of the final grade. Essay two is the final essay, 8-10 pages in length, which will require students to integrate primary and secondary sources to make a unique historical argument. I will provide prompts, but also be willing to accept student proposals for their own unique topics. The final paper will be due Monday, June 9, 10 am in my office, and is 40% of the total grade.
Each essay will be thesis-driven, grammatically correct and integrate multiple texts used in class. Essay prompts and detailed instructions will be given out 2 weeks before each assignment is due. After receiving a final grade on the primary source response essay, students will have the option of re-writing and being re-graded. In order to be eligible to do this, students must meet with me during office hours and explain their process for revisions and have them approved by me. Rewritten essays are due one week after the originals have been returned.

Late work will lose one-third of a letter grade for each day it is late.

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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Map quiz</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<td>Essay 1—Primary Source Analysis</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<td>Essay 2—Final Essay</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
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**Attendance**
To each class, you should bring the texts we are reading in addition to your notes on that text. You are allowed two absences without penalty. Each additional absence will result in a deduction of a third of letter grade from your final grade.

**Extra Credit**
There will be three extra credit opportunities during the quarter. Attendance at an African Studies Lecture Series event will excuse one absence, or can add 1% point to your attendance grade. Each talk will take place in the Knight Library Browsing Room, and the dates are noted on the syllabus and will be announced in class.

**Technology**
I do not permit the use of laptop computers or other electronic devices (i.e., recording equipment) in the classroom without specific permission from me. Please silence your cell phone or turn it off before you come in. If you need to be reachable during class, please come and see me.

**Writing Assistance**
This is an upper-division course and I expect all assignments to be well written, carefully edited, and grammatically correct. If you have writing questions, you can always make an appointment to discuss a draft with me. There is one-on-one assistance available at the Writing Lab (68 Prince Lucien Campbell) and you can schedule a tutorial session by calling 541-346-3226.

**Plagiarism**
Although you will spend time reading and commenting upon each other’s work in class, your written words should be your own. If you are uncertain about how to avoid plagiarism, please read the information available on the library website: [http://libweb.uoregon.edu/guides/plagiarism/students/](http://libweb.uoregon.edu/guides/plagiarism/students/). I will report all cases of plagiarism to the Dean’s Office. Confirmed cases of plagiarism will result in a “0” for the assignment and potentially a “F” for the course.

**Accessibility/Disability**
If you require accommodations, please let me know as soon as possible, and I will need a letter of accommodation from the Accessible Education Center. They can be contacted at uoaec@uoregon.edu or 541-346-1155.
Class Schedule

[1] Tuesday, April 1
Lonsdale, "How to Study Africa," 1-7
Wainaina, "How to Write about Africa" and "How to Write about Africa II"

[2] Thursday, April 3
Chrétien, The Great Lakes, 1-83.

[3] Tuesday, April 8

[4] Thursday, April 10
Prestholdt, Domesticating the World, 1-33.

Extra Credit Opportunity: African Studies Lecture
FRIDAY, April 11, 12-1.15 pm, Knight Library Browsing Room
Dr. Isaac Mbiti, "Mobile Money in Kenya"

[5] Tuesday, April 15
Prestholdt, Domesticating the World, 34-58.
Fair, Pastimes and Politics, 1-63.

[6] Thursday, April 17
Prestholdt, Domesticating the World, 59-87.
Map Quiz in Class

[7] Tuesday, April 22
Prestholdt, Domesticating the World, 88-146.

[8] Thursday, April 24
Prestholdt, Domesticating the World, 147-176.

[9] Tuesday, April 29
Graboyes, “The Experiment Must Continue,” Part I.
DUE—Primary Source Essay Analysis

[10] Thursday, May 1
Graboyes, “The Experiment Must Continue,” Part II.

Geiger, TANU Women, xiii-63.

[12] Thursday, May 8
Geiger, TANU Women, 163-198.

Extra Credit Opportunity: African Studies Lecture
Thurs, May 8, 12-1.15 pm, Knight Library Browsing Room
Dr. Stelios Michalapolous, "On the Institutional Origins of African Development"
[13] Tuesday, May 13
Ngũgĩ, *Dreams in a Time of War*, 1-57

[14] Thursday, May 15
Ngũgĩ, *Dreams in a Time of War*, 58-78.

[15] Tuesday, May 20
Ngũgĩ, *Dreams in a Time of War*, 79-121.

[16] Thursday, May 22

**Extra Credit Opportunity: African Studies Lecture**
**Thur, May 22, 12-1.15 pm, Knight Library Browsing Room**
Dr. Melissa Graboyes, “Economies of Blood in East Africa: From Witchcraft to Transfusions”

[17] Tuesday, May 27

[18] Thursday, May 29
Ngũgĩ, *Dreams in a Time of War*, 218-256.

[19] Tuesday, June 3

[20] Thursday, June 5

**Final paper Due Monday, June 9, 10 am at 370 PLC**