



Department of History

HTST 573.1

Topics in African History: The Decolonization of Africa
Winter 2020

Instructor: Dr. T. Stapleton

Office: SS632

Phone Number: 403-220-6418

Email: timothy.stapleton@ucalgary.ca

Office Hours: Thursday 11 – 11:50am and 1 – 1:50pm (and by appointment)

Course Description

This course focuses on the transition of African countries from European-ruled colonies to independent states that took place mostly in the late 1950s and 1960s though in some cases this process continued into the 1970s and 1980s. While most African states became independent through negotiation, some became the scene of armed liberation struggles. Important themes in the course include the impact of the Second World War, the Cold War context, policies of the outgoing colonial powers, African nationalism, Pan-Africanism, protest, negotiation, insurgency and counter-insurgency. The first half of the course involves discussions of relevant themes through engagement with a series of scholarly journal articles. During the second half of the course, student research papers undergo critique and discussion with a view to submitting revised and improved versions at the end of the course.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, successful students will:

1. Explain the key factors and themes involved in the decolonization of Africa
2. Critically read and assess primary and secondary literature and place arguments within broader historical debates
3. Debate historical questions by engaging with other students and scholarship
4. Develop research, writing, and analytical skills within the context of historical scholarship

Day/Time: Thursday, 2pm – 4:45pm (1400-1645)

Location: SS 623

Reading: All assigned readings are journal articles available via the University of Calgary Library website and student-authored research papers.

Recommended Reading

For students lacking background in African History, one of these introductory texts will prove useful:

Erik Gilbert and Jonathan T. Reynolds, *Africa in World History: From Prehistory to the Present*, Upper Saddle River, N.J.: Pearson, 3rd edition, 2011.

Kevin Shillington, *History of Africa*, 4th Edition, MacMillan/Red Globe Press, 2019.

Evaluation

Participation = 20%

Proposal (of research paper) = 10%

Presentation of Research Paper = 10%

First Draft of Paper = 20%

Final Paper = 30%

Critique of Research Paper = 10%

Important Dates

Submit Proposal = 6 February

First Draft of Paper = To be circulated to the entire class one week prior to presentation/discussion (see schedule to be circulated)

Presentation and Critique = see schedule to be circulated

Final Paper = Submit to instructor on 15 April (last day of class)

Participation: This involves students preparing for seminar by completing the assigned readings (journal articles and circulated student papers) and engaging in a discussion of these works.

Proposal: Students must submit a proposal for their research essays. The proposal will include a tentative title for the paper, a 500-word explanation of the topic including a research question, and a bibliography including at least 6 scholarly secondary sources (books, book chapters in edited books and/or journal articles).

Paper Presentation: During the second half of the semester, each student will present a research paper to the class. The presentation should be around 15 or 20 minutes long and will be followed by a student critique and seminar discussion. The instructor will circulate a schedule of paper presentations and critiques.

First Draft Paper: One week prior to the paper presentation, the student doing the presentation will circulate the first draft of his or her research paper to the class and the instructor. Students can circulate papers as hard copies or attachments to emails. Please present the instructor with a hard copy. All students will read each other's research papers prior to the relevant seminar. The first draft of the paper should be around 3000 words long and supported by endnotes/footnotes and a bibliography.

Final Paper: Based on seminar discussions, critiques and the instructor's written comments, students will revise their first draft papers for final submission at the end of the course. The final paper should be around 4000 words long and supported by endnotes/footnotes and a bibliography.

Critique: During the second half of the course, each student will present a verbal critique of another student's paper. The critique should be around 10 minutes long and focus on substantive questions and areas for improvement. In preparing the critique, a student must read not only the relevant student paper but also other appropriate scholarly material. The instructor will circulate a schedule of student paper presentations and critiques.

Paper Topics: Students are free to select any research topic that broadly relates to the theme of the course. Paper topics might include the decolonization of a specific African country (eg. Nigeria, Senegal, Zimbabwe, Kenya etc.), the decolonization experience of a specific colonial power (Britain, France, Portugal, Belgium, Spain), an important event such as the Suez Crisis or Mau Mau Rebellion, or a key political leader such as Kwame Nkrumah, Sekou Toure or Patrice Lumumba. That said, all topics must be approved by the instructor so it is essential to email or talk to the instructor about your paper before the submission of proposals on 6 February. We will avoid duplicating paper topics. While the nature of this course means that primary sources will be unavailable for many possible topics and are not required for the papers, it would be helpful if students made use of some primary source material in their research, if possible. For this course, most available primary sources will comprise online material such as newspapers and collections of documents including UK parliamentary papers and UN reports. Many of these are accessible through the University of Calgary Library website (see databases). Furthermore, published memoirs could prove relevant.

Late Assignments: These will NOT BE ACCEPTED. If a student has a problem meeting a deadline, please discuss the situation with the instructor. Extensions can be granted when appropriate. For a seminar to work properly, students must adhere to dates of circulation/submission.

Course outline

16 January - Course Introduction

23 January – Overview of Decolonization

John Flint, "Planned Decolonization and its Failure in British Africa," *African Affairs*, Vol. 82, No. 328 (July 1983), 389-411.

Barnaby Crowcroft, "Egypt's Other Nationalists and the Suez Crisis of 1956," *The Historical Journal*, Vol. 59, No. 1 (2016), 253-285.

30 January: Violent and Negotiated Decolonization in British Africa

David M. Anderson, "Mau Mau in the High Court and the 'Lost' British Empire Archives: Colonial Conspiracy of Bureaucratic Bungle?" *The Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth History*, Vol. 39, No. 5 (2011), 699-712.

Francis K. Danquah, "Rural Discontent and Decolonization in Ghana, 1945-51," *Agricultural History*, Vol. 68, No. 1 (Winter 1994), 1-19.

6 February – Decolonization in French and Belgian Africa

(Submit Proposal)

Louisa Rice, "Between Empire and Nation: Francophone West African Students and Decolonization," *Atlantic Studies*, Vol. 10, No. 1 (2013), 131-147.

Alessandro Iandolo, "Imbalance of Power: The Soviet Union and the Congo Crisis, 1960-61," *Journal of Cold War Studies*, Vol. 16, No. 2 (Spring 2014), 32-55.

13 February – Human Rights and Women in Africa's Decolonization

Meredith Terretta, "'We Had Been Fooled into Thinking That the UN Watches Over the Entire World: Human Rights, UN Trust Territories, and Africa's Decolonization,'" *Human Right Quarterly*, Vol. 34, No. 2 (May 2012), 329-360.

Susan Geiger, "Tanganyika Nationalism as 'Women's Work: Life Histories, Collective Biographies and Changing Historiography," *The Journal of African History*, Vol. 37, No. 3 (1996), 465-478.

16-22 February – Reading Week

27 February – Religion and Decolonization in Africa

Darcie Fontaine, "Treason or Charity? Christian Missions on Trail and the Decolonization of Algeria," *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, Vol. 44, No. 4 (November 2012), 733-753.

Zachery Valentine Wright, "Islam and Decolonization in Africa: The Political Engagement of a West African Muslim Community," *The International Journal of African Historical Studies*, Vol. 46, No. 2 (2012), 205-227.

5 March – Portuguese Africa, Rhodesia (Zimbabwe) and South Africa

Luis Nuno Rodrigues, "The United States and Portuguese Decolonization," *Portuguese Studies*, Vol. 29, No. 2 (2013), 164-185.

Filipe Ribeiro De Meneses and Robert McNamara, "South Africa and the Aftermath of Portugal's 'Exemplary' Decolonization: The Security Dimension," *Portuguese Studies*, Vol. 29, No. 2 (2013), 227-250.

Enocent Msindo and Nicholas Nyachega, "Zimbabwe's Liberation War and the Everyday in Honde Valley, 1975-79," *South African Historical Journal*, Vol. 71, No. 1 (2019), 70-93.

First round of student papers circulated

12 March – Student Presentations, Critiques, Discussion (schedule to be circulated)

19 March – Student Presentations, Critiques, Discussion

26 March – Student Presentations, Critiques, Discussion

2 April – Student Presentations, Critiques, Discussion

9 April – Student Presentations, Critiques, Discussion - Course conclusion

Departmental Grading System:

The following percentage-to-letter grade conversion scheme is used in all Canadian Studies, History, and Latin American Studies courses, except for HTST 200.

Percentage	Letter Grade	Grade Point Value	Description
90-100	A+	4.00	Outstanding performance
85-89	A	4.00	Excellent performance
80-84	A-	3.70	Approaching excellent performance
77-79	B+	3.30	Exceeding good performance
73-76	B	3.00	Good performance
70-72	B-	2.70	Approaching good performance
67-69	C+	2.30	Exceeding satisfactory performance
63-66	C	2.00	Satisfactory performance
60-62	C-	1.70	Approaching satisfactory performance.
56-59	D+	1.30	Marginal pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject
50-55	D	1.00	Minimal Pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject.
0-49	F	0	Failure. Did not meet course requirements.

Program Advising and Student Information Resources:

- For program advising in the Faculty of Arts, contact the Arts Students Centre (ASC) in SS 102, call 403-220-3580, email artsads@ucalgary.ca, or book an appointment with an ASC advisor at <https://arts.ucalgary.ca/current-students/undergraduate>.
- For further information on academic advising and degree planning for arts students, see <https://arts.ucalgary.ca/current-students/undergraduate/academic-advising>.

- For registration issues, paying fees, and assistance with MyUofC, contact Enrolment Services in MacKimmie Tower Room 116, call 403-210-ROCK (7625), or visit <http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/>.
- **Attention history majors:** History 300 is a required course for all history majors. You should normally take it in your second year.
- Registration Changes and Exemption Requests: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/appeals>

Writing:

All written assignments and written exam responses are assessed partly on writing skills. Writing skills include surface correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc.) and general clarity and organization. Research papers must be properly documented according to the format described in the History Student's Handbook.

D2L: Throughout the course, important material such as lecture outlines and study guides will be regularly posted on D2L. Students are advised to check this regularly.

Red Box Policy:

If your instructor requires paper copies of an essay and/or assignment, and the essay/assignment can be handed in outside of class, you can drop them in the red box located outside of the History Department office (Social Sciences, Room 656). Please include the following information on your assignment: **1) course name and number, 2) instructor, 3) your name, and 4) your student number**. Assignments received after 4:00 p.m. are date stamped the next business day. We do not time stamp any papers. Please do not bring your paper into the office to be stamped. The box is emptied at 4:00 p.m. Monday to Friday.

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism occurs when one submits or presents one's work in a course, or ideas and/or passages in a written piece of work, as if it were one's own work done expressly for that particular course, when, in fact, it is not. Please see [The History Student's Handbook](#).

Plagiarism may take several forms:

- Failing to cite sources properly
- Submitting borrowed, purchased, and/or ghostwritten papers
- Submitting one's own work for more than one course without the permission of the instructor(s) involved
- Extensive paraphrasing of one or a few sources, even when referenced properly, unless the essay is a critical analysis of those works

Plagiarism is a serious academic offence, and written work that appears to contain plagiarized passages will not be graded. All such work will be reported to the Faculty of Art's associate deans of students who will apply the penalties specified in the *University of Calgary Calendar*, [Section K](#).

Academic Accommodations:

The student accommodation policy can be found at: ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy.

Students needing an accommodation because of a disability or medical condition should contact Student Accessibility Services (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/access/>) in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.

Students needing an accommodation based on a protected ground other than disability should contact, preferably in writing, the course instructor.

Copyright:

The University of Calgary has opted out of the Access Copyright Interim Tariff proposed by the Copyright Board. Therefore, instructors in all University of Calgary courses will strictly adhere to Copyright Act regulations and the educational exceptions permitted by the Act for both print and digital course material. No copyrighted material may be placed on course D2L or web sites without the prior permission of the copyright holders. In some cases, this may mean that instructors will require you to purchase a print course pack from the University of Calgary bookstore or consult books on reserve at the library. For more information on the University of Calgary's copyright policy, see <http://library.ucalgary.ca/copyright>.

Other Useful Information:

- Department Twitter @ucalgaryhist

Please see <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines> for information on:

- Wellness and Mental Health
- Student Success
- Student Ombuds Office
- Student Union (SU) Information
- Graduate Students' Association (GSA) Information
- Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points
- Safewalk

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