

University of Calgary
Department of History
HTST 637
Topics in Military History: Conflict in Africa
Winter 2019

Instructor: Dr. T. Stapleton

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Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday, 10 – 10:50am (and by appointment)

Course Description

This course represents a graduate level seminar on the history of armed conflict and military structures in Africa from pre-colonial times to the present. Most of the focus will be on the colonial and post-colonial periods. Taking a war and society approach, the course will discuss a wide variety of themes such as colonial conquest, the world wars in Africa, African colonial military service, women in African conflicts, child soldiers, post-colonial civil wars, state vs. state conflicts, counter-insurgency and insurgency, peacekeeping and genocide.

Times: Tuesday, 1400 – 1645 (2pm – 4:45pm)

Location: SS 639

Recommended Reading:

Reid, Richard, *Warfare in African History* (Cambridge University Press, 2012) available in the bookstore

Reno, William, *Warfare in Independent Africa* (Cambridge University Press, 2011) available online via university library

Stapleton, Timothy, *Africa: War and Conflict in the Twentieth Century* (London: Routledge, 2018)

Evaluation:

Book Reviews (x3) = 30% (10% each)

Book Presentation = 10%

Participation = 20%

Paper Presentation = 10%

First Draft Paper = 10%

Final Paper = 20%

Dates for Submission:

Book Review 1 = 12 February

Discuss paper topic with instructor = no later than 12 February

Book Review 2 = 12 March

Book Review 3 = 9 April

First Draft Paper = the week before presentation

Final Paper = 23 April

Book Reviews: Each student must submit three written book reviews on any of the books listed below. Each review should be around 800 words long.

Book Presentation: Each student will give a 30 minute presentation to the class on one of the books listed below. This can be one of the books that the student selects to review. The presentation will be conducted on the date given below for the discussion of the relevant book. The presentation will be

followed by a discussion of the book and the broad theme it relates to. Students will sign up for book presentations, there will be no duplications and the instructor will circulate a schedule.

Participation: Students are expected to prepare for each seminar by reading the assigned book for that day and (during the second half of the course) the pre-circulated student papers. All the books listed below are available online through the university library. Students are also expected to contribute to the discussions of books and papers.

Paper Presentation: During the second half of the semester, each student will present a research paper to the class. The presentation should be around 20 to 30 minutes long and will be followed by a discussion. The instructor will circulate a schedule of student paper presentations. We will try to avoid having the same student present a book and a paper on the same day.

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. All students are expected to read each other's research papers and be prepared to discuss them. 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 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 3000-4000 words long and supported by endnotes/footnotes and a bibliography.

Paper Topics: Students are free to select any research topic that broadly relates to the theme of the course. That said, all topics must be approved by the instructor so it is essential to email or talk to the instructor about your paper. This should be done no later than 12 February. 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 useful if students made use of some primary source material in their research. For this course, most available primary sources will be online material such as colonial era newspapers, published diaries and collections of documents, UK parliamentary papers and UN reports. Many of these are accessible through the University of Calgary Library website (see databases). As this will be a graduate level paper, students are expected to make thorough use of relevant secondary sources and to demonstrate historiographical awareness.

Seminar Outline

Week 1:

No class this week as lectures begin on Thursday 10 January

Week 2: 15 January

Course Introduction – organization of book presentations

Week 3: 22 January

Pre-Colonial Warfare

Thornton, John, *Warfare in Atlantic Africa, 1500-1800* (London: UCL Press, 1999)

Week 4: 29 January

Colonial Conquest

Vandervort, Bruce, *Wars of Imperial Conquest in Africa, 1830-1914* (London: UCL Press, 1998)

Week 5: 5 February

Resistance to Colonial Rule

Giblin, James and Monson, Jamie (eds.), *Maji Maji: Lifting the Fog of War* (Leiden: Brill, 2010)

Week 6: 12 February

African Colonial Military Service

Moyd, Michelle, *Violent Intermediaries: African Soldiers, Conquest and Everyday Colonialism in German East Africa* (Athens: Ohio University Press, 2014)

Reading Week: 18-22 February

Week 7: 26 February

The World Wars in Africa

Stewart, Andrew, *The First Victory: The Second World War and the East Africa Campaign* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2016).

Paper Presentations

Week 8: 5 March

Decolonization Wars

Bennett, Huw, *Fighting the Mau Mau: The British Army and Counter-Insurgency in the Kenya Emergency* (Cambridge University Press, 2013)

Paper Presentations

Week 9: 12 March

Post-Colonial Military Coups and Regimes

Siollun, Max, *Oil, Politics and Violence: Nigeria's Military Coup Culture (1966-76)* (New York: Algora Publishing, 2009).

Paper Presentations

Week 10: 19 March

Women in African Conflicts and Military Regimes

Decker, Alicia, *In Idi Amin's Shadow: Women, Gender and Militarism in Uganda* (Athens: Ohio University Press, 2014)

Paper Presentations

Week 11: 26 March

Post-Colonial Civil Wars

Jok, Madut Jok, *War and Slavery in Sudan* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2001)

Paper Presentations

Week 12: 2 April

Post-Colonial Genocide

Straus, Scot, *The Order of Genocide: Race, Power and War in Rwanda* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2006)

Paper Presentations

Week 13: 9 April

Islamist Insurgency

Varin, Caroline, *Boko Haram and the War on Terror* (Santa Barbara: Praeger Security International, 2016)

Paper Presentations

Course Conclusion

Important Departmental, Faculty, and University Information

Attention history majors: History 300 is a required course for all history majors. You should normally take it in your second year.

Department Twitter @ucalgaryhist

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources:

- Have a question, but not sure where to start? The Arts Students Centre (ASC) is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at Social Sciences 102, call 403-220-3580, or email artsads@ucalgary.ca. For detailed information on common academic concerns, you can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate>.
- For program planning and advice, contact the Arts Students Centre (ASC) in SS 102, call 403-220-3580, email artsads@ucalgary.ca, or visit <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/advising>.
- For registration issues, paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at 403-210-ROCK (7625), visit the office in the MacKimmie Library Block (MLB) or their website at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/>.

Writing:

This course will include written assignments. Faculty policy directs that all written assignments (including, although to a lesser extent, written exam responses) will be assessed at least partly on writing skills. Writing skills include not only surface correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc.) but also general clarity and organization. Research papers must be properly documented.

Writing Support:

Students are also encouraged to use Writing Support Services and other Student Success Centre Services, located on the 3rd floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library (TFDL). Writing Support Services assist with a variety of assignments, from essays to lab reports. Students can book 30-minute one-on-one appointments online, sign up for 15-minute drop-in appointments, and register for a variety of writing workshops. For more information on this and other Student Success Centre services, please visit www.ucalgary.ca/ssc.

Copyright:

The University of Calgary has opted out of the Access Copyright Interim Tariff proposed by the Copyright Board. This means that 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. What this simply means is that 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 that you will have to consult books on reserve at the library. For more information on the University of Calgary's copyright policy, see <http://library.ucalgary.ca/copyright>.

Red Box Policy:

Essays and other assignments may be handed in to 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. will be date stamped with the date of 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 promptly at 8:30 a.m. and at 4:00 p.m. Monday to Friday.

Departmental Grading System:

The following percentage-to-letter grade conversion scheme has been adopted for use in all Canadian Studies, History, and Latin American Studies courses.

Percentage	Letter Grade	Grade Point Value	Description
90–100	A+	4.00	Outstanding
85–89	A	4.00	Excellent—superior performance showing comprehensive understanding of subject matter.
80–84	A–	3.70	
77–79	B+	3.30	
73–76	B	3.00	Good—clearly above average performance with knowledge of subject matter generally complete.

Percentage	Letter Grade	Grade Point Value	Description
70–72	B–	2.70	
67–69	C+	2.30	
63–66	C	2.00	Satisfactory—basic understanding of the subject matter.
60–62	C–	1.70	Receipt of a grade point average of 1.70 may not be sufficient for promotion or graduation.
56–59	D+	1.30	Minimal pass—marginal performance; generally insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject.
50–55	D	1.00	
0–49	F	0	Fail—unsatisfactory performance or failure to meet course requirements.

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. As noted in *The History Student's Handbook* (http://hist.ucalgary.ca/sites/hist.ucalgary.ca/files/history_students_handbook_2015.pdf), plagiarism may take several forms:

- Failure to cite sources properly may be considered plagiarism. This could include quotations, and wording used from another source but not acknowledged.
- Borrowed, purchased, and/or ghostwritten papers are considered plagiarism, as is 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 is also considered plagiarism, even when notes are used, unless the essay is a critical analysis of those works.
- The use of notes does not justify the sustained presentation of another author's language and ideas as one's own.

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 Arts' associate deans of students who will apply the penalties specified in the *University of Calgary Calendar*.

Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI):

At the University of Calgary, feedback provided by students through the Universal Student Ratings of Instruction survey provides valuable information to help with evaluating instruction, enhancing learning and teaching, and selecting courses (www.ucalgary.ca/usri). Your responses make a difference. Please participate in USRI surveys.

Academic Accommodations (implemented July 1, 2015):

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 communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services 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 communicate this need, preferably in writing, to the course instructor.

Campus Resources for Mental Health:

The University of Calgary recognizes the pivotal role that student mental health plays in physical health, social connectedness and academic success, and aspires to create a caring and supportive campus community where individuals can freely talk about mental health and receive supports when needed. We encourage you to explore the excellent mental health resources available throughout the university community, such as counselling, self-help resources, peer support or skills-building available through the SU Wellness Centre (Room 370, MacEwan Student Centre, <https://www.ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/services/mental-health-services>) and the Campus Mental Health Strategy website (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/mentalhealth/>).

Other Useful Information:

- Faculty of Arts Representatives: 403-220-6551, arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca, arts4@su.ucalgary.ca.
- Campus Security & Safewalk: 403-220-5333, <http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk>.
- Freedom of Information: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip/foip-hia>.

- Emergency Evacuation Assembly

Points: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>.

- Student Union Information: <http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/>.

- Graduate Student Association: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/gsa/>.

- Student Ombudsman Office: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>

- Registration Changes and Exemption

Requests: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/appeals>.

Winter 2019