

**AS100.399**  
**Decolonization and Nationalism in Africa**

**Professor**

Pier M. Larson  
Office: 330G Gilman Hall  
Office Hours: T @ 4-6 & by appointment  
Contact: 410-516-5582; [larson@jhu.edu](mailto:larson@jhu.edu)  
<http://plarson.info/>

**Class Meeting Time & Place**

M 1:30-3:50, place TBD

**Scope and Purpose**

This course is a critical reading seminar on decolonization and nationalism in Africa. Africa means the African continent and its inhabitants. To be critical is not necessarily to criticize, but to parse, dissect, and analyze.

Decolonization designates the ending of colonial rule, the termination of colonial political status. Nationalism is not a synonym for decolonization. Neither is independence. It is possible to decolonize without nationalism or independence. Nationalism is possible without independence or decolonization. Places like Réunion, Mayotte, Guadeloupe and Martinique—once French colonies but now French *départements*—decolonized without becoming independent. These decolonized territories now legally part of France are not conceived of (at least in French law if not also in most people's minds) as separate nations. Not all anti-colonial activity is nationalist or militates for independence. Labor actions such as railway strikes, for example, aimed to eliminate discriminatory and racist colonial labor policies but were not necessarily nationalist in orientation (their purpose was seldom to create a nation and often they were not pro-independence either).

Nations and nationalism were not the only or the inevitable end to European colonization. Nor were they necessarily the most desirable. Nationalism was a choice—one possibility among others. It might seem odd, then, that nationalist ideologies of various stripes and independent nations were formed across Africa in the age of decolonization. Nationalist policies guided the actions of many newly independent governments.

Nationalism has different facets. On the one hand it is a particular mode of decolonization in which an independent state claiming to represent a nation is created out of a territorial colony. But more relevant to our study, nationalism is an ideology and a practice. Nationalist ideologies differ one from the other. Pan-Africanism, for example, was rather different from Kenyan and Zimbabwean nationalism. The nation arises out of intellectual work and political claims. It is not a fact of the natural world. A nation first forms in the mind. Making a nation is intellectual work. But most important: *what kind* of nations and states did African nationalisms envision and actually produce? What sacrifices would need to be made for the nation, and by whom? Nationalist projects are typically conceived to create or benefit the abstract idea of a nation (or certain segments thereof), whether willfully or not. Who will or actually does benefit from nationalism and nationalist projects? Who must make sacrifices? Why? How convincing to

people are nationalist projects, nationalist arguments? Who is included in a new nation? Excluded from it? And how? What are the political, social, and economic implications of certain forms of nationalist thought and action? Nationalism, in other words, is an ideology which when set in practice has deep practical consequences. We will study some of these consequences.

Decolonization, nationalism, and independence, while each different one from the other, are closely linked in postcolonial African history. Nationalism and decolonization each bear with them certain connotations in academic study. African nationalism, which retains a good deal of (vaguely defined) popularity among the U.S. public, positively valorizes the activities of Africans in throwing off colonialism and creating new, emergent, rising nations. Many studies of African nationalism focus on ideas of emergence, awakening, and consciousness, as if 55 nation-states were a natural fact of the African political landscape, or that the nation was fully-formed, but simply asleep during the colonial era.

To examine the processes of decolonization and nationalism critically is not to take them at face value. It is to interrogate them. It is to ask how national and decolonizing projects emerged and differed and to examine their various implications. In the early years of African independence, there was little critical examination of African nationalism (Frantz Fanon was a very notable and astute exception). In the late colonial and immediate postcolonial era, scholars largely celebrated nationalism and decolonization. Some still do, but celebratory scholarship is rarely taken seriously these days. Decolonization and nationalism have now become major topics of critical inquiry. In part this is because decolonization and nationalism have fallen significantly short of expectations. And in part it is because the experience of Africans is universal: studying nationalism in Africa helps us to understand nationalism elsewhere.

Finally, diversity and nationalism are fundamentally linked in African history. Africa is a modern, cosmopolitan, and diverse place. Human genome studies demonstrate that the greatest human diversity of any continent is found in Africa. Linguistic studies show the same about language: Africans speak more languages than do people on any other continent. African cultures and societies are similarly diverse, and this is true within modern African countries. African unity—whether cultural or political—is more a function of how people think rather than a detail of comparative history. And like all modern continents, Africa has a history of in- and out-migrations, some voluntary, some coerced. There are indigenous Africans of many origins and phenotypes. And there are immigrants to Africa from all around the world: Euro-Africans of various stripes (black and white), Asian-Africans (Indians, Chinese, and Indonesians especially), Arab-Africans of various sorts, Mediterranean-Africans (especially Lebanese, Greeks, and Turks), American-Africans, Jewish Africans of various origins and more. This diversity is Africa.

Because of its diversity in both indigenous and immigrant populations, Africa is a cosmopolitan place in a way few students in North America typically understand. Nationalism is especially problematic in African history because of nationalism's propensity to draw boundaries restrictively and to exclude certain human communities. African diversity makes the work of claiming and forming nations especially difficult and fraught. Should nations coincide with Africa's 55 states? How did and do nationalists deal with Africa's diversity? What is the relationship of African nationalism to racialization in a place so phenotypically diverse? What does race mean in a continent of such diversity? Africa's diversity and its nationalisms are fundamentally linked, and they must be studied reciprocally.

### Required Books with ISBN Numbers

- Frederick Cooper, *Africa since 1940: The Past of the Present* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2002). **9780521776004**
- Heather J. Sharkey, *Living with Colonialism: Nationalism and Culture in the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2003). **9780520235595** [a Kindle edition is available]
- Tony Chafer, *The End of Empire in French West Africa: France's Successful Decolonization?* (Oxford: Berg, 2002). **9781859735572**
- Daniel Branch, *Defeating Mau Mau, Creating Kenya: Counterinsurgency, Civil War, and Decolonization* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2009). **9780521130905**
- Jonathon Glassman, *War of Words, War of Stones: Racial Thought and Violence in Colonial Zanzibar* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2010). **9780253222800**
- Ondjaki, *Good Morning Comrades*. Translated by Stephen Henighan. (Emeryville, Ontario: Biblioasis, 2008). **9781897231401**

### Course Requirements

1. Attend every class. You must notify the professor *beforehand* if you are going to miss a class.
  
2. Informal weekly reaction/thought papers. These are informal (grammar, spelling, organization and the like are not checked) but they must be typed, not handwritten. One page, single spaced, is entirely adequate. You are *not* encouraged to write more. The paper should record your informal reaction to the week's assigned reading, a sort of journal of your thoughts. Strive to answer questions such as: What was the argument of the assigned readings? What did you find interesting about them? New? Provocative? Questionable? Each paper should also raise two or more issues for the class to deliberate, and you should raise these verbally during our discussion. The issues/questions should be thought-provoking ones for your fellow students to consider, not simple informational questions for the instructor to answer. The purpose of the weekly papers is for the instructor to get a sense of how you are thinking critically about the readings and to help you prepare for your oral participation each week. Weekly papers are due each week at the end of class. Ten points will be subtracted from your final grade for each reaction paper not turned in *on time*. You must turn in *your own* reaction paper and it is a violation of academic honesty to have another person turn it in for you or for you to turn in someone else's paper.
  
3. A map quiz of modern African country names. This will be administered in class on September 19. You will find the map and a list of the countries you are expected to identify at the course web site.
  
4. A critical review of the *required* reading for one week of the course: 7 full pages, typed, double spaced, Times New Roman 12 pt, one inch margins. Due in class (and a turnitin.com) on the week *after* the assigned reading (this allows you the benefit of the course discussion of the readings). The review should first *describe* the argument/plot of the readings and how they relate to decolonization and nationalism. Then the review should critically *analyze* the works from your perspective. What are the implications of the arguments? How do the ideas in the works relate to other readings you have conducted for the class? What are the strengths and weaknesses of the argument/plot?

5. Review of *one* book listed under the “Review Books” for a week of your choice: 5 full pages, typed, double spaced, Times New Roman 12 pt, one inch margins. Due in class on November 21 and electronically to turnitin.com before class. The review should first *describe* the argument/plot of the book and how it relates to decolonization and nationalism. Then the review should critically *analyze* the book from your perspective. What are the implications of the argument? How do the ideas in the book relate to other readings you have conducted for the class? What are the strengths and weaknesses of the argument/plot?

6. A take-home final examination. This will consist of two 5-page essay answers to two general questions relating to the required readings and course discussions. Ten pages total. Exam questions will be distributed as hard copy at the end of class on November 28 and essays are due by attachment to email to the professor by noon on Monday, December 12. *The conception and writing of these answers must be entirely your own; working with another person on the exam in any way will be interpreted as academic dishonesty and reported.*

Summary of the written requirements:

- weekly thought papers (1 page, single spaced)
- map quiz of African country names
- one required reading paper (7 pages, double spaced)
- one review book paper (5 pages, double spaced)
- final take-home exam (10 pages, double spaced)

### Course Schedule

#### Aug 29: Introduction (first day of class)

- Please read the syllabus very carefully, especially the text on the first two pages.

#### Sept 12: Two Views/Overviews

- Frederick Cooper, *Africa since 1940: The Past of the Present* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2002). [purchase and print reserve]
- John Springhall, *Decolonization since 1945: The Collapse of European Overseas Empires* (Basingstoke: Palgrave, 2001), pp. 1-17 & 203-219. [electronic reserve]

Review Book Choices:

- John Springhall, *Decolonization since 1945: The Collapse of European Overseas Empires*. Basingstoke: Palgrave, 2001.
- Raymond F. Betts, *Decolonization*. 2nd ed. London: Routledge, 2004.
- Hargreaves, John D. *Decolonization in Africa*. 2nd. ed. New York: Longman, 1996.
- David Birmingham, *The Decolonization of Africa*. Athens, Oh.: Ohio University Press, 1995.

#### Sept 19: Colonialism & National Genesis in the British Sudan

- Heather J. Sharkey, *Living with Colonialism: Nationalism and Culture in the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2003). [purchase and print reserve]

## Review Book Choices:

- Robert L. Tignor, *Capitalism and Nationalism at the End of Empire: State and Business in Decolonizing Egypt, Nigeria, and Kenya, 1945-1963*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1998.
- Stephanie Beswick, *Sudan's Blood Memory: The Legacy of War, Ethnicity, and Slavery in Early South Sudan*. Rochester, N.Y.: University of Rochester Press, 2004.
- Mark Bradbury, *Becoming Somaliland*. Oxford, Eng.: James Currey, 2008.
- Taleb Salih, *Season of Migration to the North*. New York: NYRB Classics, 2009. [A Novel]

**Sept 26: Decolonization in French West Africa**

- Tony Chafer, *The End of Empire in French West Africa: France's Successful Decolonization?* (Oxford: Berg, 2002). [purchase and print reserve]

## Review Book Choices:

- Raymond F. Betts, *France and Decolonization, 1900-1960*. Basingstoke: Macmillan, 1991.
- Frederick Cooper, *Decolonization and African Society: The Labor Question in French and British Africa*. Cambridge, Eng.: Cambridge University Press, 1996.
- Charles Robert Ageron, *La décolonisation française*. 2. éd. rev. et augm. Paris: Armand Colin, 1994.
- Jean Marie Allman, *The Quills of the Porcupine: Asante Nationalism in an Emergent Ghana*. Madison, Wisc.: University of Wisconsin Press, 1993.
- Richard Rathbone, *Nkrumah and the Chiefs: The Politics of Chieftaincy in Ghana, 1951-1960*. Athens, Oh.: Ohio University Press, 1999.

**Oct 3: Critical Appraisals of the Postcolony**

- Frantz Fanon, selection from "The Trials and Tribulations of National Consciousness," in Frantz Fanon, *The Wretched of the Earth* trans. by Richard Philcox (New York: Grove Press, 2004), pp. 97-126. [electronic reserve]
- Achille Mbembe, "Provisional Notes on the Postcolony," *Africa* 62,1 (1992): 3-37. [electronic reserve]
- Jean-François Bayart, *The State in Africa: The Politics of the Belly*. 2nd ed. (Cambridge, Eng.: Polity Press, 2009), 228-259. [electronic reserve]

## Review Book Choices:

- Jean-François Bayart, *The State in Africa: The Politics of the Belly*. New York: Longman, 1993.
- Achille Mbembe, *On the Postcolony*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2001.
- Jean-François Bayart, Stephen Ellis, and Béatrice Hibou. *The Criminalization of the State in Africa*. Oxford, Eng.: James Currey, 1999.
- Ahmadou Kourouma, *Waiting for the Wild Beasts to Vote*. New York: Vintage, 2004. [A Novel].
- Charles Piot, *Nostalgia for the Future: West Africa after the Cold War*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2010.
- Chinua Achebe, *Anthills of the Savannah*. New York: Anchor Books, 1997. [A Novel]
- Sony Labou Tansi, *The Antipeople: A Novel*. New York: Marion Boyars, 2000. [A Novel]
- Alain Mabanckou, *Broken Glass*. Berkeley, Calif.: Soft Skull Press, 2010. [A Novel]
- Hisham Matar, *In the Country of Men*. New York: Dial Press, Random House, 2008. [A Novel]

**Oct 11: Kenya: The Fruits of Loyalism in the Age of Decolonization**

- Daniel Branch, *Defeating Mau Mau, Creating Kenya: Counterinsurgency, Civil War, and Decolonization* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2009). [purchase and print reserve]

## Review Book Choices:

- David M. Anderson, *Histories of the Hanged: The Dirty War in Kenya and the End of Empire*. New York: W. W. Norton, 2005.
- Caroline Elkins, *Imperial Reckoning: The Untold Story of Britain's Gulag in Kenya*. New York: Henry Holt, 2005.
- E.S. Atieno Odhiambo, and John Lonsdale, eds. *Mau Mau and Nationhood: Arms, Authority and Narration*. Oxford, U.K.: James Currey, 2003.
- M. G. Vassanji, *The In-Between World of Vikram Lall: A Novel*. New York: Vintage, 2003. [A Novel]
- Ngugi wa Thiong'o, *A Grain of Wheat*. Portsmouth, N.H.: Heinemann, 2008. [A Novel]

**Oct 17: The Struggle to Define the Nation in Algeria**

- James McDougall, *History and the Culture of Nationalism in Algeria* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006), pp. 28-216. [ask the professor]

## Review Book Choices:

- Todd Shepard, *The Invention of Decolonization: The Algerian War and the Remaking of France* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2006).
- Alistair Horne, *A Savage War of Peace: Algeria, 1954-1962*. New York: Penguin Books, 1987.
- Martin Alexander, Martin Evans, and John F. Keiger, eds. *The Algerian War and the French Army, 1954-62: Experiences, Images, Testimonies*. Basingstoke, Eng.: Palgrave, 2002.
- Jonathan K. Gosnell, *The Politics of Frenchness in Colonial Algeria, 1930-1954*. Rochester, NY: University of Rochester Press, 2002.
- Benjamin Stora, *Algeria, 1830-2000*. Ithaca, N.Y.: Cornell University Press, 2001.
- John Ruedy, *Modern Algeria: The Origins and Development of a Nation*. Bloomington, Ind.: Indiana University Press, 1992.
- Luis Martinez, *The Algerian Civil War, 1990-1998*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2000.
- Mouloud Feraoun, *The Poor Man's Son: Menrad, Kabyle Schoolteacher*. Translated by Lucy R. McNair. Charlottesville, Va.: University of Virginia Press, 2005. [A Novel]
- Assia Djebar, *The Tongue's Blood Does Not Run Dry: Algerian Stories: Seven Stories* Press, 2006. [Fiction]
- Assia Djebar, *Children of the New World: A Novel of the Algerian War*. New York: The Feminist Press at CUNY, 2005. [A Novel]

**Oct 24: Contrasting Interpretations of Guinean Nationalism**

- Frederick Cooper, "The Dialectics of Decolonization: Nationalism and Labor Movements in Post-War French Africa," in *Tensions of Empire: Colonial Cultures in a Bourgeois World*, edited by Frederick Cooper and Ann Laura Stoler (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1997), 406-435. [electronic reserve]

- Elizabeth Schmidt, "Top Down or Bottom Up? Nationalism Mobilization Reconsidered, with Special Reference to Guinea (French West Africa)," *American Historical Review* 110,4 (2005), 975-1014. [electronic reserve]
- Jay Straker, *Youth, Nationalism, and the Guinean Revolution* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2009), pp. 107-132 & 176-214. [electronic reserve]

Review Book Choices:

- Elizabeth Schmidt, *Mobilizing the Masses: Gender, Ethnicity, and Class in the Nationalist Movement in Guinea, 1939-1958* (Portsmouth, N.H.: Heinemann, 2005).
- Elizabeth Schmidt, *Cold War and Decolonization in Guinea, 1946-1958*. Athens, Oh.: Ohio University Press, 2007.
- Richard Joseph, *Radical Nationalism in Cameroun: Social Origins of the UPC Rebellion*. Oxford, Eng.: Oxford University Press, 1977.
- James Eskridge Genova, *Colonial Ambivalence, Cultural Authenticity, and the Limitations of Mimicry in French-ruled West Africa, 1914-1956*. New York: Peter Lang, 2004.

**Oct 31: Nationalism and Racialized Violence, Zanzibar I**

- Jonathon Glassman, *War of Words, War of Stones: Racial Thought and Violence in Colonial Zanzibar* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2010), pp. 3-146. [purchase and print reserve]
- James R. Brennan, "Blood Enemies: Exploitation and Urban Citizenship in the Nationalist Political thought of Tanzania, 1958-1975," *Journal of African History* 47,3 (2006): 387-411. [electronic reserve]

Review Book Choices:

- Mahmood Mamdani, *When Victims become Killers: Colonialism, Nativism, and the Genocide in Rwanda* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2001).
- Mahmood Mamdani, *Citizen and Subject: Contemporary Africa and the Legacy of Late Colonialism*. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 1996.
- Gérard Prunier, *The Rwanda Crisis: History of a Genocide*. London: Hurst & Co., 1998.
- Gérard Prunier, *Darfur: A 21st Century Genocide*. 3rd ed. Ithaca, N.Y.: Cornell University Press, 2008.
- Bruce Hall, *A History of Race in Muslim West Africa, 1600-1960*. Cambridge, Eng.: Cambridge University Press, 2011.

**Nov 7: Nationalism and Racialized Violence, Zanzibar II**

- Glassman, *War of Words, War of Stones*, pp. 147-302. [purchase and print reserve]
- Derek R. Peterson, "States of Mind: Political History and the Rwenzururu Kingdom in Western Uganda" in *Recasting the Past: History Writing and Political Work in Modern Africa*, edited by Derek R. Peterson and Giacomo Macola (Athens: Ohio University Press, 2009), pp. 171-190. [electronic reserve]

Review Book Choices:

- Susan Geiger, *TANU Women: Gender and Culture in the Making of Tanganyikan Nationalism, 1955-1965* (Portsmouth, N.H.: Heinemann, 1997).
- Kelly Michelle Askew, *Performing the Nation: Swahili Music and Cultural Politics in Tanzania* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2002), selection.
- Cati Coe, *Dilemmas of Culture in African Schools: Youth, Nationalism, and the Transformation of Knowledge*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2005.

- Kristen E. Cheney, *Pillars of the Nation: Child Citizens and Ugandan National Development*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2007.

#### Nov 14: Four Studies: East & North Africa

- Lynn M. Thomas, *Politics of the Womb: Women, Reproduction, and the State in Kenya* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2003), pp. 135-171. [electronic reserve]
- Harry G. West, *Kupilikula: Governance and the Invisible Realm in Mozambique* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2005), pp. 143-189. [electronic reserve]
- Katherine E. Hoffman, "Internal Fractures in the Berber-Arab Distinction: From Colonial Practice to Post-National Preoccupations," in *Berbers and Others: Beyond Tribe and Nation in the Maghrib*, edited by Katherine E. Hoffman and Susan Gilson Miller (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2010), pp. 39-61. [electronic reserve]
- Paul A. Silverstein, "The Local Dimensions of Transnational Berberism: Radical Politics, Land Rights, and Cultural Activism in Southeastern Morocco," in *Berbers and Others: Beyond Tribe and Nation in the Maghrib*, edited by Katherine E. Hoffman and Susan Gilson Miller (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2010), pp. 83-102. [electronic reserve]

#### Review Book Choices:

- Liisa H Malkki, *Purity and Exile: Violence, Memory, and National Cosmology among Hutu Refugees in Tanzania*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1995.
- David William Cohen and E.S. Atieno Odhiambo. *Burying SM: The Politics of Knowledge and the Sociology of Power in Africa*. Portsmouth, N.H.: Heinemann, 1992.
- Katherine E., Hoffman and Susan Gilson Miller, eds. *Berbers and Others: Beyond Tribe and Nation in the Maghrib*. Bloomington, Ind.: Indiana University Press, 2010.
- Emily Benichou Gottreich and Daniel J. Schroeter, eds., *Jewish Culture and Society in North Africa*, Bloomington, Ind.: Indiana University Press, 2011.

#### Nov 21: ZANU-PF forms of Nationalism in Zimbabwe

- Terence O. Ranger, "Nationalist Historiography, Patriotic History and the History of the Nation: The Struggle over the Past in Zimbabwe." *Journal of Southern African Studies* 30,2 (June 2004), 215-234. [electronic reserve]
- Brian Raftopoulos, "Problematising Nationalism in Zimbabwe: A Historiographical Review," *Zambezia* 26,2 (1999), 115-134. [electronic reserve]
- Brian Raftopoulos and Alois S. Mlambo, eds. *Becoming Zimbabwe: A History from the Pre-Colonial Period to 2008* (Harare: Weaver Press, 2009), 167-232. [electronic reserve]

#### Review Book Choices:

- Jocelyn Alexander, *The Unsettled Land: State-Making in Zimbabwe, 1945-2002*. Oxford, Eng.: James Currey, 2006.
- Norma J. Kriger, *Guerrilla Veterans in Post-war Zimbabwe: Symbolic and Violent Politics, 1980-1987* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003).
- Norma J. Kriger, *Zimbabwe's Guerrilla War: Peasant Voices* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1992).
- Donald S. Moore, *Suffering for Territory: Race, Place, and Power in Zimbabwe*. Durham, N.C.: Duke University Press, 2005.



- Daniel Compagnon, *A Predictable Tragedy: Robert Mugabe and the Collapse of Zimbabwe*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2011.
- Daniel R. Magaziner, *The Law and the Prophets: Black Consciousness in South Africa, 1968-1977*. Athens, Oh.: Ohio University Press, 2010.
- Tom Lodge, *Sharpeville: A Massacre and its Consequences*. London: Oxford University Press, 2010.
- Thembisa Waetjen, *Workers and Warriors: Masculinity and the Struggle for Nation in South Africa*. Urbana, Ill.: University of Illinois Press, 2004.
- Marissa J. Moorman, *Intonations: A Social History of Music and Nation in Luanda, Angola, from 1945 to Recent Times*. Athens, Oh.: Ohio University Press, 2008.

### Nov 28: Fiction and Nation in the Postcolony

- Ondjaki. *Good Morning Comrades*. Translated by Stephen Henighan. Emeryville, Ontario: Biblioasis, 2008. [purchase and print reserve]

#### Review Book Choices:

- Chinua Achebe, *A Man of the People* (New York: Anchor Books, 1988).
- Ayi Kwei Armah, *The Beautiful Ones are not yet Born*. Portsmouth, N.H.: Heinemann, 1988.
- Chinua Achebe, *No Longer at Ease*. New York: Anchor Books, 1994.
- Abdulrazak Gurnah, *Admiring Silence*. New York: New Press, 1996.
- Assia Djebar, *So Vast the Prison: Seven Stories* Press, 1999.
- Assia Djebar, *Children of the New World: A Novel of the Algerian War* (New York: The Feminist Press at CUNY, 2005).
- Helon Habila, *Waiting for an Angel*. New York: W. W. Norton, 2004.
- Mia Couto, *Sleepwalking Land*. London: Serpent's Tail, 2006.
- Tahar Ben Jelloun, *The Last Friend: A Novel*. New Penguin, 2007.
- Naguib Mahfouz, *Karnak Cafe*. Cairo: American University Cairo, 2007.
- Hisham Matar, *In the Country of Men*. New York: Dial Press, Random House, 2008.
- Ayi Kwei Armah, *The Beautiful Ones are not yet Born* (Portsmouth, N.H.: Heinemann, 1988).
- Tahar Ben Jelloun, *The Blinding Absence of Light*. New York: Penguin, 2006.
- Yvonne Vera, *The Stone Virgins: A Novel*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2005.
- M. G. Vassanji, *The Gunny Sack*. Toronto: Anchor Canada, 2005.
- Moses Isegawa, *Snakepit: A Novel*. New York: Vintage, 2005.
- Moses Isegawa, *Abyssinian Chronicles: A Novel*. New York: Vintage, 2001.
- Ahmadou Kourouma, *Waiting for the Wild Beasts to Vote*. New York: Vintage, 2004.
- Emmanuel Dongala, *Little Boys Come from the Stars*. New York: Anchor Books, 2002.
- Mouloud Feraoun, *The Poor Man's Son*. Charlottesville, Va.: University of Virginia Press, 2005.
- Ahlam Mosteghanemi, *Memory in the Flesh*. Cairo: American University in Cairo Press, 2003.
- Ngugi wa Thiong'o, *Petals of Blood* (New York: Penguin Classics, 2005).
- Ngugi wa Thiong'o, *Devil on the Cross* (Portsmouth, N.H.: Heinemann, 1987).