

Colonial Africa: French African Empire (AS100.731)

Graduate Reading Seminar

Spring 2013

Final Syllabus

Professor: Pier M. Larson

Meeting time: Wednesdays, 11-1

Purpose: This is a graduate reading seminar considering recent Anglophone historical scholarship on French African Empire, from the Indian Ocean Islands to North Africa. The last book on the reading list is a work of historical anthropology. In practical terms, most of the reading is on French West Africa. The selected works represent a variety of approaches to the history of French African empire, from works that are mostly French imperial history to works of history by scholars of Africa. As a representative sampling of the sorts of historical work that is currently being done, the reading list exemplifies different themes, methodologies, and styles of argumentation. Although coming from different angles, the assigned works are all prominent in historical debates about Africa and French empire and will help students to grasp continuities and discontinuities in the historiography.

Format/Coursework: One book a week, to be discussed in weekly seminar meeting. Students must come to class with a page or two of informally prepared comments and questions that will be left with the professor at the end of the seminar. Second: Students will choose about three extra books on a related topic in the additional reading section to write a report on. This assignment will be arranged in consultation with the professor and is designed to complement the student's particular research interests.

Seminar Schedule

Jan. 30: Lydon, Ghislaine. *On Trans-Saharan Trails: Islamic Law, Trade Networks, and Cross-Cultural Exchange in Nineteenth-Century Western Africa* (Cambridge, Eng.: Cambridge University Press, 2009). ISBN 1107611784

Feb. 6: Larson, Pier M. *Ocean of Letters: Language and Creolization in an Indian Ocean Diaspora* (Cambridge, Eng.: Cambridge University Press, 2009). ISBN 0521739578

Feb. 13: Hall, Bruce. *A History of Race in Muslim West Africa, 1600-1960* (Cambridge, Eng.: Cambridge University Press, 2011). ISBN 1107002877

Feb. 20: Roberts, Richard. *Litigants and Households: African Disputes and Colonial Courts in the French Soudan, 1895-1912* (Portsmouth, N.H.: Heinemann, 2005). ISBN 0325002584

Feb. 27: Keller, Richard C. *Colonial Madness: Psychiatry in French North Africa* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2007). ISBN 0226429733

Mar. 6: Robinson, David. *Paths of Accommodation: Muslim Societies and French Colonial Authorities in Senegal and Mauritania, 1880-1920* (Athens, Oh.: Ohio University Press, 2000). ISBN 0821413546

Mar. 13: Trumbull, George R. *An Empire of Facts: Colonial Power, Cultural Knowledge, and Islam in Algeria, 1870-1914* (Cambridge, Eng.: Cambridge University Press, 2009). ISBN 0521734347

Mar. 27: Mann, Gregory. *Native Sons: West African Veterans and France in the Twentieth Century* (Durham, N.C.: Duke University Press, 2006). ISBN 0822337681

Apr. 3: Martin, Phyllis M. *Catholic Women of Congo-Brazzaville: Mothers and Sisters in Troubled Times* (Bloomington, Ind.: Indiana University Press, 2009). ISBN 0253220556

Apr. 10: Peterson, Brian J. *Islamization from Below: The Making of Muslim Communities in Rural French Sudan, 1880-1960* (New Haven, Conn.: Yale University Press, 2011). ISBN 0300152708

Apr. 17: Chafer, Tony. *The End of Empire in French West Africa: France's Successful Decolonization?* (Oxford, Eng.: Berg, 2002). ISBN 1859735572

Apr. 24: Evans, Martin. *Algeria: France's Undeclared War* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2012). ISBN 0192803506

May. 1: Straker, Jay. *Youth, Nationalism, and the Guinean Revolution* (Bloomington, Ind.: Indiana University Press, 2009). ISBN 0253220599

Additional Reading for Papers

Students will read a related set of books and write an essay

*Anthropology/Ethnography

~French/Empire History

African history (without symbol)

*Scheele, Judith. *Smugglers and Saints of the Sahara: Regional Connectivity in the Twentieth Century* (Cambridge, Eng.: Cambridge University Press, 2012).

McDougall, James, and Judith Scheele, eds. *Saharan Frontiers: Space and Mobility in Northwest Africa*. Bloomington, Ind.: Indiana University Press, 2012.

el Hamel, Chouki. *Black Morocco: A History of Slavery, Race, and Islam* (Cambridge, Eng.: Cambridge University Press, 2012).

*McGovern, Mike. *Unmasking the State: Making Guinea Modern* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2012).

Osborn, Emily Lynn. *Our New Husbands are Here: Households, Gender, and Politics in a West African State from the Slave Trade to Colonial Rule* (Athens, Oh.: Ohio University Press, 2011).

Clancy-Smith, Julia. *Mediterraneans: North Africa and Europe in an Age of Migration, c. 1800-1900* (Berkeley, Calif.: University of California Press, 2011).

Brower, Benjamin. *A Desert Named Peace: The Violence of France's Empire in the Algerian Sahara, 1844-1902* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2011).

Sessions, Jennifer E. *By Sword and Plow: France and the Conquest of Algeria* Cornell University Press: Ithaca, N.Y., 2011).

*Alidou, Ousseina D. *Engaging Modernity: Muslim Women and the Politics of Agency in Postcolonial Niger* (Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 2011).

Larson, Pier M. "Fragments of an Indian Ocean Life: Aristide Corroller between Islands and Empires," *Journal of Social History* 45,2 (Winter 2011), 366-389.

Semley, Lorelle D. *Mother is Gold, Father is Glass: Gender and Colonialism in a Yoruba Town* (Bloomington, Ind.: Indiana University Press, 2011).

~Warren, Michelle R. *Creole Medievalism: Colonial France and Joseph Bédier's Middle Ages* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2011).

- *Hellweg, Joseph. *Hunting the Ethical State: The Benkadi Movement of Côte d'Ivoire* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2011).
- ~Hélénou, Véronique. *French Caribbeans in Africa: Diasporic Connections and Colonial Administration, 1880-1939* (Basingstoke, Eng.: Palgrave Macmillan, 2011).
- *~Crapanzano, Vincent. *The Harkis: The Wound That Never Heals* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2011).
- Cooper, Frederick. "Reconstructing Empire in British and French Africa," *Past and Present* 210 (2011), 196-210.
- *McGovern, Mike. *Making War in Côte d'Ivoire* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2010).
- Burrill, Emily S., Richard Roberts, and Elizabeth Thornberry, eds. *Domestic Violence and the Law in Colonial and Postcolonial Africa*. Athens, Oh.: Ohio University Press, 2010.
- *Piot, Charles. *Nostalgia for the Future: West Africa after the Cold War* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2010).
- *Nguyen, Vinh-Kim. *The Republic of Therapy: Triage and Sovereignty in West Africa's Time of AIDS* (Durham, N.C.: Duke University Press, 2010).
- Abi-Mershed, Osama. *Apostles of Modernity: Saint-Simonians and the Civilizing Mission in Algeria* (Stanford, Calif.: Stanford University Press, 2010).
- Hanretta, Sean. *Islam and Social Change in French West Africa: History of an Emancipatory Community* (Cambridge, Eng.: Cambridge University Press, 2009).
- Sarró, Ramon. *The Politics of Religious Change on the Upper Guinea Coast: Iconoclasm Done and Undone* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2009).
- *Masquelier, Adeline. *Women and Islamic Revival in a West African Town* (Bloomington, Ind.: Indiana University Press, 2009).
- ~Hale, Dana S. *Races on Display: French Representations of Colonized Peoples, 1886-1940* (Bloomington, Ind.: Indiana University Press, 2008).
- Schmidt, Elizabeth. *Cold War and Decolonization in Guinea, 1946-1958* (Athens, Oh.: Ohio University Press, 2007).
- Davis, Diana K. *Resurrecting the Granary of Rome: Environmental History and French Colonial Expansion in North Africa* (Athens, Oh.: Ohio University Press, 2007).

~Saada, Emanuelle. *Les enfants de la colonie: Les métis de l'empire français entre sujétion et citoyenneté* (Paris: Éditions La Découverte, 2007).

~Lewis, Mary Dewhurst. *The Boundaries of the Republic: Migrant Rights and the Limits of Universalism in France, 1918-1940* (Stanford, Calif.: Stanford University Press, 2007).

*De Jong, Ferdinand. *Masquerades of Modernity: Power and Secrecy in Casamance, Senegal* (Bloomington, Ind.: Indiana University Press, 2007).

Rich, Jeremy. *A Workman is Worthy of His Meat: Food and Colonialism in the Gabon Estuary* (Lincoln, Neb.: University of Nebraska Press, 2007).

*Price, Sally. *Paris Primitive: Jacques Chirac's Museum on the Quai Branly* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2007).

Lawrence, Benjamin N. *Locality, Mobility, and "Nation": Periurban Colonialism in Togo's Eweland, 1900-1960* (Rochester, N.Y.: University of Rochester Press, 2007).

Babou, Cheikh Anta. *Fighting the Greater Jihad: Amadu Bamba and the Founding of the Muridiyya of Senegal, 1853-1913* (Athens, Oh.: Ohio University Press, 2007).

~Shepard, Todd. *The Invention of Decolonization: The Algerian War and the Remaking of France* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2006).

Ginio, Ruth. *French Colonialism Unmasked: The Vichy Years in French West Africa* (Lawrence: University of Nebraska Press, 2006).

McDougall, James. *History and the Culture of Nationalism in Algeria* (Cambridge, Eng.: Cambridge University Press, 2006).

*Winders, James A. *Paris African: Rhythms of the African Diaspora* (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2006).

~Jennings, Eric Thomas. *Curing the Colonizers: Hydrotherapy, Climatology, and French Colonial Spas* (Durham, N.C.: Duke University Press, 2006).

Gerbi, Alexandre. *Histoire occultée de la décolonisation franco-africaine: imposture, refoulements, et névroses* (Paris: L'Harmattan, 2006).

~Daughton, J. P. *An Empire Divided: Religion, Republicanism, and the Making of French Colonialism, 1880-1914* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2006).

~Wilder, Gary. *The French Imperial Nation-State: Negritude and Colonial Humanism between the two World Wars* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2005).

Soares, Benjamin F. *Islam and the Prayer Economy: History and Authority in a Malian Town* (Ann Arbor, Mich.: The University of Michigan Press, 2005).

Schmidt, Elizabeth. *Mobilizing the Masses: Gender, Ethnicity, and Class in the Nationalist Movement in Guinea, 1939-1958* (Portsmouth, N.H.: Heinemann, 2005).

Genova, James Eskridge. *Colonial Ambivalence, Cultural Authenticity, and the Limitations of Mimicry in French-Ruled West Africa, 1914-1956* (New York: Peter Lang, 2004).

~Edwards, Brent Hayes. *The Practice of Diaspora: Literature, Translation, and the Rise of Black Internationalism* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2003).

Lawler, Nancy Ellen. *Soldiers, Airmen, Spies, and Whisperers: The Gold Coast in World War II* (Athens, Oh.: Ohio University Press, 2002).

Sibeud, Emmanuelle, ed. *Une science impériale pour l'Afrique: la construction des savoirs africanistes en France, 1878-1930*. (Paris: Éditions de L'École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, 2002).

Gosnell, Jonathan K. *The Politics of Frenchness in Colonial Algeria, 1930-1954* (Rochester, NY: University of Rochester Press, 2002).

Nugent, Paul. *Smugglers, Secessionists & Loyal Citizens on the Ghana-Togo Frontier: The Lie of the Borderlands since 1914* (Oxford, Eng.: James Currey, 2002).

Beusekom, Monica van. *Negotiating Development: African Farmers and Colonial Experts at the Office du Niger, 1920-1960* (Portsmouth, N.H.: Heinemann, 2002).

Echenberg, Myron. *Black Death, White Medicine: Bubonic Plague and the Politics of Public Health in Colonial Senegal, 1914-1945* (Portsmouth, N.H.: Heinemann, 2002).

Bassett, Thomas J. *The Peasant Cotton Revolution in West Africa: Côte d'Ivoire, 1880-1995* (Cambridge, Eng.: Cambridge University Press, 2001).

Saul, Mahir, and Patrick Royer. *West African Challenge to Empire: Culture and History in the Volta-Bani Anticolonial War* (Athens, Ohio: Ohio University Press, 2001).

Jennings, Eric Thomas. *Vichy in the Tropics: Pétain's National Revolution in Madagascar, Guadeloupe, and Indochina, 1940-1944* (Stanford, Calif.: Stanford University Press, 2001).

*Cole, Jennifer. *Forget Colonialism? Sacrifice and the Art of Memory in Madagascar* (Berkeley, Calif.: University of California Press, 2001).

White, Owen. *Children of the French Empire: Miscegenation and Colonial Society in French West Africa, 1895-1960* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1999).

Lorcin, Patricia. *Imperial Identities: Stereotyping, Prejudice and Race in Colonial Algeria* (London: I. B. Taurus, 1999).