

Islam in African History

AS 100.384

Spring 2002

Gilman Hall 315

Tuesday, 10-12

The Johns Hopkins University

Department of History

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Course Description

This is a reading seminar on Islam in African History. No prior knowledge of either Islam or African history is required. A reading seminar means that we will read and discuss scholarly works on Islam in African History. Each week will have a theme (see the schedule) and reading to match. The professor will provide some light background lecturing on occasion but mostly we will sit around a seminar table and discuss the readings. My procedure is largely Socratic. I will encourage and expect all of you to talk and to raise questions and issues for discussion.

The seminar is limited to 15 students to allow for us to all sit around the seminar table and to make discussion possible. The reading will vary between 100 and 150 pages a week; the two major writing assignments are significant in length and depth (see the requirements).

This is more a history than a religion course. The professor is an historian of Africa, not a person whose research specialty is African Islam. The purpose is to examine the impact of Islam in African history. Topics include the ways in which Islam came to Africa, the relationship of Islam to trade and state formation, the impact of Islamic literacy, the manifestations of African Islam and their relationship to other forms of belief and religious expression (including Christianity), Sufi brotherhoods, Islamic education and judicial systems, African Islam and European colonialism, historical and modern Islamic reform movements, women and African Islam, and modern issues of Quranic translation, Islamicist movements and orthodox Islam. During the course you will learn a great deal about both Islam and Africa.

The course will be challenging and interesting. Welcome!

Course Readings

All the course readings will also be available either in MSEL Reserves or on the web.

Required Books: Available (or to become available) in the Homewood Bookstore and in MSEL Print Reserve

- Thomas Lippman, Understanding Islam: And Introduction to the Muslim World 2nd rev. ed. (Meridian Books, 1995). ISBN = 0452011604
- Nehemiah Levtzion & Randall L. Pouwels, eds., The History of Islam in Africa (Athens: Ohio University Press, 2000). ISBN = 0821412973
- Eva Evers Rosander and David Westerlund, eds., African Islam and Islam in Africa: Encounters between Sufis and Islamists (Athens: Ohio University Press, 1997). ISBN = 0821412140
- Alhaji Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, Shaihu Umar (Princeton: Markus Wiener, 1989). ISBN = 1558760067
- Kevin Shillington, History of Africa (Palgrave, 1995), ISBN = 0312125984
- David Robinson, Paths of Accommodation: Muslim Societies and French Colonial Authorities in Senegal and Mauritania, 1880-1920 (Athens: Ohio University Press, 2000). ISBN = 0821413546
- Sara Mirza and Margaret Strobel, eds., Three Swahili Women: Life Histories from Mombasa, Kenya (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1989). ISBN = 0253288541
- Cheikh Hamidou Kane, Ambiguous Adventure (Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann, 1972). ISBN = 0435901192
- Mariama Ba, So Long a Letter (Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann, 1991). ISBN = 043590555

Required Articles and Parts of Books

Are listed in the schedule and may be found in Eisenhower Reserves in electronic format.

Course Requirements

1. Attendance and participation. This needs no explanation and will figure in your grade. I expect you to be responsible and to notify me *in advance* of an absence.

2. Weekly thought papers. These are due every week in class. Weekly thought papers are entirely informal and short, consisting of one or two pages, single spaced. One page is entirely acceptable and sufficient; I discourage you from writing more than one page but I will accept a second page. Weekly papers must be typed but do not require editing or careful attention to style. In your thought paper you should

A. summarize the main argument of the reading(s)

B. identify three or more issues for course discussion. These issues should not be simple questions for the professor or that have yes/no answers. They should be thoughtful issues that you can raise for discussion as we sit around the seminar table. Thought papers will be collected by the Professor at the end of each class. Thought papers will not be returned to you unless they are found to be unsatisfactory. In other words, unless you hear from the professor otherwise your thought papers are acceptable and will not adversely affect your grade.

3. A 15-20 page review of two books. You must choose and read two thematically related books from the list of review books and write a thoughtful review that considers them in relationship to each other. The book review is due in my faculty mailbox in the history department (the mail room is right next to the departmental office in 312 Gilman Hall) on or before 4 p.m. on March 22. You must seek my approval, in writing, for the two thematically related books you wish to review or you will risk failing the assignment.

4. A Final Examination. A take-home essay examination. You will answer, with essays, questions provided to you in class on April 23. The final examination will require a total of 15-20 pages of writing. It is due in my faculty mailbox by 4 p.m. on May 3.

Class Organization

Class meets once a week on Tuesday morning in Gilman Hall 315, the History Seminar Room. At each class we will sit around the renown History Seminar Table and discuss the week's assigned reading. You must complete the assigned reading each week by the Tuesday morning meeting. In addition, you must bring your weekly thought papers with you to the seminar. They will serve as the basis for your participation in the discussion. Between class meetings, you are encouraged to communicate individually with the professor or with the entire class through our listserv. Major written assignments include a book review and a take-home final examination.

Reading Schedule

Reading availability Key:

RB = Bookstore & MSEL Print Reserve

ER = MSEL Electronic Reserve

January 29

Students will be shown the online syllabus and asked to read the book by Thomas Lippman for our first seminar discussion.

Meeting One: February 5

Islam in History

- Lippman, Understanding Islam (entire book; read it carefully and use it as a reference during the rest of the course). [RB]

Meeting Two: February 12

The Coming of Islam: West Africa

- Shillington, History of Africa, 71-106, 157-169, 181-188. [RB]
- Levtzion & Pouwels, The History of Islam in Africa, 63-91, 441-476. [RB]

- Nehemia Levtzion, "Patterns of Islamization in West Africa," in Nehemia Levtzion, Islam in West Africa: Religion, Society and Politics to 1800 (Aldershot: Variorum, 1994), I, 207-216. [ER]
- Louis Brenner, "Concepts of Tariqa in West Africa: The Case of the Qadiriyya," in Donal B. Cruise O'Brien and Christian Coulon, eds., Charisma and Brotherhood in African Islam (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1988), 33-52. [ER]

Meeting Three: February 19

The Coming of Islam: East & Southern Africa

- Shillington, History of Africa, 111-115, 122-137. [RB]
- Levtzion & Pouwels, The History of Islam in Africa, 227-348 [all along coast]. [RB]

Meeting Four: February 26

Historical Reform Movements

- Shillington, History of Africa, 226-232. [RB]
- Nehemia Levtzion, "The Eighteenth Century: Background to the Islamic Revolutions in West Africa," in Nehemia Levtzion and J.O. Voll, eds., Eighteenth Century Renewal and Reform in Islam (Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 1987), 21-38. [ER]
- Levtzion & Pouwels, The History of Islam in Africa, 131-152. [RB]
- Murray Last, "Reform in West Africa: The *jihād* Movements of the Nineteenth Century," in J.F.A. Ajayi and Michael Crowder, eds., History of West Africa 3rd ed. (1985). [ER]

Meeting Five: March 5

Slavery & Slave Trade

- Shillington, History of Africa, 251-257. [RB]
- J.O. Hunwick, "Black Slaves in the Mediterranean World: Introduction to a Neglected Aspect of the African Diaspora," Slavery and Abolition 13,1 (1992), 5-38. [ER]
- Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, Shaihu Umar (entire novel). [RB]

Meeting Six: March 12

Colonization I

- Shillington, History of Africa, 275-284, 289-300. [RB]
- Robinson, Paths of Accommodation, 1-96, 117-139. [RB]

Meeting Seven: March 26

Colonization II

- Levtzion & Pouwels, The History of Islam in Africa, 169-187. [RB]
- Robinson, Paths of Accommodation, 143-240. [RB]

Meeting Eight: April 2

Colonization III & Education

- Levtzion & Pouwels, The History of Islam in Africa, 419-440. [RB]
- Cheikh Hamidou Kane, Ambiguous Adventure (entire novel). [RB]

Meeting Nine: April 9

Women I

- Levtzion & Pouwels, The History of Islam in Africa, 397-417. [RB]
- Mariama Ba, So Long a Letter (entire novel). [RB]

Meeting Ten: April 16

Women II

- Azza M. Karam, "Women, Islamisms, and State: Dynamics of Power and Contemporary Feminisms in Egypt," in Mahnaz Afkhami and Erika Friedl, eds., Muslim Women and the Politics of Participation: Implementing the Beijing Platform (Syracuse, NY: Syracuse University Press, 1997), 18-28. [ER]
- Ann Elizabeth Mayer, "Aberrant 'Islams' and Errant Daughters: The Turbulent Legacy of Beijing in Muslim Societies," in Mahnaz Afkhami and Erika Friedl, eds., Muslim Women and the Politics of Participation: Implementing the Beijing Platform (Syracuse, NY: Syracuse University Press, 1997), 29-40. [ER]
- Mirza and Strobel, Three Swahili Women (entire book). [RB]

Meeting Eleven: April 23

The Origins and Tensions of Islamism

- Rosander and Westerlund, African Islam and Islam in Africa, 1-54, 308-333. [RB]
- Levtzion & Pouwels, The History of Islam in Africa, 189-224, 373-396. [RB]
- Adeline Masquelier, "Identity, Alterity, and Ambiguity in a Nigerian Community: Competing Definitions of 'True' Islam," in Richard Werbner and Terence Ranger, eds., Postcolonial Identities in Africa (London: Zed Books, 1996), 222-244. [ER]

Meeting Twelve: April 30

Modern Issues

- Rosander and Westerlund, African Islam and Islam in Africa, 95-126, 254-285. [RB]
- Lamin Sanneh, "Translatability in Islam & in Christianity in Africa: A Thematic Approach," in Thomas D. Blakely, Walter E.A. van Beek, and Dennis L. Thomson, eds., Religion in Africa: Experience & Expression (Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann, 1994), 22-45. [ER]
- "The Sermons: Ritual Inscription of Space," Chapter 6 in Abdulkader Tayob, Islam in South Africa: Mosques, Imams, and Sermons (Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 1999), 102-114. [ER]
- "The Crown and the Turban': Public Policy Issues in Christian-Muslim Relations, with Special Reference to Africa," Chapter 10 in Lamin Sanneh, The Crown and the Turban: Muslims and West African Pluralism (Boulder, Colo.: Westview Press, 1997), 203-231. [ER]

List of Review Books

[You must secure the professor's approval, in writing, for your selection of two thematically related books].

- Abel, A. Les musulmans noirs du Manyema (Brussels: Centre pour l'Étude des Problèmes du Monde Musulman Contemporain, 1960).
 - Abun-Nasr, Jamil M. A History of the Maghrib in the Islamic Period (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1987).
 - Abun-Nasr, Jamil M. The Tijaniyya: A Sufi Order in the Modern World (London: Oxford University Press, 1965).
- Behrman, Lucy C. Muslim Brotherhoods and Politics in Senegal (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1970).
- Boyd, Jean. The Caliph's Sister: Nana Asma'u (1793-1865): Teacher, Poet, and Islamic Leader (London: Frank Cass, 1989).
- Brenner, Louis. Muslim Identity and Social Change in Sub-Saharan Africa (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1993).
- Brenner, Louis. The Shehus of Kukawa (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1973).
- Brenner, Louis. West African Sufi: The Religious Heritage and Spiritual Search of Cerno Bokar Saalif Taal (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1984).
- Burgat, François and William Dowell. The Islamic Movement in North Africa (Austin: Center for Middle Eastern Studies, University of Texas, 1998).
- Callaway, Barbara and Lucy E. Creevy. The Heritage of Islam: Women, Religion, and Politics in West Africa (Boulder, Colo.: Lynne Rienner, 1994).
- Callaway, Barbara. Muslim Hausa Women in Nigeria: Tradition and Change (Syracuse, NY: Syracuse University Press, 1987).
- Chande, Abdin. Islam, Ulama, and Community Development in Tanzania: A Study of Islamic Trends in Tanzania, East Africa (San Francisco: Austin & Lawrier, 1998).
- Christelow, Allan. Muslim Law Courts and the French Colonial State in Algeria (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1985).
- Clancy-Smith, Julia. Rebel and Saint: Muslim Notables, Populist Protest, Colonial Encounters (Algeria and Tunisia, 1800-1904) (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1994).
- Clark, Peter. West Africa and Islam (London: Arnold, 1982).
- Clarke, Peter and Ian Linden. Islam in Modern Nigeria: A Study of a Muslim Community in a Post-Independence State (1960-80) (Mainz, Germany: Gruenewald, 1983).
 - Coles, Catherine and Beverly Mack, eds. Hausa Women in the Twentieth Century (Madison, Wis.: The University of Wisconsin Press, 1991).
 - Cooper, Barbara. Marriage in Maradi: Gender and Culture in a Hausa Society in Niger, 1900-1989 (Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann, 1997).
 - Copans, Jean. Les Marabouts de l'arachide: La confrérie mouride et les paysans du Sénégal (Paris: Le Sycamore, 1980).

- Coulon, C. Le Marabout et le prince: Islam et pouvoir au Sénégal (Paris: Pédone, 1981).
- Cruise O'Brien, Donal and C. Coulon, eds. Charisma and Brotherhoods in African Islam (London: Oxford University Press, 1988).
- Cruise O'Brien, Donal. The Mourides of Senegal: The Political and Economic Organization of an Islamic Brotherhood (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1971).
 - Cuoq, Joseph. L'Islam en Ethiopia des origines au XVIe siècle (Paris: Nouvelles Editions Latines, 1981).
 - Danziger, Raphael. Abd al-Qadir and the Algerians: Resistance to the French and Internal Consolidation (New York: Holmes and Meier, 1977).
 - de Jong, Fred. Turuq and Turuq-Linked Institutions in Nineteenth-Century Egypt: A Historical Study in Organizational Dimensions of Islamic Mysticism (Leiden: Brill, 1978).
 - Diouf, Sylviane. Servants of Allah: African Muslims Enslaved in the Americas (New York: New York University Press, 1998).
 - Dunn, Ross E. Resistance in the Desert: Moroccan Responses to French Imperialism, 1881-1912 (Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 1977).
 - Dunn, Ross E. The Adventures of Ibn Battuta, A Muslim Traveler of the Fourteenth Century (London: Croon Helm, 1986).
- Eickelman, D. Knowledge and Power in Morocco: The Education of a Twentieth-Century Notable (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1985).
- Eickelman, D. Moroccan Islam: Tradition and Society in a Pilgrimage Center (Austin: University of Texas Press, 1976).
- el-Affendi, Abdelwahab. Turabi's Revolution: Islam and Power in Sudan (London: Grey Seal, 1991).
- Gellner, Ernest, ed. Islamic Dilemmas: Reformers, Nationalists, Industrialization, The Southern Shore of the Mediterranean (New York : Mouton, 1985).
- Gellner, Ernest. Muslim Society (Cambridge ; New York : Cambridge University Press, 1981).
- Gellner, Ernest. Saints of the Atlas (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1969).
- Gilsenan, Michael. Saint and Sufi in Modern Egypt: An Essay in the Sociology of Religion (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1973).
- Gomez, Michael. Pragmatism in the Age of Jihad: The Precolonial State of Bundu (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1993).
- Gouilly, Alphonse. L'Islam dans l'Afrique française (Paris: Larose, 1982).
- Green, Arnold H. The Tunisian Ulama, 1873-1915: Social Structure and Response to Ideological Currents (Leiden: Brill, 1978).
- Hanson, John. Migration, Jihad, and Muslim Authority in West Africa (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1996).
 - Harrison, Christopher. France and Islam in West Africa, 1860-1960 (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1988).
- Harrow, Kenneth, ed. Faces of Islam in African Literature (Portsmouth, NH : Heinemann, 1991).

- Hirsch, Susan. Pronouncing & Persevering : Gender and the Discourses of Disputing in an African Islamic Court (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1998).
- Hiskett, Mervyn. A History of Hausa Islamic Verse (London: University of London School of Oriental and African Studies, 1975).
- Hiskett, Mervyn. The Course of Islam in Africa (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 1994).
- Hiskett, Mervyn. The Development of Islam in West Africa (London: Longman, 1984).
- Hiskett, Mervyn. The Sword of Truth: The Life and Times of the Shehu Usman Dan Fodio (New York: Oxford University Press, 1973).
- Holt, Peter M. The Mahdist State in the Sudan (1881-1898) 2nd ed. (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1970).
- Horton, Mark. Shanga, The Archaeology of a Muslim Trading Community on the Coast of East Africa (London: British Institute in Eastern Africa, 1996).
 - Hunwick, John and Eve Troutt Powell, eds. The African Diaspora in the Mediteranean Lands of Islam (Princeton: Markus Wiener, 2002).
- Hunwick, John O, ed. Religion and national integration in Africa : Islam, Christianity, and politics in the Sudan and Nigeria (Evanston, Ill.: Northwestern University Press, 1992).
- Hunwick, John O. Shari'a in Songhay (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1985).
 - Johansen, Julian. Sufism and Islamic Reform in Egypt: The Battle for Islamic Tradition (Oxford: Clarendon, 1996).
- Kaba, Lansiné. The Wahhabiyya: Islamic Reform and Politics in French West Africa (Evanston: Northwestern University Press, 1974).
- Kagabo, J.H. L'Islam et les Swahili au Rwanda (Paris: Editions de l'Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, 1988).
- Kapteijns, Lidwien. Mahdist Faith and Sudanic Tradition: A History of the Masalit Sultanate, 1870-1930 (London: Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1985).
 - Kepel, Gilles. Muslim Extremism in Egypt: The Prophet and Pharaoh (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1985).
- Klein, Martin. Islam and Imperialism in Senegal: Sine-Saloum, 1847-1914 (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1968).
- Last, Murray. The Sokoto Caliphate (London: Humanities Press, 1967).
- Launay, Robert. Beyond the Stream: Islam and Society in a West African Town (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1992).
- Launay, Robert. Traders without Trade: Response to Change in Two Dyula Communities (London: Cambridge University Press, 1982).
- Le Chatelier, Alfred. L'Islam en Afrique occidentale (Paris: Steinheil, 1989).
 - Le Tourneau, Roger. The Almohad Movement in North Africa in the Twelfth and Thirteenth Centuries (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1969).
 - Levtzion, Nehemia and Humphrey J. Fisher, eds. Rural and Urban Islam in West Africa (Boulder, Colo.: L. Rienner Publishers, 1987).
 - Levtzion, Nehemia and J. F. P. Hopkins, eds. Corpus of Early Arabic Sources for West African History (New York : Cambridge University Press, 1981).

- Levtzion, Nehemia and J.F.P. Hopkins, eds. Corpus of Early Arabic Sources for West African History (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1981).
 - Levtzion, Nehemia and J.O. Voll, eds. Eighteenth Century Renewal and Reform in Islam (Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 1987).
- Levtzion, Nehemia. Ancient Ghana and Mali (London, Methuen, 1973).
- Levtzion, Nehemia. Conversion to Islam (New York: Holmes & Meier, 1979).
- Levtzion, Nehemia. Islam in West Africa: Religion, Society and Politics to 1800 (Aldershot, Hamps.: Variorum, 1994).
 - Levtzion, Nehemia. Muslims and Chiefs in West Africa: A Study of Islam in the Middle Volta Basin in the Pre-Colonial Period (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1968).
- Lewis, I.M. Islam in Tropical Africa (London: Oxford University Press, 1966).
- Lewis, I.M. Saints and Somalis: Popular Islam in a Clan-Based Society (London: Haan Associates, 1998).
- Ly-Tall, Madina. Un Islam militant en Afrique de l'ouest au XIX^e siècle (Paris: L'Harmattan, 1991).
- Mack, Beverly and Jean Boyd. One Woman's Jihad: Nana Asma'u, Scholar and Scribe (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2000).
- Martin, B.G. Muslim Brotherhoods in Nineteenth-Century Africa (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1976).
- McHugh, Neil. Holy men of the Blue Nile: The Making of an Arab-Islamic Community in the Nilotic Sudan, 1500-1850 (Evanston, Ill.: Northwestern University Press, 1994).
 - Merad, Ali. Le reformisme musulman en Algérie de 1925 à 1940 (Paris: Mouton, 1967).
- Mitchell, Richard P. The Society of the Muslim Brothers (London: Oxford University Press, 1969).
- Nimtz, August. Islam and Politics in East Africa: The Sufi Order in Tanzania (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1980).
- Oded. A. Islam in Uganda: Islamization through a Centralized State in Pre-colonial Africa (New York: Wiley, 1974).
- Paden, John N. Religion and Political Culture in Kano (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1973).
- Pouwels, Randall L. Horn and Crescent: Cultural Change and Traditional Islam on the East African Coast (800-1900) (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1987).
- Risso, Patricia. Merchants and Faith: Muslim Commerce and Culture in the Indian Ocean (Boulder, Colo.: Westview, 1995).
 - Robinson, David and Jean-Louis Triaud, eds. Le temps des marabouts: Itinéraires et stratégies islamiques en Afrique occidentale française (v. 1880-1960) (Paris: Karthala, 1997).
- Robinson, David. The Holy War of Umar Tal (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1985).

- Samatar, Said S. In the Shadow of Conquest: Islam in Colonial Northeast Africa (Trenton: Red Sea Press, 1992).
- Sanankoua, Bintou. Un empire peul au XIXe siècle: La Dina du Massina (Paris: Karthala, 1990).
 - Sanneh, Lamin. The Jakhanke: The History of an Islamic Clerical People of Senegambia (London: International African Institute, 1979).
- Sanneh, Lamin. The Crown and the Turban: Muslims and West African Pluralism (Boulder, Colo.: Westview Press, 1997).
 - Segal, Ronald. Islam's Black Slaves: The Other Black Diaspora (New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2001).
- Sheik-Abdi, Abdi. Divine Madness: Mohammed Abdulle Hassan (1856-1920) (London: Zed Press, 1992).
- Smith, M.G. Government in Kano, 1350-1950 (Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 1997).
- Smith, M.G. Government in Zazzau, 1800-1950 (London: Oxford University Press, 1960).
- Smith, M.G. The Affairs of Daura: History and Change in a Hausa State (1800-1958) (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1978).
- Smith, Mary F. Baba of Karo, a Woman of the Muslim Hausa (New Haven : Yale University Press, 1981).
- Spaulding, Jay. An Islamic Alliance: 'Ali Dinar and the Sanusiyya, 1906-1916 (Evanston: Northwestern University Press, 1994).
- Strobel, Margaret. Muslim Women in Mombasa, 1890-1975 (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1979).
- Sy, C. Tidiane. La confrérie sénégalaise des Mourides (Paris: Présence Africaine, 1969).
- Tayob, Abdulkader. Islam in South Africa: Mosques, Imams and Sermons (Gainesville, Fla.: University Press of Florida, 1999).
- Tayob, Abdulkader. Islamic Resurgence in South Africa: the Muslim Youth Movement (Cape Town: UCT Press, 1995).
- Traore, Alioune. Islam et le colonisaiton en Afrique: Cheikh Hamahoullah, homme de foi et résistant (Paris: Maisonneuve et Larose, 1983).
- Trimmingham, James Spencer. Islam in East Africa (London: Oxford University Press, 1964).
- Trimmingham, James Spencer. Islam in West Africa (London: Oxford University Press, 1959).
 - Vikør, Knut. Sufi and Scholar on the Desert Edge: Muhammad b. Ali al-Sanusi and His Brotherhood (Evanston, IL: Northwestern University Press, 1995).
 - Wilks, Ivor, Nehemia Levtzion, and Bruce M. Haight. Chronicles from Gonja: A Tradition of West African Muslim Historiography (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1986).
- Wilks, Ivor, Nehemiah Levtzion and Name Haight. Chronicles from Gonja: A Tradition of West African Muslim Historiography (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1986).

- Willis, John Ralph, ed. Slaves and Slavery in Muslim Africa 2 vols. (London: Frank Cass, 1985).
- Willis, John Ralph, ed. Studies in West African Islamic History (London: F. Cass, 1979).
- Willis, John Ralph. In the Path of Allah, the Passion of Al-Hajj Umar: An Essay into the Nature of Charisma in Islam (London: Frank Cass, 1989).