

Decolonization and Citizenship in Africa, 1945-2015
AS 100.399, Spring 2016

Professor

Pier M. Larson
Office: 338C Gilman Hall
Office Hours: T 2-3 & by appointment
Contact: larson@jhu.edu
<http://plarson.info/>

Teaching Assistant

Jessica Levy
Office Hours: W 3-4 (Gilman Hall Atrium) & by appointment
Contact: jlevy24@jhu.edu

Course Meeting Time & Place

T 4:00-6:30, Maryland Hall 214

Scope and Purpose

This course is a critical reading seminar on decolonization, nationalism, and citizenship in Africa since 1945. Africa means the African continent and its inhabitants. Decolonization, nationalism, and citizenship, while each differing one from the other, are closely linked in postcolonial African history. Decolonization designates the ending of colonial rule, the termination of colonial political status. Nationalism includes the expression by Africans of nation, national visions in the postcolonial era, and the political organization and ideologies of political parties and movements that sought independence from colonial powers. Citizenship refers to the variety of ways in which people were conceived of as contributing to the envisioned nation and the ways in which they interacted with the state. To be critical is not necessarily to criticize, but to parse, dissect, and analyze.

To examine the phenomena of decolonization, nationalism, and citizenship critically is not to take them at face value. It is to interrogate them. It is to ask how decolonizing, national, and postcolonial political projects emerged and what their implications were. In the early years of African independence, there was little critical examination of African nationalism (Frantz Fanon was a very notable and astute exception) and the differing forms of citizenship and nation articulated and implemented in various African countries. In the late colonial and immediate postcolonial era, scholars largely celebrated nationalism and decolonization. Some still do. However, decolonization, nationalism, and citizenship have now become major topics of critical scholarly inquiry.

Finally, Africa's human diversity pose (and have posed) significant challenges for projects of decolonization, nationalism, and citizenship. 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. Like all modern continents, Africa has a history of in- and out-migrations, some voluntary, some coerced. Immigrants include 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. To a significant extent, this course is an inquiry into the political management and mismanagement of Africa's human diversity.

Required Books (Available in hard copy or electronically)

*Note on books: You may purchase hard copies in the JHU bookstore or from online vendors. Hard copies are on reserve in MSEL and may be checked out for short periods and read or photocopied. If you plan correctly, you may be able to secure library hard copies via "Borrow Direct" using the library catalog. MSEL may also have electronic versions of some of these books available for reading at no charge. You may also purchase electronic copies of most of these books via an online vendor such as Amazon Kindle, Google Play books and the like. **A combination of these strategies will help minimize your book costs.***

- Cooper, Frederick. *Africa since 1940: The Past of the Present* (Cambridge, Eng.: Cambridge University Press, 2002).
- Sharkey, Heather J. *Living with Colonialism: Nationalism and Culture in the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan* (Berkeley, Calif.: University of California Press, 2003).
- Chafer, Tony. *The End of Empire in French West Africa: France's Successful Decolonization?* (Oxford, Eng.: Berg, 2002).
- Branch, Daniel. *Defeating Mau Mau, Creating Kenya: Counterinsurgency, Civil War, and Decolonization* (Cambridge, Eng.: Cambridge University Press, 2009).
- Shepard, Todd. *The Invention of Decolonization: The Algerian War and the Remaking of France* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2006).
- Glassman, Jonathon. *War of Words, War of Stones: Racial Thought and Violence in Colonial Zanzibar* (Bloomington, Ind.: Indiana University Press, 2011).
- Brennan, James R. *Taifa: Making Nation and Race in Urban Tanzania* (Athens, Oh.: Ohio University Press, 2012).
- Lal, Pria. *African Socialism in Postcolonial Tanzania: Between the Village and the World* (Cambridge, Eng.: Cambridge University Press, 2015).
- Ivaska, Andrew. *Cultured States: Youth, Gender and Modern Style in 1960s Dar es Salaam* (Durham, N.C.: Duke University Press, 2011).

Course Requirements

1. Attendance. Attend every class. You must notify the TA *beforehand* by email if you are going to miss a class. Please do not wait until after your absence to explain it.
2. Blackboard Posts. Each week, students will post responses to the course readings on the course Blackboard site. These should be between two and three paragraphs in length. An effective response will open up avenues for thinking about the reading and pose thoughtful questions for discussion: What was the argument of the assigned reading? What did you find interesting about it? New? Provocative? Questionable? Surprising? How does the reading relate to other things we have read? Posts are due Monday before class by 8pm. Students are encouraged to review each other's posts before class on Tuesday.
3. Reading the "Past in the Present." Twice during the semester, each student will give a 5-minute in-class presentation on a recent article and/or post found in a newspaper, blog, or social media that relates to the readings for that week. Students must upload a copy or link to the article on the class Blackboard discussion page by 8pm on Monday of their assigned week. The presentation should explain what the article is about and provide context, including where and when it was posted. You should also explain its relevance to the readings for the class.
4. Map. A map quiz of modern African country names. This will be administered in class on February 9. You will find the map and a list of the countries you are expected to identify on Blackboard.
5. Review. A critical review of one of the required books for the course (weekly reading): 7 full pages, typed, double spaced, Times New Roman 12 pt, one inch margins. Due in class (and at turnitin.com) on the week *after* the assigned reading is completed in class (this allows you the benefit of the course discussion of the readings). The review should first briefly *describe* the argument/plot of the readings and how they relate to decolonization and citizenship. 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. Review of *one* book listed under the "Review Books" at the end of the syllabus: 5 full pages, typed, double spaced, Times New Roman 12 pt, one inch margins. Due in class on March 29 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. Final Exam. 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 April 26 and essays may be turned in to the professor's History Department mailbox (301 Gilman Hall) at any time, but at the latest on Thursday, May 12, at noon (the deadline). The essays must also be uploaded to turnitin.com. *The conception and writing of these essays 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 requirements and grading (1000 points):

- attendance (unexplained absences will reduce your final grade)
- weekly blackboard posts (2-3 paragraphs) 100 points
- two 5-minute in-class presentations 100 points
- map quiz of African country names 100 points
- one required reading paper (7 pages, double spaced) 200 points
- one review book paper (5 pages, double spaced) 200 points
- final take-home exam (10 pages, double spaced) 300 points

Reading Schedule

26: Introduction

February

2: Cooper, *Africa Since 1940*

9: Sharkey, *Living with Colonialism*

16: Chafer, *The End of Empire*

23: Fanon, Mbembe, Bayart: articles & selections

March

1: Branch, *Defeating Mau Mau*

8: Shepard, *The Invention of Decolonization*

22: Glassman, *War of Words*

29: Glassman, *War of Words*

April

5: Brennan, *Taifa*

12: Lal, *African Socialism in Postcolonial Tanzania*

19: Ivaska, *Cultured States*

26: Two Studies: Postcolonial Kenya & Guinea

- 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]
- Jay Straker, *Youth, Nationalism, and the Guinean Revolution* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2009), pp. 107-132 & 176-214. [electronic reserve]

Review Books

Nonfiction

Ageron, Charles Robert, *La décolonisation française*. 2. éd. rev. et augm. Paris: Armand Colin, 1994.

Aiyar, Sana. *Indians in Kenya: The Politics of Diaspora* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2015).

Alexander, Jocelyn, *The Unsettled Land: State-Making in Zimbabwe, 1945-2002*. Oxford, Eng.: James Currey, 2006.

Alexander, Martin, Martin Evans, and John F. Keiger, eds. *The Algerian War and the French Army, 1954-62: Experiences, Images, Testimonies*. Basingstoke, Eng.: Palgrave, 2002.

Allman, Jean Marie, *The Quills of the Porcupine: Asante Nationalism in an Emergent Ghana*. Madison, Wisc.: University of Wisconsin Press, 1993.

Anderson, David M., *Histories of the Hanged: The Dirty War in Kenya and the End of Empire*. New York: W. W. Norton, 2005.

Askew, Kelly Michelle, *Performing the Nation: Swahili Music and Cultural Politics in Tanzania* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2002), selection.

Atieno Odhiambo, E.S., and John Lonsdale, eds. *Mau Mau and Nationhood: Arms, Authority and Narration*. Oxford, U.K.: James Currey, 2003.

Bayart, Jean-François, Stephen Ellis, and Béatrice Hibou. *The Criminalization of the State in Africa*. Oxford, Eng.: James Currey, 1999.

Bayart, Jean-François, *The State in Africa: The Politics of the Belly*. New York: Longman, 1993.

Bertz, Ned. *Diaspora and Nation in the Indian Ocean: Transnational Histories of Race and Urban Space in Tanzania* (Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 2015).

Beswick, Stephanie, *Sudan's Blood Memory: The Legacy of War, Ethnicity, and Slavery in Early South Sudan*. Rochester, N.Y.: University of Rochester Press, 2004.

Betts, Raymond F., *France and Decolonization, 1900-1960*. Basingstoke: Macmillan, 1991.

Bjerk, Paul K. *Building a Peaceful Nation: Julius Nyerere and the Establishment of Sovereignty in Tanzania, 1960-1964* (Rochester, N.Y.: University of Rochester Press, 2015).

- Bradbury, Mark, *Becoming Somaliland*. Oxford, Eng.: James Currey, 2008.
- Cheney, Kristen E., *Pillars of the Nation: Child Citizens and Ugandan National Development*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2007.
- Coe, Cati, *Dilemmas of Culture in African Schools: Youth, Nationalism, and the Transformation of Knowledge*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2005.
- Cohen, David William and E.S. Atieno Odhiambo. *Burying SM: The Politics of Knowledge and the Sociology of Power in Africa*. Portsmouth, N.H.: Heinemann, 1992.
- Compagnon, Daniel, *A Predictable Tragedy: Robert Mugabe and the Collapse of Zimbabwe*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2011.
- Cooper, Frederick, *Decolonization and African Society: The Labor Question in French and British Africa*. Cambridge, Eng.: Cambridge University Press, 1996.
- Cooper, Frederick. *Citizenship between Empire and Nation: Remaking France and French Africa, 1945-1960* (Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 2014).
- Elizabeth Schmidt, *Mobilizing the Masses: Gender, Ethnicity, and Class in the Nationalist Movement in Guinea, 1939-1958* (Portsmouth, N.H.: Heinemann, 2005).
- Elkins, Caroline, *Imperial Reckoning: The Untold Story of Britain's Gulag in Kenya*. New York: Henry Holt, 2005.
- Geiger, Susan, *TANU Women: Gender and Culture in the Making of Tanganyikan Nationalism, 1955-1965* (Portsmouth, N.H.: Heinemann, 1997).
- Genova, James Eskridge, *Colonial Ambivalence, Cultural Authenticity, and the Limitations of Mimicry in French-ruled West Africa, 1914-1956*. New York: Peter Lang, 2004.
- Gerard, Emmanuel, and Bruce Kuklick. *Death in the Congo: Murdering Patrice Lumumba* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2015).
- Gosnell, Jonathan K., *The Politics of Frenchness in Colonial Algeria, 1930-1954*. Rochester, NY: University of Rochester Press, 2002.
- Gottreich, Emily Benichou and Daniel J. Schroeter, eds., *Jewish Culture and Society in North Africa*, Bloomington, Ind.: Indiana University Press, 2011.
- Hall, Bruce, *A History of Race in Muslim West Africa, 1600-1960*. Cambridge, Eng.: Cambridge University Press, 2011.
- Hoffman, Katherine E. and Susan Gilson Miller, eds. *Berbers and Others: Beyond Tribe and Nation in the Maghrib*. Bloomington, Ind.: Indiana University Press, 2010.
- Horne, Alistair, *A Savage War of Peace: Algeria, 1954-1962*. New York: Penguin Books, 1987.
- Hunter, Emma. *Political Thought and the Public Sphere in Tanzania: Freedom, Democracy and Citizenship in the Era of Decolonization* (Cambridge, Eng.: Cambridge University Press, 2015).
- Joseph, Richard, *Radical Nationalism in Cameroun: Social Origins of the UPC Rebellion*. Oxford, Eng.: Oxford University Press, 1977.
- Kruger, Norma J., *Guerrilla Veterans in Post-war Zimbabwe: Symbolic and Violent Politics, 1980-1987* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003).
- Kruger, Norma J., *Zimbabwe's Guerrilla War: Peasant Voices* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1992).

- Lodge, Tom, *Sharpeville: A Massacre and its Consequences*. London: Oxford University Press, 2010.
- Magaziner, Daniel R., *The Law and the Prophets: Black Consciousness in South Africa, 1968-1977*. Athens, Oh.: Ohio University Press, 2010.
- Malkki, Liisa H., *Purity and Exile: Violence, Memory, and National Cosmology among Hutu Refugees in Tanzania*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1995.
- Mamdani, Mahmood, *Citizen and Subject: Contemporary Africa and the Legacy of Late Colonialism*. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 1996.
- Mamdani, Mahmood, *When Victims become Killers: Colonialism, Nativism, and the Genocide in Rwanda* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2001).
- Mann, Gregory. *From Empires to NGOs in the West African Sahel: The Road to Nongovernmentality* (Cambridge, Eng.: Cambridge University Press, 2015).
- Martinez, Luis, *The Algerian Civil War, 1990-1998*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2000.
- Mbembe, Achille, *On the Postcolony*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2001.
- Moore, Donald S., *Suffering for Territory: Race, Place, and Power in Zimbabwe*. Durham, N.C.: Duke University Press, 2005.
- Moorman, Marissa J., *Intonations: A Social History of Music and Nation in Luanda, Angola, from 1945 to Recent Times*. Athens, Oh.: Ohio University Press, 2008.
- Piot, Charles, *Nostalgia for the Future: West Africa after the Cold War*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2010.
- Prunier, Gérard, *Darfur: A 21st Century Genocide*. 3rd ed. Ithaca, N.Y.: Cornell University Press, 2008.
- Prunier, Gérard, *The Rwanda Crisis: History of a Genocide*. London: Hurst & Co., 1998.
- Rathbone, Richard, *Nkrumah and the Chiefs: The Politics of Chieftaincy in Ghana, 1951-1960*. Athens, Oh.: Ohio University Press, 1999.
- Ruedy, John, *Modern Algeria: The Origins and Development of a Nation*. Bloomington, Ind.: Indiana University Press, 1992.
- Schmidt, Elizabeth, *Cold War and Decolonization in Guinea, 1946-1958*. Athens, Oh.: Ohio University Press, 2007.
- Stora, Benjamin, *Algeria, 1830-2000*. Ithaca, N.Y.: Cornell University Press, 2001.
- Straker, Jay. *Youth, Nationalism, and the Guinean Revolution* (Bloomington, Ind.: Indiana University Press, 2009).
- Straus, Scott. *Making and Unmaking Nations: War, Leadership, and Genocide in Modern Africa* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2015).
- Terretta, Meredith. *Nation of Outlaws, State of Violence: Nationalism, Grassfields Tradition, and State Building in Cameroon* (Athens, Ohio: Ohio University Press, 2014).
- Tignor, Robert L., *Capitalism and Nationalism at the End of Empire: State and Business in Decolonizing Egypt, Nigeria, and Kenya, 1945-1963*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1998.
- Waetjen, Thembisa, *Workers and Warriors: Masculinity and the Struggle for Nation in South Africa*. Urbana, Ill.: University of Illinois Press, 2004.

Fiction

- Achebe, Chinua, *Anthills of the Savannah*. New York: Anchor Books, 1997.
- Achebe, Chinua, *A Man of the People* (New York: Anchor Books, 1988).
- Achebe, Chinua, *No Longer at Ease*. New York: Anchor Books, 1994.
- Armah, Ayi Kwei, *The Beautiful Ones are not yet Born*. Portsmouth, N.H.: Heinemann, 1988.
- Ben Jelloun, Tahar, *The Blinding Absence of Light*. New York: Penguin, 2006.
- Ben Jelloun, Tahar, *The Last Friend: A Novel*. New Penguin, 2007.
- Couto, Mia, *Sleepwalking Land*. London: Serpent's Tail, 2006.
- Djebar, Assia, *The Tongue's Blood Does Not Run Dry: Algerian Stories: Seven Stories Press*, 2006.
- Djebar, Assia, *Children of the New World: A Novel of the Algerian War* (New York: The Feminist Press at CUNY, 2005).
- Djebar, Assia, *So Vast the Prison*: Seven Stories Press, 1999.
- Dongala, Emmanuel, *Little Boys Come from the Stars*. New York: Anchor Books, 2002.
- Feraoun, Mouloud, *The Poor Man's Son: Menrad, Kabyle Schoolteacher*. Translated by Lucy R. McNair. Charlottesville, Va.: University of Virginia Press, 2005.
- Gurnah, Abdulrazak, *Admiring Silence*. New York: New Press, 1996.
- Habila, Helon, *Waiting for an Angel*. New York: W. W. Norton, 2004.
- Isegawa, Moses, *Abyssinian Chronicles: A Novel*. New York: Vintage, 2001.
- Isegawa, Moses, *Snakepit: A Novel*. New York: Vintage, 2005.
- Kourouma, Ahmadou, *Waiting for the Wild Beasts to Vote*. New York: Vintage, 2004.
- Kwei Armah, Ayi, *The Beautiful Ones are not yet Born* (Portsmouth, N.H.: Heinemann, 1988).
- Labou Tansi, Sony, *The Antipeople: A Novel*. New York: Marion Boyars, 2000.
- Mabanckou, Alain, *Broken Glass*. Berkeley, Calif.: Soft Skull Press, 2010.
- Mahfouz, Naguib, *Karnak Cafe*. Cairo: American University Cairo, 2007.
- Matar, Hisham, *In the Country of Men*. New York: Dial Press, Random House, 2008.
- Mosteghanemi, Ahlam, *Memory in the Flesh*. Cairo: American University in Cairo Press, 2003.
- Ondjaki, *Good Morning Comrades*. Translated by Stephen Henighan. Emeryville, Ontario: Biblioasis, 2008.
- Salih, Taleb, *Season of Migration to the North*. New York: NYRB Classics, 2009.
- Vassanji, M. G., *The Gunny Sack*. Toronto: Anchor Canada, 2005.
- Vassanji, M. G., *The In-Between World of Vikram Lall: A Novel*. New York: Vintage, 2003.
- Vera, Yvonne, *The Stone Virgins: A Novel*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2005.
- wa Thiong'o, Ngugi, *Devil on the Cross* (Portsmouth, N.H.: Heinemann, 1987).
- wa Thiong'o, Ngugi, *A Grain of Wheat*. Portsmouth, N.H.: Heinemann, 2008.
- wa Thiong'o, Ngugi, *Petals of Blood* (New York: Penguin Classics, 2005).