

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

**Instructor:** Dr. T. Stapleton

**Office:** SS632

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**Office Hours:** Friday 1100-1150 (11 to 11:50am) and 1300-1350 (1 to 1:50pm) (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. Adopting 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.

**Course Outcomes**

By the end of the course, students should be expected to:

1. Display an advanced comprehension of issues related to the history of armed conflict and military structures in Africa.
2. Critically assess major scholarly works in the field of African military history.
3. Research, write and present a graduate level academic paper on a topic related to African military history.

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

**Location:** SS 623

**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)  
 (hardcopy is available in the library)

**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 = 11 October

Discuss paper topic with instructor = no later than 11 October

Book Review 2 = 8 November

Book Review 3 = 6 December

First Draft Paper = the week before presentation

Final Paper = 19 December (last day of exams)

**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 20 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 themes 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. With one exception, 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 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 11 October. 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:** 6 September

Course Introduction – organization of book presentations

**Week 2:** 13 September

Pre-Colonial Warfare

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

**Week 3:** 20 September

Colonial Conquest

Vandervort, Bruce, *Wars of Imperial Conquest in Africa, 1830-1914* (London: UCL Press, 1998)**Week 4:** 27 September

African Colonial Military Service

Moyd, Michelle, *Violent Intermediaries: African Soldiers, Conquest and Everyday Colonialism in German East Africa* (Athens: Ohio University Press, 2014)**Week 5:** 4 October

World Wars in Africa

Ross Anderson, *The Battle of Tanga, 1914* (Stroud, UK: Tempus, 2002). (see PDF on D2L)**Week 6:** 11 October

Decolonization Wars

Bennett, Huw, *Fighting the Mau Mau: The British Army and Counter-Insurgency in the Kenya Emergency* (Cambridge University Press, 2013)**Week 7:** 18 October

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 8:** 25 October

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 9:** 1 November

Post-Colonial Civil Wars (Cold War Era)

Gebru Tareke, *The Ethiopian Revolution: War in the Horn of Africa* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2009).

Paper Presentations

**Week 10:** 8 November

Post-Colonial Genocide

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

Paper Presentations

**Term Break** (10-16 November)**Week 11:** 22 November

Post-Cold War Conflict in Africa

Jason Sterns, *Dancing in the Glory of Monsters: The Collapse of the Congo and the Great War of Africa* (New York: Public Affairs, 2012).

Paper Presentations

**Week 12:** 29 November

Impact of War on Civilians

David Hollenbach (ed.), *Refugee Rights: Ethics, Advocacy and Africa* (Washington, DC: Georgetown University Press, 2008)

Paper Presentations

**Week 13:** 6 December

Course Conclusion

**Departmental Grading System:**

The following percentage-to-letter grade conversion scheme is used in all Canadian Studies, History, and Latin American Studies courses, except for HTST 200.

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.
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.

**Writing:**

All written assignments and written exam responses are assessed partly on writing skills. Writing skills include surface correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc.) and general clarity and organization. Research papers must be properly referenced.

**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*

<https://hist.ucalgary.ca/sites/hist.ucalgary.ca/files/history-students-handbook-2019.pdf>

Plagiarism may take several forms:

- Failing to cite sources properly
- Submitting borrowed, purchased, and/or ghostwritten papers
- 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, even when referenced properly, unless the essay is a critical analysis of those works
- Using 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 is reported to the Faculty of Arts' associate deans of students who will apply the penalties specified in the *University of Calgary Calendar, Section K*.

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

**Copyright:**

Instructors in all University of Calgary courses strictly adhere to the Copyright Act regulations and educational exceptions permitted by the Act for both print and digital course material. No copyrighted material may be placed on course D2L or web sites without the prior permission of the copyright holders. In some cases, you may be required to purchase a print course pack from the University of Calgary bookstore or consult books on reserve at the library. For more information on the University of Calgary's copyright policy, see

<http://library.ucalgary.ca/copyright>.

**Academic Accommodations (implemented July 1, 2015):**

The student accommodation policy can be found at: [ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy](http://ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy).

Students needing an accommodation because of a disability or medical condition should contact Student Accessibility Services (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/access/>) in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with

Disabilities [ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy](http://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy).

Students needing an accommodation based on a protected ground other than disability should contact, preferably in writing, the course instructor.

**Other Useful Information:**

- Department Twitter @ucalgaryhist

Please see <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines> for information on:

- Wellness and Mental Health
- Student Success
- Student Ombuds Office
- Student Union (SU) Information
- Graduate Students' Association (GSA) Information
- Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points
- Safewalk

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