Instructor: Dr. T. Stapleton  
Office: SS632  
Phone Number: 403-220-6418  
Email: timothy.stapleton@ucalgary.ca  
Office Hours: Thursday 11 – 11:50am and 1 – 1:50pm

This course examines major works dealing with the history of Sub-Saharan Africa from around the beginning of the Later Iron Age (c. 500-1000 CE) to the current post-colonial era. As this is a historiographical course, there will be a strong emphasis on sources and methods used by historians, and the broader context in which historians work.

For each week of the course, each student must select one book and prepare an oral review of about 15 minutes for presentation at the relevant meeting. Each student in the course must select a different book for each section so some coordination will be required. A seminar will begin with the students presenting their oral book reviews and then continue into a general discussion of the theme for that week. Presentations/discussion begin from the first class. Each student will develop three of the oral reviews into three written reviews (800 words each) for submission to the instructor. Furthermore, each student will complete a historiographical essay (around 3000 words) on a specialized topic related to the course material. The historiographical essay will require reading and research beyond the books listed below. The essay topic will be discussed with the course instructor before submission.

Day/Time: Thursdays 0900-1030  
Location: SS 639

Evaluation:  
Oral Presentations and Seminar Participation: 30%  
Written Book Reviews: 30% (10% for each of three)  
Historiographical Essay: 40%

Deadlines:  
Students may submit their written book reviews at any point during the course. The essay will be submitted no later than one week after the final session.

Background Reading:  
Students are encouraged to consult one or two of the following general overviews of African History:
Outline

16 January – Pre-Colonial West and Central Africa

23 January - Pre-Colonial East and Southern Africa


**30 January - The Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade and “Legitimate Commerce”**


**6 February - Islam and Christianity in Africa**


13 February - Colonial Conquest


16-22 February – Reading Week

27 February - The Colonial Era: Part 1


**Ochonu, Moses, *Hausa Imperial Agents and Middle Belt Consciousness in Nigeria*, Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2014.**

**5 March – The Colonial Era: Part 2**

12 March - Africa and the World Wars
Byfield, Judith; Brown, Carolyn; Parsons, Timothy and Sikainga, Ahmad Alawad (eds.), *Africa and World War II*, Cambridge University Press, 2015.

19 March - African Urban and Food History

26 March - Decolonization and the Cold War

2 April - Post-Colonial Africa: The Cold War Era


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**9 April - Post-Colonial Africa: Post-Cold War Conflicts**


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**Grading:** As per Faculty of Graduate Studies academic regulations, Section F.1.2 Graduate Studies Grading System, [https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f-1-2.html](https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f-1-2.html)
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.

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

Plagiarism is a serious academic offence, and written work that appears to contain plagiarized passages will not be graded. All such work will be reported to Graduate Program Director and addressed according to the procedures of the Faculty of Graduate Studies. Information about academic integrity and avoiding plagiarism is offered through the Student Success Centre (https://www.ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/learning/academic-integrity).

Academic Accommodations:
The student accommodation policy can be found at: 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.

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

Copyright:
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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
• Graduate Students’ Association (GSA) Information
• Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points
• Safewalk  

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