

Northeastern University  
Spring 1995

AFR 1197      MODERN AFRICAN CIVILIZATION      HST 1621  
key 70403      Sequence 4, MTTh 1:35-2:40      key 64147

Patrick Manning

afternoons  
Dept. of African-American Studies  
Office: 132 NI, x 3199  
Hours: Tues and Thurs., 3:00-4:00

mornings  
Department of History  
Office: 231 ME, x4453  
Hours: Tues, 10:30-11:30

This course is an introduction to the civilization of Africa in the modern era, concentrating on the period from 1800 to 1995. During this time Africa underwent a double humiliation: first under the impact of the last century of slave trade, and then as a result of conquest and colonial rule by European powers.

Nevertheless, as the lectures and readings will show, the civilization of African people maintained its strength and vibrancy through these difficult times. During the nineteenth and twentieth centuries Africans have asserted themselves forcefully, sometimes by reaffirming their ancestral traditions, and at other times by creatively linking new ideas to their old outlook. A new African civilization is arising out of the conflict-ridden conditions imposed on the old.

The course is organized with a topical framework, addressing economic, social, political, religious and artistic life, as well as the influences of slavery, colonialism and nationalism. The course will give special attention to the French-speaking (or francophone) nations of Africa. In addition, each student will read two African novels.

Required texts:

Patrick Manning, Francophone Sub-Saharan Africa, 1880-1985  
Cyprian Ekwensi, Jagua Nana  
Frank Willett, African Art  
Dushkin Publishers, Global Studies: Africa, 5th edition.

In addition, there are several assigned readings available in Snell Library Reserve,  
and occasional assigned readings will be handed out in class.

Course activities and grades:

Participation (daily)	10%	
Global Studies report (weekly)	10%	
Quiz 1 (April 11)	*5%	
Quiz 2 (April 18)	*5%	* you may drop
Quiz 3 (May 18)	*5%	one of these

Quiz 4 (May 30)	*5%	
Essay 1 (May 1)	5%	
Essay 2 (May 22)	5%	
Midterm Exam (May 11)	15%	
Book Report (May 30)	10%	
Debate (April 27, May 8, May 25, June 6)	10%	
Final Exam (finals week)		<u>20%</u>
	100%	

*Note on Attendance:* If you are either late or absent for more than 4 classes during the term, your final grade will fall by one full letter grade. It will fall by two letter grades if you are late or absent for more than 8 classes.

## COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1. Introduction.

Thursday, April 6. Introduction.

**Reading:** Manning, Francophone Africa, 1-23, 183-90  
Ekwensi, Jagua Nana, 1-100

Week 2. Africa Yesterday and Today.

Monday, April 10. Lecture 1: Periods and Themes in African History.

Tuesday, April 11. Lecture 2: The Family in African History

**QUIZ 1.** Manning, Chapters 1 and 8.

Thursday, April 13. Lecture 3: Slavery and African Life.

*Submit preferences for debate participation.*

**Reading:** Ekwensi, Jagua Nana, 100-192  
Bohannon and Curtin, "African Families"  
(Snell Library Reserve)  
Global Studies: Africa, viii-17 (report due 4/13)

Week 3. Economy and Society to 1940.

Monday, April 17. No class -- Patriots Day.

Tuesday, April 18. Lecture 4. Economic and Social Change under Colonialism.

**MAP EXERCISE** due in class.

**QUIZ 2.** Characters in Jagua Nana.

Thursday, April 20. Discussion: Meanings of family and nation in Jagua Nana.

**Reading:** Willett, African Art, 8-26.  
Manning, 24-56.  
Global Studies: Africa, 18-50 (report due 4/20)

Week 4. Government and Politics to 1940.

Monday, April 24. Lecture 5: Government in Precolonial Africa

Tuesday, April 25. Lecture 6: Government in Colonial Africa.

Thursday, April 27. **DEBATE 1**: Government.

**Reading:** Manning, 57-86.  
Willett, 27-65 (especially the illustrations).  
Bohannon and Curtin, "African Politics and Courts" (Snell Library Reserve)  
Global Studies: Africa, 51-79 (report due 4/27)

Week 5. Culture and Religion to 1940.

Monday, May 1. Video: Ali Mazrui, "The Africans."

**ESSAY 1** due in class.

Tuesday, May 2. Video: Music videos from Africa.

Thursday, May 4. Lecture 7: Culture and Religion in Colonial Africa.

**Reading:** Manning, 87-111

King, Religions of Africa, 1-31 (Snell Library Reserve)

Global Studies: Africa, 80-110 (report due 5/4)

Week 6. Culture and Religion to 1940 (continued).

Monday, May 8. **DEBATE 2:** Religion

Tuesday, May 9. Discussion: African art in history.

Thursday, May 11. **MIDTERM EXAM.**

**Reading:** Willett, 65-114

Global Studies: Africa, 111-135 (report due 5/11)

Week 7. Economy, Society and Politics since 1940.

Monday, May 15. Lecture 8: African Capitalism.

Tuesday, May 16. Lecture 9: African Social Life Today.

Thursday, May 18. Lecture 10: Formation of Modern African Nations.

**QUIZ 3.** Manning, Chapters 5 and 6.

**Reading:** Manning, 112-134

Global Studies: Africa, 136-171 (report due 5/18)

Week 8. Politics and Culture since 1940.

Monday, May 22. Lecture 11: Crises in Early National Africa.

**ESSAY 2** due in class.

Tuesday, May 23. Lecture 12: The Renaissance of Black Culture.

Thursday, May 25. **DEBATE 3:** Culture.

**Reading:** Manning, 135-163

Willett, 161-237

Global Studies: Africa, 172-204 (report due 5/25)

Week 9. Culture and Religion since 1940.

Monday, May 29. No class -- Memorial Day.

Tuesday, May 30. Lecture 13: Islam and Christianity in Africa.

**BOOK REPORT** due in class.

**QUIZ 4.** African political geography.

Thursday, June 1. Lecture 14: Capitalism and Socialism.

(Last class for seniors.)

**Reading:** Manning, 164-182

Global Studies: Africa, 204-235 (report due 6/1)

Week 10. Visions of African Destiny.

Mon., June 5. Lecture 15: Democracy.

Tues., June 6. **DEBATE 4:** Africa's Future.

Thurs., June 8. Lecture 16: African Heritage in Africa and the World.

**Reading:** Manning, 183-199

Global Studies: Africa, 235-249 (report due 6/8)

Week 11. Visiting Africa.

Mon., June 12. Discussion: Africa in American Life.

Tues., June 13. Lecture 17: Visiting Africa Today.

Thurs., June 15. Discussion: Review for Final Exam.

Global Studies: Africa, 250-263 (report due 6/15)

Week 12.

Final Exam.

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### GLOBAL STUDIES REPORTS

due at the beginning of class each Thursday

Each week you are to read the pages assigned in Global Studies: Africa. At the beginning of class on Thursday, you are to hand in a one-page response to what you have read. This assignment may be handwritten (all others must be typed).

Your report is to be a specific response to some of the material in the reading. It could be an interpretation of the reading as a whole, or it could be a response to one or two pages of the reading: the choice is up to you. The one firm guideline is that your response must refer to some specific details in the reading. Otherwise, please feel free to express your own personal viewpoint, in terms as strong as you like.

Each of the ten reports corresponds to 1% of the grade for the course. Each report will be graded on the following scale: zero if it is not turned in or is turned in late, 1/2 point if it has a significant weakness, and 1 point if it meets the basic requirements of the assignment.

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MAP EXERCISE  
due in class April 18

Obtain a blank map of Africa in the NU bookstore. Place each of the items listed below in the correct space on the map. Beauty is always nice in maps, but your grade (out of 110 points possible) will be based simply on accuracy.

I. Show the correct, up-to-date name of each African nation and its capital city. Please show the correct location of the capital city. Make sure to show each African country, including Madagascar. The smaller island countries (Sao Thomé and Principe, Cape Verde, Comoros, Seychelles, etc., are optional.)

II. Rivers. Show the location of each of the following.

Nile

Niger

Zaire

Zambezi

Orange

Volta

III. Lakes. Show the location of each of the following.

Lake Chad

Lake Tana

Lake Tanganyika

Lake Malawi

Lake Victoria

IV. Mountains. Locate the following mountains or mountain ranges.

Atlas Mountains

Tibesti Mountains

Mt. Kilimanjaro

Mt. Cameroon

Drakensberg Mountains

Resources: use atlases in the Reference Room at Snell Library; use Global Studies: Africa. Ask each other and ask in class. **Beware of outdated names** -- names of African countries, cities, rivers and lakes have changed with great frequency, and full credit is given only for up-to-date names.



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## ESSAY TOPICS

ESSAY 1, due in class May 1.

Discuss some of the changes in the social or economic life of Africans in the period from 1880 to 1940. Do you think Africans were better off in 1940 as a result of these changes? Make sure to base your essay on specific examples taken from the readings.

ESSAY 2, due in class May 22.

Most African countries gained independence in about 1960. Did independence allow African peoples to define their own destiny? Or did the remnants of colonialism restrain Africans from determining their own future? Be sure to give specific examples to support your conclusion.

GROUND RULES FOR ESSAYS

1. Grading Scale -- 100 points possible. 89 is the highest B+, 79 is the highest C+, 69 is the highest D+, etc.
2. Length -- papers should be roughly 500 words in length. Any papers shorter than 400 words or longer than 700 words will lose 3 points out of 100.
3. Late papers -- any paper handed in after the end of the class meeting on the due date loses 10 points out of 100. It is much better to turn in a paper late than not at all.
4. Handwritten papers -- all essays should be typed. Any essay which is turned in handwritten loses 10 points out of 100. If you later turn in a typed version, you will regain 5 of the 10 points lost.
5. Computer-generated papers -- you are encouraged to write your essays and other papers on a word processor or computer. The paper must, however, be properly formatted and assembled, or you will lose up to 5 points.



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## DEBATES

Schedule of debates:     Government     April 27 (Thursday)  
                          Religion     May 8 (Monday)  
                          Culture     May 25 (Thursday)  
                          Africa's Future     June 6 (Tuesday)

This assignment is divided into two sections: the assignment for **debaters**, and the assignment for **observers**. Each debater will play a role in one of the four debates, then write a 3-page paper on that debate. Each observer will write a 3-page paper on each of two debates.

A maximum of six persons may participate in each debate. The debaters will be chosen by lottery among those wishing to participate in each debate. On Thursday, April 13, you will list the debates in which you would like to participate. On Monday, April 17, the list of debaters will be announced. All those not selected as debaters (or not wishing to debate) will be observers. On Tuesday, April 18, each observer will select the two debates on which he or she will write papers.

Special note for seniors: seniors graduating in June of 1995 are eligible to participate only in the first three debates.

**For the Debaters:**

You will be assigned a role in the debate (for instance, a king in the debate on government), and you will be given a document to serve as the basis for your presentation. In the debate you will present the viewpoint of the person you represent, and criticize the viewpoints presented by others. The format of the debates will be an initial statement by each debater, followed by responses and questions from the debates, and finally by an opening to comments from the observers.

One week after the date of your debate, you must hand in a three-page paper (750 words, typed, double-spaced) which gives clear statements of the following

- a. The arguments based on the role you played.
- b. The best-counter-arguments to the position you took, as presented by other debaters.
- c. Your own personal view of the main issue under debate, and reasons for your belief.

**For the Observers:**

On April 18 you will select the two debates on which you will write papers. One week after the date of your debate, you must hand in a three-page paper (750 words, typed, double-spaced) which gives clear statements of the following

- a. Two arguments on one side of the question debated.
- b. One argument on another side of the question.
- c. Your own personal view of the main issue under debate, and reasons for your belief.

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## BOOK REPORT

due in class Tuesday, May 30

Select a novel or a play written by an African author. Use the list of African novels available in NU libraries, to be handed out separately.

Write a four-page essay (1000 words, typed, double-spaced) on the work you have read. Your essay should touch on each of the following points (though not necessarily in this order):

1. Identify the author and, if possible, his or her background.
2. Summarize the plot.
3. Give a quote from the work or give a detailed description of an event in the story  
in order to provide a clear picture of what the book is like.
4. Give your reaction to the work, explaining your reasons.
5. **(Don't forget this part!)** Explain how the work relates to issues we have discussed in the course.

Be sure to review your spelling, punctuation, grammar, sentence structure and paragraph structure. Give a strong conclusion, and try to write an interesting introduction and a good title.