508:222 Modern Africa  
Professor Barbara Cooper  
This course is a survey of the major historical processes unfolding in Africa since approximately 1800. Topics we will treat include: the abolition of the slave trade and its effects, African state formation, the growing integration of Africa into the industrial world system, European colonialism, African adaptation and resistance, African nationalism and decolonization, the economic and public-health challenges facing Africa today, and some of the issues surrounding African history as a discipline. No single course can cover more than a sliver of the complexity and variety in Africa—home today to over three-quarters of a billion people, 54 nations, and thousands of communities of language and culture—but students satisfactorily completing this course will be able to write knowledgeably about Africa’s recent past and will have the foundation necessary to undertake further study about Africa with a sensitivity to the complexity of its recent past.