

508: 224 Women and Gender in African History
 M/W4:30-5:50
 Spring 2017
 Off. Hrs: M/W 3-4:00

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 Off: Van Dyck 110

Women and Gender in African History: ‘Women’ and ‘Men’ in the making of Contemporary Africa

Course Description

Studies of women and gender have made important contributions to the current field of African history. Recently scholars have come to recognize that gender is constructed and shaped by larger social, economic, cultural and religious conditions even as it is, itself affected by these conditions. Additionally, women’s scholars have pushed to subject men to a gendered analysis, rather than accept their position as ‘neutral’ and ‘normal’. Thus ‘gender’ is not just a synonym for ‘women’, but it also applies to men and masculinity. This course will focus largely on women and discuss how power is shaped by gender relations. We will study such topics as the formation of empires, the Atlantic and Indian Ocean slave trade, women and resistance to colonial rule and the ways that colonial law ignores women. The course will also include cultural sources, such as music, fiction, and drama as resources of study.

Required Texts: A large number of the readings for the course will be on the **SAKAI** website for the course. We will also see a number of films that deal with women and gender in Africa.

Chimamanda Adichie ***We Should All Be Feminists*** .Anchor Reprint ISBN-10: 110191176X

Chimamanda Adichie ***The Thing Around Your Neck*** Anchor ISBN-10: 0307455912

Trevor Getz. ***Abina and the Important Men*** 2nd Edition ISBN-10:0199844399

Jean Allman, Susan Geiger and Nakanyiki Musisi, eds. ***Women in African Colonial Histories*** (Indiana University Press, 2005) ISBN-10: 0253215072

Requirements for the course:

- **20% Mid-semester Examination** *October 25, 2015*
- **30% Final Project** – There is **no final exam for this course**. Instructions will be given in class.
- **20% Class participation/quizzes, discussions.** Students are expected to keep up with all readings, bring these materials to class and use them to participate in discussions. *‘Discussion’ classes – you are graded on your participation in these classes. Some of you will be required to lead these discussions as well.*
- **30% Written assignments.** You will have three assignments that are scattered through the course. They will all be from 3-5 pages. Topics will be related to the course readings and will be distributed throughout the term. . (**#1 Sept 18th , #2 October 16th and #3 November 27th)**

- **Additional credit (10%):** There will be opportunities to attend events throughout the term that can contribute 10% to your course credit. Your grade will depend on your writing a précis of the event.

Syllabus

Readings from Cornwall *Gender in Africa* will be called just *Gender* and those from Allman, Geiger and Musisi, *Women in African Colonial Histories*, are called *Colonial Histories*. Articles from Lindsay and Miesher's *Men and Masculinities in Modern Africa* are called *Modern Africa*. Iliffe's *Honour in African History* are called *Honour*. Pieces on Sakai are marked with an [S].

Week I Course Introductions, African Geography and Overview

Sept 6th –Modern African Feminism in the Global Setting – Chimamanda Adichie Speaks

http://www.ted.com/talks/chimamanda_adichie_the_danger_of_a_single_story

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8XNvQ6DXay4>

Week II Beginning with the Present - Fictional Accounts of Women and Gender

DISCUSSION

Sept 11th Let's Begin with Today!: The Realities of African Women in the Global economy

Chimamanda Adichie , We Should All Be Feminists (YouTube)

-----We Should All Be Feminists . Reading

Sept 13th Introductions to Gender: Masculinity and Women

Chimamada Adichie, "The Arrangers of Marriage", "The Shivering" from *The Thing Around Your Neck*.

Week III Historical Beginnings – the late 18th and 19th centuries

Sept 18th The Atlantic Slave Trade : Women as Traders **First Essay Due**

George Brooks, "The Signares of Saint-Louis and Goree: Women Entrepreneurs in 18th Century Senegal, Hafkin and Bay *Women in Africa*, (S)

Barbara Cooper, "Reflections on Slavery, Seclusion and Female Labor in the Maradi Region of Niger in the 19th and 20th Centuries", in A. Cornwall, Readings in Gender in Africa, Indiana U. Press,, 2005) (hereafter *Gender*) (S)

Sept 20th Women in the trade: As Victims

Getz- Abina and the Important Men

Week IV Women and Men in African Precolonial African Imperial States

Sept 25th Gender Parameters in Pre-Colonial Africa

Awe, "The Iyalode in the Traditional Yoruba Political System" in *Gender (S)*

Iliffe 'Honour, Rank and Warfare Among the Yoruba", in John Iliffe, *Honour in African History*, Cambridge University Press, 2004, [Hereafter Honour] (S)

Sept 27th Women in Pre-Colonial Dynastic societies

Edna G. Bay . 'Belief, Legitimacy and the Kpojito: An Institutional History of the 'Queen Mother' in Precolonial Dahomey,' *The Journal of African History*, Vol. 36, No. 1 (1995), pp. 1-27 (S)

Holly Hanson, "Queen Mothers and Good Government in Buganda: The Loss of Women's Political Power in 19th Century East Africa" in *Women in Colonial Histories*

Week V The Colonial Interlude: Conquest - Men and Masculinities Crushed?

October 2 Why were British Men so violent?

John Tosh, "Imperial Masculinity and the Flight from Domesticity in Britain 1880-1914, in Timothy P. Foley et al (eds), *Gender and Colonialism*, (Galway 1995) 72-85. (SAKAI)

Bill Freund "The Conquest of Africa", in *The Making of Contemporary Africa* (SAKAI)

October 4th Women and Slavery

Stephan Miescher and Lisa Lindsay, "Introduction: Men and Masculinities in Modern African History", in Miescher and Lindsay *Men and Masculinities in Modern Africa*, Heinemann, 2003. [Hereafter *Men and Masculinities*] (S)

Week VI Resistance (women): Reconfigured Under Colonial Rule

October 9th Even Marriage Changes Under Colonial Rule – The Colonial Economy

J.V. Tashjian and J. Allman, "Marrying and Marriage on a Shifting Terrain: Reconfigurations of Power and Authority in Early Colonial Asante", *Colonial Histories*

October 11th The Igbo Women's Riot – the destruction of Indirect Rule

Misty Bastian, " 'Vultures of the Marketplace': Southeastern Nigerian Women and Discourses of the Ogu Umunwaanyi (Women's War of 1929" , in *Colonial Histories*

Readings on the response by the Comitern, West African Students' Union, etc.

Week VII Gender and coping with the New Colonial Reality

October 16th Unruly Women – Marriage and Divorce. *Second Essay Due*

Judith Byfield, “Women, Marriage, Divorce and the Emerging Colonial State in Abeokuta (Nigeria) 1892-1904” ***Canadian Journal of African Studies / Revue Canadienne des Études Africaines***, Vol.30, No. 1 (1996), pp. 32-51 (S)

October 18th Colonialism and Marriage at the Turn of the Century

Kristin Mann, ‘The Dangers of Dependence: Christian marriage among elite women in Lagos colony, 1880-1915’, in *Journal of African History*, 24 (1983)

Jean Allman ‘Rounding Up Spinsters: Gender Chaos and Unmarried Women in Colonial Asante’, in *Gender (S)*

Week VIII Colonial Attempts and African Resistance to the Remaking of Marriage and ‘Motherhood’

October 23rd Review

October 25st MIDTERM EXAM

Week IX Men and Masculinities: ‘Native’ and Colonizer

October 30th And they made them Men !

Miescher, “Called to Work for the Kingdom of God: The Challenges of Presbyterian Masculinities in Colonial Ghana”, in *Gender (S)*

Carolyn Brown, “A ‘Man’ in the Village is a ‘Boy’ in the Workplace: Colonial Racism, Worker Militance and Igbo Notions of Masculinity in the Nigerian Coal Industry, 1930-1945”, *Men and Masculinities (SAKAI)*

(Review) Stephan Miescher and Lisa Lindsay, “Introduction: Men and Masculinities in Modern African History”, in Miescher and Lindsay *Men and Masculinities in Modern Africa*, Heinemann, 2003. [Hereafter *Men and Masculinities*] (S)

November 1st. Women Missionary Visions of African Women – Resistance and New Identities

Misty Bastian, Young Converts: Christian Missions, Gender and Youth in Onitsha, Nigeria 1880-1929”, *Anthropological Quarterly (S)*

Deborah Gaitskell, ‘Wailing for purity’: prayer unions, African mothers and adolescent daughters, 1912-1940” in S. Marks and R. Rathbone, *Industrialization and Social Change in South Africa* Longmans, 1982, pp. 338-358. (S)

Optional: Deborah Gaitsell, “ ‘ Devout Domesticity? A Century of African Women’s Christianity in South Africa”, in *Gender (S)*

Week X Nationalism: Gendering the New Nation

November 6th – Women and the future nation.

Ann McClintock, "Family Feuds: Gender, Nationalism and the Family", *Feminist Review*, (S)

Elizabeth Schmidt " 'Emancipate Your Husbands!' : Women and Nationalism in Guinea, 1953-1958, in *Colonial Histories*

November 8th Violent Resistance : Decolonization struggles

Luise White, "Matrimony and Rebellion: Masculinity in Mau Mau" in *Modern Masculinities (S)*

Readings on 'Mau- Mau' – Kenya's decolonization struggle of violence

Week XI Contemporary Man and Womanhood: South Africa, Violence and Manhood

November 13th Masculinity and Gangs: The South Africa Tsotsi Gangs

Film: *TsoTsi – 2006 Winner of U.S. Academy Award for Foreign Film* (Excerpts – you are to finish the film on your own.) <http://tsotsi.com/trailer>

Clive Glaser, "The Mark of Zorro: Sexuality and Gender Relations in the Tsotsi Sub-culture on the Witwatersrand," *African Studies* 51, no. 1 (1992):47-67 (S)

November 15th The Soweto Uprising of the 1970's – The beginning of the End of Apartheid.

Helena Pohlandt-McCormick "I Saw a Nightmare...": Violence and the Construction of Memory (Soweto, June 16, 1976) *History and Theory*, Vol. 39, No. 4, Theme Issue 39: "Not Telling": Secrecy, Lies, and History (Dec., 2000), pp. 23-44 (S)

South African Women and Protests (TBA)

Optional: Clive Glaser, "Swines, Hazels and the Dirty Dozen: Masculinity, Territoriality and the Youth Gangs of Soweto, 1960-1976" *Journal of Southern African Studies*, Vol. 24, No. 4, Special Issue on Masculinities in Southern Africa (Dec., 1998), pp. 719-736 (S)

Week XII Urbanization and Gender: 'Endangered' women and Single Men – the unmooring of gender in the city

November 20th Colonial Poverty and the anxiety of the poor unwed man

Samples of the Onitsha Market pamphlets, Marius Nkwoh "*Cocktail Ladies*" (in the Series: Facing the Facts Around US) (S)

John Iliffe, 'Urbanisation and Masculinity' in Honour (S)

Lynette Jackson, “ ‘When in the White Man’s Town’: Zimbabwean Women Remember Chibaura”, in *Colonial Histories*

November 22nd No Class - (Day is a Friday for Thanksgiving)

Week XIII The ‘Illusions’ of Colonialism – Women’s Migration to the Metropole

November 27th _Sex work and female autonomy? **Third Essay Due**

Benedict Naanen, “Itinerant Gold Mines”: Prostitution in the Cross River Basin of Nigeria, 1930-1950”, *African Studies Review*, Vol 34, No. 2 (Sep., 1991), pp. 57-79. (S)

November 29th Girl children, Modernity and Salvationist Lagos Women

Abosedo George, “Within Salvation: Girl Hawkers and the Colonial State in Development Era Lagos,” *Journal of Social History*, Spring 2011. Pp 837-859(S)

_____ “Feminist Activism and Class Politics: The Example of the Lagos Girl Hawker Project”, *Women’s Studies Quarterly*, Vol. 35, No. ¾ Activisms (Fall-Winter, 2007) pp. 128-143.

Week XIV World War II - Men and Women

December 4th *World War and Political change*

Byfield, “Rice Production during the War,” J. Byfield, C. Brown, T. Parsons, A. Sikainga (eds.) *Africa and World War II* (S)

Byfield, J. Ethiopian Princess – Letter to Women, (S)

Optional

Raffael Scheck , “They Are Just Savages”: German Massacres of Black Soldiers from the French Army in 1940, *The Journal of Modern History*, Vol. 77, No. 2 (June 2005), pp. 325-344 (S)

December 6th ‘Entertaining’ Foreign Soldiers: Prostitution and Family Disorder

Abosedo George, “Within Salvation: Girl Hawkers and the Colonial State in Development Era Lagos, “*Journal of Social History*, 44, no. 3 (2011) 837-59

Luise White , Prostitution, Identity, and Class Consciousness in Nairobi during World War II *Signs*, Vol. 11, No. 2 (Winter, 1986), pp. 255-273 (S)

Week XV The challenges of Post-Colonial Africa : Women and Peace in Liberia

December 11th Film – Pray the Devil Back to Hell

December 13th Last Class Continue discussion

Presentations (Instructions to be given in class. Scheduled in Final Exam Schedule)