1. AUGUST 28: Introduction to course
In this class we will study debates in the historiography of Africa including the question of the significance of colonial rule within the longer history of Africa and debates around the politics and writing of African history.

2. SEPT 4 – NO CLASS

3. SEPT 11: Whose history: historiography

Parker and Rathbone, *African History*


J. Miller, 'History and Africa/Africa and History', *American Historical Review*, 104 (1999), 1-32

Iris Berger, ‘African Women’s History: Themes and Perspectives’, *Journal of Colonialism and Colonial History*, 4,1 (Spring 2003) check: this should be available online

3: SEPT 18: Sources. What sources do historians of Africa use to write the history of the continent? We’ll examine the constitution of the colonial archive and uses of oral history in the writing of colonial African history.

*On the archive:*
[Note: Hamilton’s book is largely written in relation to the construction of the archive in South Africa, but the theoretical issues raised are larger ones.]

Sean Hanratta, *Islam and Social Change in French West Africa* (2010), Part 4: Ghosts and the Grain of the Archive

*On oral history:*

Refer back to last week’s reading especially Peterson and Macola eds, *Recasting the Past*

Look at this example of a life-history/biography:

4. SEPT 25: Colonialism: what is it? In this class we’ll examine theories of colonialism, and critiques of uses of the idea of the ‘colonial’. We will then begin to think about the relationship between theory and practice.


Now read Chinua Achebe’s reflections on growing up in British Nigeria and the consequences of colonialism (ideally in conjunction with his novel, *Things Fall Apart*)

Read Fred Cooper's critique of the uses of the ‘colonial’:
   Frederick Cooper, *Colonialism in Question* (2005), Introduction: 3-33.

Begin thinking about the practice of colonialism in Africa by reading:
   Reid, *History of Modern Africa* chapters 10 and 11.

5. Oct 2: Colonial Rule: the new political order
   In this class we will examine the political strategies of colonial rulers in Africa from the late nineteenth century ‘Scramble’ to the Second World War. We’ll compare British Indirect Rule policies with French ideologies of ‘assimilation’, and then look at the relationship between theory and practice. How far was violence, of the threat of violence, inherent to all forms of colonial rule in Africa?

   Iliffe, *Africans* Chapters 9 and 10 (as above)
   Reid, *History of Modern Africa* Chapters 10 and 11

   Adam Hochschild, *King Leopold's Ghost* (1999) chapters?

6. OCT 9 : Colonial states in practice: law and ‘custom’
Historians of Africa have identified the use of the law as critical to colonial regimes of governance in Africa and have debated the extent to which colonial rulers ‘reinvented’ custom and ‘tradition’ through legal cultures. This is viewed by some (eg Mamdani) as a radical and distorting legacy of colonial rule.

Reid and Iliffe (as above)


Mahmoud Mamdani, Citizen and Subject (1996), Chapters 111 and IV


7. OCT 16: Colonial capitalism: peasants and migrant workers
Colonial capitalism in Africa was a complex and contradictory force. Colonial regimes needed to extract a surplus from their subjects, but often imagined they could do so without capitalism’s socially
disruptive consequences.
In this class we'll examine the social and economic consequences of two variants of the colonial economy: peasant cash-crop production and labour migration.


John Iliffe, *A Modern History of Tanganyika* (1979), chapter 9

Allan Isaacman and Richard Roberts (eds), *Cotton, Colonialism and Social History in Sub-Saharan Africa* (1995), Intro and chs 6, 8, 13

Henrietta Moore and Megan Vaughan, *Cutting Down Trees: Gender, Nutrition and Agricultural Change in Northern Province Zambia*, chapter 6

8. OCT 23: Settler states: labour and land, race and class
In this class we'll examine the particular dynamics of African settler states, their political economies and ideologies of race and class.

Reid, Chapter 12
Dane Kennedy, *Islands of White*, 1987, Intro and chs 7 and 8

David Prochaska, *Making Algeria French: colonialism in Bone, 1870-1920* (1990), chapters 1, 3, 4

Doris Lessing, *The Grass is Singing* (1950) – a fictional account of white settler life and mentality


In this class we examine the impact of Christianity and Islam on African societies in the colonial period. To what extent was Christianity ‘complicit’ with colonial rule, and how far did Islam offer an alternative non-western version of modernity?

On Christianity:
David Maxwell ed, *Christianity and the African Imagination* (2002), Intro and
Chs 3-4, 6

Jean and John Comaroff, *Of Revelation and Revolution*, 2 vols, 1992 and 1997 (note: this is an important text for debates in the history of African Christianity, but a controversial one. Read as much as you can!)

On Islam:

10. Nov 6: Gender and sexuality
Colonial regimes in Africa often appear intensely anxious about the nature of African gender relations and the sexualities of colonial subjects. Why? And with what consequences?

Berger, ‘African Women’s History’ (see Week 1)


Lisa Lindsay and Stephan Miescher (eds), *Men and Masculinities in Modern Africa* (2003), Introduction


11. NOV 13: Colonial ‘intermediaries’ and literacy
Recent literature emphasises the dependency of colonial states on local intermediaries of all sorts. To label these individuals as ‘collaborators’ would be a great over-simplification. Their uses of
the tools of literacy demonstrate a more complex story.

Benjamin Lawrence, Emily Osborn and Richard L. Roberts (eds), *Intermediaries, Interpreters and Clerks* (2006), chapters?

Karin Barber eds, *Africa’s Hidden Histories* (2006), Intro and chs 1, 5, 10


12. NOV 20: **The post-war ‘Developmental State’**

After the second world war colonial rulers in Africa reinvented their mission in terms of the ideology and practices of ‘development’. In this class we examine the impact and legacy of the developmental state in Africa.

Frederick Cooper, *Africa since 1940* (2002), chs 1,3,5.

Steven Feierman, *Peasant Intellectuals: Anthropology and History in Tanzania* (1990), chs 6 and 7

Moore and Vaughan, *Cutting Down Trees*, ch 5

John Iliffe, *A History of Tanganyika* (1979), ch 9

See also: *Journal of African History*, 41/1 (2000) – articles on Development in late colonial Africa.

13. NOV 27 : NO CLASS

14. DEC 4: **Ends of empire**

Recent literature on decolonization and the end of empire in Africa has stressed firstly that nationalism was not the only form of political imagining current in post-war Africa, and secondly that violence was more extensive than has often been assumed.

Reid, *add*

Cooper, *Africa since 1940*, chapters 1-4

Martin Thomas, *Algeria’s Undeclared War* (2012), chs 5,7,8


**15. DEC 11: CONCLUSION and PRESENTATIONS**