

Brief Course Outline

Course Title: **European Imperialism in Africa**

Course Number and Section:

HISTORY

2604G 550

Instructor Name(s): Dr. Nassisse Solomon

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Disclaimer: Information in the brief course outline is subject to change. The syllabus posted on OWL is the official and authoritative source of information for the course.

Course Description:

History 2604G employs a multidisciplinary approach to exploring European imperialism in Africa, focusing on its motivations and the political, economic, and social impacts from the late 19th century to the present. Through a combination of historical and contemporary case studies, students will examine the reasons behind European imperial expansion, the mechanisms of colonial governance, and the lasting effects on African societies and cultures. Key themes will include the "scramble for Africa," the partition of Africa, the emergence and impact of resistance movements, and the enduring legacy of imperialism in contemporary Africa. The course highlights multiple perspectives, featuring the voices of leaders, writers, and activists of African descent to foster a comprehensive understanding of the varied responses to colonial oppression. This framework aims to provide a solid foundation for understanding the historical dynamics that continue to influence countries and peoples across the African continent and today's global diaspora.

The course encourages critical analysis and reflection by adopting various methodological approaches. Throughout the course, students will engage with diverse primary and secondary sources, including historical documents, literary works, and visual artifacts, to contextualize colonial justifications, the dynamics of resistance movements, and the intersection of imperialism with concepts of race, power, and identity. By the end of the course, participants will develop a nuanced understanding of the historical roots of contemporary social and political issues in Africa and the critical tools necessary for their analysis.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Explain historical motivations for European colonial expansion in Africa.
- Conduct critical analyses of colonial powers' control methods (policies and practices).
- Analyze the responses of African societies to colonial rule, including resistance and adaptation.
- Assess the enduring legacies and impacts of colonialism in post-colonial Africa.
- Develop critical thinking and research skills through applying historical analysis to contemporary phenomena.

Textbooks and Course Materials:

Book for Review:

▪ Required Book: Frantz Fanon, Black skin, white masks. Trans. Charles Lam Markmann. New York, NY: Grove Press, 1967.

Copies are available for purchase through Indigo for \$23.95, or on Amazon for \$11.39.

Students are welcome to purchase second-hand or other editions of this book. *Copies are also available through the library.

Additional readings and descriptions are available on Brightspace.

Suggested reading list:

▪ Prosser Gifford and W. M. Roger Louis, eds, Decolonization and African independence: The Transfers of Power, 1960-1980. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1988. *Available through Weldon library regular loan.

Methods Of Evaluation:

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Participation		30%
Book Review	Friday, February 28	30%
Group Case Study Analysis & Presentation	Tuesday, April 1 and Thursday, April 3	15 %
Individual Reflection on Findings from Case Study Analysis	Thursday, April 3	10%
Book Review Roundtable	Thursday, March 6	5%
Final Exam		10%

In solidarity with the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak, and Chonnonton peoples on whose traditional treaty and unceded territories this course is shared.

Friday, January 24, 2025