SOAN 180: ANTHROPOLOGY AND COLONIALISM IN AFRICA
T/Th 3:10-4:55
Leighton 426
Dr. Ahmed Ibrahim

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Course Overview:
How has Africa been shaped by colonialism and what was the relationship of anthropology to colonialism? Between 1884 and 1960, Africa was more thoroughly impacted by colonial rule than perhaps anywhere else. Consequently, much of African historiography is concerned with the impact of this period in shaping a postcolonial Africa, and is related to a number of larger questions. This course will examine different forms of colonial rule and how their imposition transformed law, political structures, political economy and religion. Additionally, the course will examine the complicated relationship of the discipline of anthropology to the colonial project. In doing so, we will draw from ethnographies and historical studies, discussing the role of anthropologists in Africa during colonialism.

Course Objectives:

- At the end of this class the student should have a basic understanding of European colonization of Africa. Is there something unique to African colonialism, and if so, how does it differ from historical processes before and after it? Is this period best understood as providing the basis for imagining a new Africa?
- The student should also become acquainted with anthropological methodology and some basic early anthropological theories.
- The student should gain an understanding of the emergence of anthropology as a discipline and its relationship to the colonial endeavor. With that, the student should be able to critically think about the relationship between structures of power and formations of academic disciplines.
- And finally, the student should have some understanding of the complex relationship between the colonial and the post-colonial era?

Course Organization
This course is organized as a lecture course. However, it also requires all students to come to class prepared to discuss and raise questions about the readings. Students must complete the readings for the day before coming to class.
Note on Academic Integrity
Academic dishonesty (e.g., plagiarism, cheating on examinations, obtaining unfair advantage, and falsification of records and official documents) are serious offenses against the values of intellectual honesty. The class is committed to enforcing University policy on academic integrity and will pursue cases of academic dishonesty according to the procedures of the University.

Note on Educational Accessibility and Special Assistance
The University is committed to ensuring educational parity and accommodations for all students with documented disabilities and/or medical conditions. It is recommended that all students with documented disabilities (emotional, medical, physical and/or learning) consult the appropriate office or me to secure necessary academic accommodations.

Requirements and Grading:

12% Response Essays. Each student is expected to write three responses to any reading of the student’s choice. The one-page response can be based on one reading or multiple readings dealing with similar topics. The response writers for that day’s class are expected to lead group discussions. Responses will be graded for the clarity of argument, proper citation, and engagement with the reading(s). I should receive the responses by email no later than 12pm the day they are due. To prevent procrastination students are asked at the beginning of the term to sign up for the dates they will write their responses. Please try to spread out your four responses evenly throughout the term.

15% In-class Pop Quizzes. To ensure students are doing class readings there will be three in-class pop quizzes throughout the term. The quizzes will be based on short answers. If you happen to miss a quiz through an unexcused absence, you will not be able to make it up.

10% Class Participation. Class participation is a significant portion of your grade. You will be graded on the basis of your serious scholarly engagement with the assigned materials and your expression of this engagement in class. Please take good notes on the readings, so that you are prepared to participate effectively in class. Students who have written responses for the readings in discussion are expected to lead the group discussions.

13% presentation. On the first day of class you will be asked to sign up for a date and a topic of your choice to present on. Based on your choice of date and topic your will be partnered up with someone(s) to give a 15 minute presentation.

25% Midterm Paper. For this assignment you will be asked to write a 5-6 page paper. The prompt for this assignment will be handed out on September 18. The paper is due on Tuesday, October 16. Bring a hard copy to class.

25% Final Paper. At the end of week 6 you will be assigned a final paper, 5-6 pages, which will be due on the final day of class, Tuesday, November 13. Bring a hard copy to class.
COURSE SCHEDULE AND READINGS
All readings will be posted on Moodle at least one week before the day we discuss them in class. Readings are subject to change – announcements will be made by email and/or in class at least a week before the readings are due.

PART ONE: INTRODUCTION TO AFRICAN COLONIAL HISTORY

WEEK 1:
   Tuesday, Sept. 11: Course Introduction
   Thursday, Sept. 13: Colonialism
      - Film: The battle of Algiers

WEEK 2:
   Tuesday, Sept. 18: Colonial history and theory
   Thursday, Sept. 20: Colonial history and theory (continued)
      - Chapt. 3 in Francophone Sub-Saharan Africa 1880-1995 by Patrick Manning.

WEEK 3:
   Tuesday, Sept. 25: The brutality of colonialism
      - Hochschild, Adam. Chapt. 3, 4, and 8 in King Leopold’s Ghost.

PART TWO: ANTHROPOLOGY, COLONIALISM, AND AFRICA

Thursday, Sept. 27: Precolonial racial theories and colonial practice
   - Chapter 3 (pages 179-216) in The Devil’s Handwriting: Precoloniality and the German Colonial State in Qingdao, Samoa, and southwest Africa by George Steinmetz.

WEEK 4:
   Tuesday, Oct. 2: Anthropology of colonialism
      - “Practical Anthropology,” by Bronislaw Malinowski.
      - Introduction (Pg. 9-19) in Anthropology and the Colonial Encounter by Talal Asad.
   Thursday, Oct. 4: Anthropology of colonialism (continued)
- “Social anthropology and Indirect Rule. The colonial administration and anthropology in Eastern Nigeria: 1920-1940” (Pg. 123-150) by Helen Lackner in Anthropology and the colonial encounter.

WEEK 5:

Tuesday, Oct. 9: Anthropology and colonialism (continued)

PART THREE: CONCEPTS AND CONTEXT – ANTHROPOLOGICAL CONCEPTS DURING COLONIALISM

Thursday, Oct. 11: Time
- Chapter 1 in Time and the Other: How Anthropology makes its object by Johannes Fabian.

WEEK 6:

Tuesday, Oct. 16: Political Models: Tribe
- Midterm paper due: bring a hard copy to class.

Thursday, Oct. 18: Law
- “Cross-Examination and the Assessment of Evidence: The norm of the reasonable man” in The Judicial Process Among the Barotse of Northern Rhodesia (1955) by Max Gluckman;

WEEK 7:

Tuesday, Oct. 23: Ethnographic theory and practice
Thursday, Oct. 25: Religion
- “Religion as a cultural system,” In The Interpretation of Cultures by Clifford Geertz.

WEEK 8:
Tuesday, Oct. 30: Religion (continued)
- “Christianity and colonialism in South Africa,” by Jean and John Comaroff.

Thursday, Nov. 1: Gender
- Married life in an African Tribe by Isaac Schapera.

WEEK 9:
Tuesday, Nov. 6: Decolonization
- Consciencism philosophy and ideology for decolonization and development with particular reference to the African Revolution by Kwame Nkrumah.
- The Foundations of “africanité” or “Négritude” and “arabité.” Trans. Mercer Cook. by Leopold Senghor.

Thursday, Nov. 8: The post-colony
- Chapters 6 and 7 in Citizen and Subject: Contemporary Africa and the Legacy of Late Colonialism by Mahmood Mamdani.

WEEK 10:
Tuesday, Nov. 13:
- Final paper due