

Provisional - Revised

History 275.401

Islam and Societies in African History

Fall 2006, TR, 10:30-12

Room: 201 Will

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Course description

Over a quarter of the Muslim population of the world (estimated at one billion) live in Africa and Islam is increasingly playing a central role in shaping African societies. This course is designed to provide the students with a broad understanding of the history of Islam in Africa. The focus will be mostly on West Africa, but we will also look at developments in the northern and eastern regions of the continent. We will examine the process of islamization in Africa and the variety of Islamic experiences on the continent. Topics include the ways in which Islam came to Africa, the relationships of Islam to trade and state formation, Islamic education and literacy, the status of women, Muslim responses to European colonial domination, Islamic mysticism, and the contemporary development of political Islam.

Course Objectives and format

The purpose of this course is threefold: first, to introduce students to the rich and diverse Islamic traditions of Africa; second, to examine how Islam shaped but also was shaped by African cultures; and third, to reflect on how contemporary changes in the wider Muslim world are affecting African Muslims. Format consists of two weekly meetings for lectures, film showings and discussions.

Requirements

Attendance and class participation: Regular attendance at lectures and participation in class discussions are essential. You will be expected to be thoroughly familiar with the readings for each class and to participate actively in discussions. Assigned reading is indicated in the syllabus for each week. It is the student's responsibility to complete the required reading on schedule. Both attendance and in-class participation will count towards your grade; unexcused absences will negatively affect your final grade.

Grading: Each student will be evaluated on four pieces of work: there will be two take home essays, a mid term test, and a term paper on a topic of your choice (with the approval of the instructor). Attendance and participation in class discussion will count for 10 % of your grade.

Essay No. 1-----due Oct. 5(15%)
Mid-term test-----Oct. 19 in class (25%)
Essay No. 2-----Nov.16 (15%)
Final exam -----(35%)

Essays: Essay questions will be distributed a week before due date. Late submission will be penalized.

Electronic resources: In this course we will be using Blackboard (Bb), which is course management software that provides space for the posting of course materials and allows fast and convenient communication between students and between students and instructor. The syllabus for this class will be posted on Blackboard as well as a **required electronic bulk pack of supplementary readings** (ER) and some additional resources related to specific course topics. Blackboard has a listserv that can be used to reach the class as a group or to communicate with individual students. Registered students with a Penn Net ID and an E-mail address are automatically listed on Blackboard. To access the course site point your browser to <https://courseweb.library.upenn.edu> and log in with your PennNet ID and password. For additional information about Blackboard see handout.

Academic integrity: Students are expected to adhere to the university's academic integrity and plagiarism policies on all assignments. Plagiarism consists of using other people's ideas without proper acknowledgment. Students who violate the university's academic integrity policies may fail the course. (For more on academic integrity see Links on Blackboard.)

Readings

Required

The following books are available for purchase at the Penn Book Center 34th St. and Sansom near the bank, and at the **Rosengarten Reserve Desk** at the Van Pelt library. Other required readings are available on the **Electronic reserve** on Blackboard (ER).

List of required books

Ba, Mariama, *So Long a Letter* (Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann, 1991).

Esposito, J. L., *What Everyone Needs to Know about Islam* (Oxford; New York: Oxford University Press, 2002)

Kane, Cheikh Hamidou, *Ambiguous Adventure* (Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann, 1972)

David Robinson, *Muslim Societies in African History* (Cambridge: Cambridge U Press 2004)

Required materials on Blackboard

Boyd, J. and M. Last, "Muslim women in Africa", *Canadian Journal of African Studies*, 19 (1985): 283-300

Clarke, P. B, "Islam Reform in Contemporary Nigeria: methods and aims" *Third World Quarterly*, (1988): 519-538.

-----*West Africa and Islam: A study of Religious Development from the 8th to the 20th century* (London: E. Arnold, 1982): 8-27 and 46-53

Hess, R. L., "The Mad Mullah' and Northern Somalia," *Journal of African History*, v, 3(1964): 415-433

Hodgkin E., "Islamism and Islamic Research in Africa" in O Kane and J. L Triaud ed. *Islam et Islamismes au Sud du Sahara* (Paris: Karthala, 1998): 197-263

Hunwick, J., "Secular Power and Religious Authority in Muslim Society: the Case of Songhay," *Journal of African History*, 37 (1996): 175-194

Hiskett, Mervyn, *The Course of Islam in Africa* (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 1994) 1-11

Levtzion, N and Pouwells R., *The History of Islam in Africa* (Athens, Oxford, and Cape Town: OUP., J Currey, David Philip, 2000): ch 11 and 12

Insoll, Timothy, *The Archaeology of Islam in Sub-Saharan Africa* (Cambridge: Cambridge U. Press, 2003): 206-263

Loimeier, L., "Islamic Reform and Political Change: The Example of Abubakar Gumi and the Yan Izala Movement in Northern Nigeria," in Rosanders E. and D. Westerlund eds. *African Islam and Islam in Africa* (Athens: Ohio University Press, 1997): 286-306

Robinson, d and D. Smith, *Sources of the African Past* (New York: Africana Publishing Company, 1979): 122-158

Sanneh, L., *Piety and Power: Muslims and Christians in West Africa* (New York: Orbis Books, 1996): 146-172

Voll, J., "Revivalism and Social Transformations in Islamic History", *The Muslim World*, (1986): 168-181, on ER

Recommended and reference books

These texts are not required but they constitute important additional resources for course readings and for your writing assignments. Excerpts from these books will be used to supplement required material.

Bowill, E. W., *The Golden Trade of the Moors* (Princeton: Markus Wiener Publishers, 2nd printing, 1999)

Cruise O'Brien, Donal B. and Christian Coulon, eds., *Charisma and Brotherhood in African Islam* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1988)

Holt, P. M., *The Mahdist State in the Sudan, 1881-1898* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1970, 2nd edition)

Hunwick, John, *Sharī'a in Songhay: The Replies of Al Maghīlī to the Question of Askia Al-Hājj Muhammad* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1985)

Lapidus, I., *A History of Islamic Societies* (Cambridge: Cambridge U. Press, 1997)

Levtzion, Nehemia, *Ancient Ghana and Mali* (London: African Publishing Company, 1980)

Lewis, I. M., ed., *Islam in Tropical Africa* (Bloomington and London: International African Institute, 1980)

Nehemia Levtzion and J. Voll, *Eighteenth Century Renewal and Reform in Islam* (Syracuse: NYU of Syracuse Press, 1985)

Roberts, A., *The Colonial Moment in Africa: Essays on the Movement of Minds and Materials, 1900-140*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1992)

Robinson, David, *Paths of accommodation: Muslim societies and French Colonial Authorities in Senegal and Mauritania, 1880-1920* (Athens: Ohio University Press, 2000)

Rosanders, Eva E. and D. Westerlund, eds., *African Islam and Islam in Africa* (Athens: Ohio University Press, 1997)

Sanneh, Lamin, *The crown and the Turban: Muslims and West African Pluralism* (Westview press, 1997)

UNESCO General History of Africa, Volume 2: Ancient Civilizations of Africa, ed. G. Mokhtar.

UNESCO General History of Africa, Volume 3: Africa from the Seventh to the Eleventh Century, ed. I. Hrbek.

UNESCO General History of Africa, Volume 4: Africa from the twelfth to the sixteenth, century ed. D. T. Niane.

UNESCO General History of Africa, Volume 5: Africa from the sixteenth to the Eighteenth century, ed. B A. Ogot

Schedule of meetings and assignments

Week 1

Reading: start Esposito

Sept. 7: Organization and Introduction

Week 2:

Reading: Esposito the whole book

Sept. 12: *The World's religions: Islam (video)*

Sept 14: Introduction to Islam

Week 3

Reading: Hiskett ER

Sept.19: The coming of Islam to North Africa

Sept. 21: *Caravans of Gold (video)*: The expansion of Islam in sub-Saharan Africa

Week 4:

Reading: Robinson Ch.3; Clarke 8-47 ER; Insoll ER

Sept. 26: Islam in the empires of Ghana and Mali

Sept. 28: Islam in Songhay

Topics for essay #1 distributed in class

Week 5:

Reading: Robinson ch. 8; Hunwick ER; Clarke 47-53; ER; Levtzion and Pouvelles ch. 11 ER. Levtzion and Pouwells ch 12 ER

Oct. 3: Islam and societies in the Horn of Africa

Oct. 5: Islam and Swahili culture

Essay #1 due

Week 6

Reading: Robinson, ch. 11; Robinson ch.10; Robinson and Smith ER

Oct. 10: Islam in Buganda

Oct. 12: The Sokoto caliphate

Week 7

Reading: Hess ER

Oct. 17: The Sudanese Mahdi

Oct. 19: **mid term**

Week 8

Reading: Robinson ch. 12; Hess ER

Oct. 24: Jihad in Somalia

Oct. 26:

Week 9

Ba, *So Long a Letter*; Boyd and Last ER

Oct. 31: Women in Islam video (*Paradise is under the mother's feet*).

Nov. 2: Islam and Women in Africa

Outline and bibliography of the term paper submitted

Week 10

Reading: Kane, *Ambiguous Adventure*; Sanneh ER; Robinson ch.6

Nov. 7: video *Qur'anic schooling in a changing world*. Islamic education in Africa

Topics for essay #2 distributed in class

Nov. 9: Muslims under European colonial domination

Week 11

Reading: Robinson ch.13

Nov. 14: Sufi “brotherhoods” in Africa

Essay # 2 due

Nov. 16: Amadu Bamba and the Muridiyya

Week 12

Reading: Voll ER; Hogdkin ER

Nov. 21: Modern representations of Islam

Nov 23: **Thanksgivings break**

Week 13

Reading: Clarke ER; Loimeier ER

Nov. 28: Reform and renewal: northern Nigeria

Nov. 30 : Reform and Renewal: Senegal and Mali

Week 14

Dec. 5 Review session

Dec.7 Final exam