

HIS 371

AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST

Prof. Eve M. Troutt Powell
Wednesdays, 2-5, Jaffe 104
Office Hours: Tuesdays, 11-1pm or by appointment

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This course will explore the historical relationship between regions in Africa and in the Middle East, from the eighteenth century to the present. We will examine the bonds of trade and religion that have long connected communities in Africa and the Middle East and also look at the creation of political and cultural borders between these regions. From the eyes of travelers and writers, we will look at how cultures across these boundaries have looked at each other over time.

What are the legacies of earlier trade networks, particularly the slave trade, on these regions? What particular role do countries like Egypt, situated on the African continent but considered Middle Eastern, play in African-Arab or African/ Middle Eastern culture? We will explore, in depth, how European imperialism impacted these worlds, and how the process of decolonization united them. We will examine the processes of immigration and emigration across these regions.

A key part of the course will be to read how historical textbooks of each region either include or exclude discussions of the other – how textbooks of Middle Eastern history pay attention (or do not) to Africa, and how textbooks of African history ignore or explore Middle Eastern connections. In many ways, this course is an attempt to create a new kind of area studies, one that sees these regions as deeply interconnected.

Required Readings: All books for this course are available at the Penn Book Center.

William Cleveland, A History of the Modern Middle East
Robert O. Collins and James M. Burns, A History of Sub-Saharan Africa
Radwa Ashour, Siraaj: An Arab Tale
Eve M. Troutt Powell, A Different Shade of Colonialism
Idris Ali: Dongola: A Novel of Nubia
Hanan al-Shaykh, The Story of Zahra
Patrick Manning, Francophone Sub-Saharan Africa, 1880 – 1995
<http://hdl.library.upenn.edu/1017.3/0521642558>

Articles (all available on Blackboard or distributed by me)

Paulo Fernando de Moraes Farias, “Models of the World and Categorical Models: The ‘Enslaveable Barbarian’ as a Mobile Classificatory Label” in Islam and the Ideology of Enslavement, vol. 1 of *Slaves and Slavery in Muslim Africa* (1985).

Elizabeth Thompson, Part 1: “War and the Advent of French Rule: A Crisis of Paternity”, Chapters 1-3 in *Colonial Citizens: Republican Rights, Paternal Privilege and Gender in French Syria and Lebanon* (2002)

S. Boumedouha, “Adjustment to African Realities: The Lebanese in Senegal” in Africa: Journal of the International African Institute, vol. 60, no. 4, 1990

Fuad I. Khuri, “The African-Lebanese Mulattoes of W. Africa: A Racial Frontier, in Anthropological Quarterly, vol. 41, no. 2, April 1968.

A. Ben-David, “The Experience of Being Different: Black Jews in Israel” in Journal of Black Studies, March, 1997, vol. 27, no. 4

J. Abbink, “The Changing Identity of Ethiopian Immigrants (Falashas) in Israel” in Anthropological Quarterly, Oct. 1984, vol. 57, no. 4

Ethan A. Nadelmann, “Israel and Black Africa: A Rapprochement?” in Journal of Modern African Studies, June 1981, vol. 19, no. 2

Ali A. Mazrui, “Black Africa and the Arabs” in Foreign Affairs, July 1975.

H.A.R. Gibb, Ibn Battuta: Travels in Asia and Africa, 1325-1354 (Routledge and Sons, 1929)

Immanuel Geiss, “Pan-Africanism” in Journal of Contemporary History vol 4, no. 1, 1969

Jean-Emmanuel Pondi, “Continental Pan-Africanism after 25 years: Dream or Reality?” in Cambridge Review of International Affairs, vol 3, no. 2, Autumn 1989

Ehud Toledano, “Bringing the Slaves Back in” in Slavery, Islam and Diaspora Oliver and Atmore, Africa Since 1800, selected chapters

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Course Requirements:

Students will be required to write 2 short papers of 5-7 pages each, and one research paper of 15 pages. Students will also be required, in groups, to lead portions of our weekly discussions. In addition to these requirements, students must have **one** appointment with me over the semester.

First Paper Assignment – 25%

Second Paper Assignment – 25%

Discussion Presentations and Weekly Participation – 25%

Final Paper – 25%

Lectures and Readings:

Week 1 – Jan. 12: Introduction to the Course

Because we will miss the first discussion, I encourage you to get the Cleveland book and the readings in the Collins book (on Blackboard). We will begin our discussion next week.

Week 2 – Jan. 19: Africa and the Middle East, Before 1800

Readings: William Cleveland, A History of the Modern Middle East, chs. 1-3;
Collins and Burns, A History of Sub-Saharan Africa, chs. 1-4

As you read the preceding chapters, think about how the authors introduce you to these regions and continents. What is the difference in their approach? What institutions, trends, geographies or industries do they trace? How is religion discussed? Do Africa and the Middle East appear as meaningful terms before 1800?

Week 3 – Jan. 26: Africa and the Middle East, as conceptualized, before 1800

Readings: Paulo Fernando de Moraes Farias, “Models of the World”
Collins and Burns, Ch. 5-7
Eve M. Troutt Powell, Chapter One
H.A.R. Gibb, Ibn Battuta’s Travels

Week 4 – Feb. 2: Egypt, the Ottoman Empire, and Sudan

Readings: Cleveland, Ch.4
Ehud Toledano, “Bringing the Slaves Back In”
Troutt Powell, Ch. 2

Week 5 – Feb. 9: Memories of African Slavery in the Middle East

Readings: Radwa Ashour: Siraaj: An Arab Tale
Troutt Powell, Ch. 4

FIRST PAPER ASSIGNMENT IS DUE IN CLASS, FEB. 9

Week 6 – Feb. 16: British Imperialism in Africa and the Middle East

Readings: Troutt Powell, Ch. 3
Collins and Burns, Chs. 8-9
Cleveland, Chs. 5, 6 and 7

Week 7 – Feb. 23: French Imperialism in Africa and the Middle East

This week a film will be presented in class

Readings: Patrick Manning, Francophone Sub-Saharan Africa, chs. ?????

Week 8 – March 2: Africans and Arabs: Lebanon, Syria and West Africa

Readings: Cleveland, Chs. 9, 11-12
Elizabeth Thompson, Colonial Citizens, ch. 2
Collins and Burns, Ch. 10
Patrick Manning, chs. 4 and 5

Week 9 – Spring Break!

Week 10 - March 16: Africans and Arabs: Lebanese and Syrians in West Africa

Readings: S. Boumedouha, “Adjustment to African Realities: The Lebanese in Senegal” in Africa: Journal of the International African Institute, vol. 60, no. 4, 1990
Fuad I. Khuri, “The African-Lebanese Mulattoes of West Africa: A Racial Frontier” in Anthropological Quarterly, vol. 41, no. 2, April 1968
Hanan al-Shaykh, The Story of Zahra
Manning, Chs. 6,7

Week 10 – March 23: Decolonization and Independence in the Middle East and Africa
-Nasser and Nkrumah and the Power of Pan-Africanism
- New conceptions of race

Readings: Cleveland, Chs. 15, 16
Collins and Burns, Chs. ?
Immanuel Geiss, “Pan-Africanism” in Journal of Contemporary History, vol. 4, no. 1, 1969
Jean-Emmanuel Pondi, “Continental Pan-Africanism after 25 years: Dream or Reality” in Cambridge Review of International Affairs, vol 3, no. 2, Autumn, 1989

Film Clip: Ali al-Kassar in “7 o’Clock” (early 1950s, Egypt)

Week 11 –March 30: Sudan, between Africa and the Middle East

Readings: Cleveland, Chs. 17, 18
Idris Ali, Dongola
Troutt Powell, Ch. 5
Ali A. Mazrui, “Black Africa and the Arabs” in Foreign Affairs, July 1975

SECOND PAPER ASSIGNMENT IS DUE IN CLASS ON MARCH 30

Week 12 – April 6: Israel and Africa
-Israel and Uganda
-Israel and Ethiopia
-Israel and South Africa

Readings: Arye Oded, Chs. 5, 7 and 9 from Africa and the Middle East Conflict (1987)

Oliver and Atmore, Ch. 20

Ethan A. Nadelmann, "Israel and Black Africa: A Rapprochement?" in Journal of Modern African Studies, June 1981, vol. 19, no. 2

Cleveland, Chs. 21-22 (skim)

Week 13 – April 13: Africans in Israel

Readings: Oliver and Atmore, Chs. 23

Cleveland, Ch. 24

Films: "James' Journey to Jerusalem" (2004)

"The Film Class" (2006)

Week 14 – April 20: Sudanese and Iraqi Refugees, Darfur and Humanitarian Debates

Readings: To Be Assigned

Short films: "The Art of Flight" (2007); and other films about refugees

YOUR FINAL PAPER WILL BE DUE ON MAY 12TH