

Institute of African Studies Course Outline

COURSE:		The Great Lakes Region of Africa AFRI 2003A
TERM:		Fall 2024
PRECLUSIONS:		Insert preclusions here (to be added by Susaritha)
CLASS:	Day & Time:	Monday: 2:35 p.m. -5:25 p.m.
INSTRUCTOR:		Mohamed Ali
CONTACT:	Office Hrs:	170 Dunton Tower (Mondays/10-11a.m. or by appointment)
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Course Description

The course explores the economic, social, and political and cultural patterns that have shaped the diverse complex histories of the Great Lakes Regions of Africa, which includes the countries of Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi and Democratic Republic of the Congo. The goal is to provide detailed insights into the important processes that brought change to the Great Lakes societies, as seen from a long historical perspective. We will start by examining the major landmark events in the history of this region from antiquity to the present, with focus on the 20th and 21st centuries.

The course is divided into nine sections. The major themes explored in each section are as follows:

Section One: Discussions on the long and fascinating history and traditions of the societies in the region- the development of trade, Islam and urbanization on the Swahili coast, as well as the politically complex kingdoms on the Great Lakes region. We will look into how the arrival of the Portuguese on the east African coast in the fifteenth century interrupted the hegemony of the independent Swahili city-states.

Section Two: Will focus on the conquest of the region and the dynamics of colonial rule- especially its socio-economic and cultural consequences. colonialism, struggles for political independence and the colonial legacies of colonial rule.

Section Three: Explore colonialism, struggles for political independence and the legacies of colonial rule.

Section Four: In the post-colonial era, the influence of Marxism and the role of the Soviet Union and its allies gained prominence in Africa. We will look into one of the early flashpoints in the rivalry between the world's two superpowers occurred in the Congo which culminated in the assassination of a popular leader Patrice Lumumba and the three decade military rule under dictator Mobutu Sese Seko. Mobutu

was backed throughout his reign by the United States. We will examine more closely the politics of the post-independence era including the rise of one-party states, increased political centralization, and economic experiments in socialism.

Section Five: Investigates the Great Lakes Region's more recent post-colonial experiences and the politics of nation-building and state formation, conflicts, and the economic development.

Section Six: We will look at the numerous political and military setbacks that have substantially delayed the course of economic development and the growth of civil societies in east Africa, Rwanda, Burundi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Particular emphasis is put on contemporary struggles for democratic governance challenges in modern Great Lake Region states.

Section Seven: We will investigate contemporary issues in the Great Lake Region's nations and their challenges including civil conflicts. The genocide in Rwanda represents one of the most terrible losses of life in recent world history. We will show where and when Rwanda differed from its neighbours and how the country's history fits into the larger debates about colonialism, genocide, ethnicity, race and development.

Section Eight: We will investigate the way the past is connected to the present within Rwanda and eastern Congo. We will look more closely at how the genocide in Rwanda increased cross-border ethnic affiliations between it, the DRC and regional ethnic based rebel groups.

Section Nine: We will focus on the current conflict that is ravaging between the Congolese army and the Rwanda-backed M23 (March 23 movement) rebels in the mineral-rich east of the region. We will conclude an examination of the following issues: the Great Lakes Region's place in global affairs, economic development, political instability, the recent attempted military coup in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, radical Islam in east Africa and the East African Community. The African Economic Outlook report shows that East Africa is on the course as the fastest growing region on the continent, despite multiple headwinds. We will look into the recent deadly Kenyan unrest spurred by internal debt woes and the deep economic roots that brought Gen-Z into the streets.

Learning Objectives: By the end of the course students should be able:

1. To have a critical and broad understanding of the economic, social, and political challenges facing the Great Lake Region of Africa, placing them in historical perspective.
2. To explore how the various conflicts ravaging the Great Lake Region of Africa are underpinned by historical, socio-economic, and environmental factors and the challenges in the 21st century.
3. Be able to analyze and critically assess ideas, arguments and viewpoints.

Course Format: Over the course of the semester, a broad range of topics will be examined and class discussion, which will be predicated on students having read the assigned materials for the week. We will also draw on Films and documentaries whenever appropriate to present images of the Great Lakes Region of Africa, the environment, people, and cultures.

Required Text:

Robert Maxon, *East Africa: An Introductory History*, third edition 2009. West Virginia University Press.

All required texts are available for purchase at the **Carleton Bookstore**.

Recommended Texts (which are also available through ARES)

Mafeje, Archie. 1991. *The Theory and Ethnography of African Social Formations: The case of the Interlacustrine Kingdoms*. London, CODESRIA. (On ARES)
 (public healing between the Great Lakes of East Africa." *The American Historical Review* 111, no 5(2006):14003-1439.

Cohen, David W. "Peoples and States of the Great Lakes Region." *General History of Africa V1: Africa in the Nineteenth century until the 1880s*, Oxford Heinemann (1989). (On ARES).

Robert Pinkney, *The International Politics of East Africa* (2001).

Kanza, T.R. "The Problems of the Congo." *African Affairs (London)* 67, no. 266 (1968) *Genealogies of Conflict* (2011)

Toyin Falola and Raphael, *War and Peace in Africa* (2010). (On ARES).

V.B. Khapoya, *The African Experience (4th ed)*. 2013. (ON ARES)

Kevin Shillington, *History of Africa (4th ed)*. 2019. 9 On ARES)

Erik Gilbert and Jonathan T. Reynolds, *Africa in World History (3rd ed.)* 2012. (On ARES).

Martin Meredith, *The Fate of Africa-A History of Fifty Years of Independence* (2005). (On ARES).

Alfred Nhema & Pul Tyambe Zeleza (ed) *The Roots of African Conflicts-The causes and Costs, Zimbabwe, Lesotho, Kenya, Sudan, Uganda, The Horn of Africa* (2008). (On ARES).

Gilbert M. Khadaigala, (ed). *Security Dynamics In Africa's Great Lakes Region*. London. (2006). (On ARES).

Grading Method

Participation	10%
Midterm	30%
Research paper	15%
Final Exam	45%

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

EXAMS

1. There will be a **three-hour midterm exam (in class)**. The questions will come from the readings, assignments, and lectures.
2. **A Three-hour final examination** based on the work of the entire term. The Final exam will be formally scheduled in the formal examination period and will not be an open book exam.

A research paper (8-10 pages)

Selected research topics **must related** to the themes of the course and **must have the instructor's approval**. Using a **minimum of 3 scholarly books and 3 articles**, write a **8-10 page essay should be typed (double spaced)**. Include a title page and numbered pages. The text should include proper footnotes and relevant citations and a full bibliography of the sources included using the MLA style. The bibliography should include information the author, publisher, edition, and date of publication. **Late papers will be penalized at 3% per day**. Students should **contact me** if they are **late to submit** their research papers **due to a documented illness**.

Course outline

Week 1

Sept.9

Introduction: Land and People of the Great Lakes Region

Overview of Physical context of Great Lakes Region's History: Geography and Environment

-Pastoralists and farmers of the east African interior

Readings: Robert Maxon, Chapter 1 and 2. (On ARES)
Shillington, pages.130-135 (On ARES)

Week 2

Sept. 16

COSMOPOLITAN AFRICA

Precolonial states and societies in the Great Lakes Region of Africa

Historical developments in ancient, medieval, and early modern Great Lakes

Region of Africa

In this session we will look into how the old idea of Africans as stagnant and bound by unchanging traditions does not accurately reflect the way the Great Lakes Region of Africa societies were connected to each other and to other parts of the world by trade, the exchange of ideas and the migration of peoples.

Readings:

Robert Maxon, Chapter 3 and 5 , 'The East African Coast and the East African Interior to 1800.'(On ARES)

Shillington, Chapter 10 , 'trading towns of the East African Coast to the sixteenth Century (On ARES)

Shillington, Chapter 14 , 'Central Africa to the eighteenth century' pages 218-226.(On ARES)

Week 3

Sept. 23

The East African Slave Trade

Readings: Shillington pages 281-287.(On ARES)

-East Africa and the Wider World in the Nineteenth Century

-The Scramble for Great Lake Region of Africa

-The Establishment of European Rule

-The European Colonial Experience

We will focus on politics, social and economic forces that have shaped the history of the Great Lake Region since the late nineteenth century.

Readings:

Robert Maxon, Chapter 6 ,7 and 8.

Shillington, Chapter 24,(On ARES)

Khapoya, Chapter 6 (On ARES)

Video: The Magnificent Cake (On ARES)

Research topics will be assigned (Sept.23)

Week 4

**Sept.30 The Rise of Nationalism and the Struggle for Freedom
The Winning of Independence in East Africa**

Readings: Robert Maxon, Chapter 9 and 10. (On ARES)
 Khapoya, Chapters 5-6 (On ARES)
 Shillington, The winning of independence in the Great Lake Region, Chapter 28
 (On ARES)
 Martin Meredith, *The Fate of Africa: A History of Fifty Years of Independence*.
 pages 78-92. And Chapter 6. *Heart of Darkness* (On ARES)
 . politics of Congo Decolonization." *The Journal of African History* 56, no. (March
 2015): 143-64.
Video: Nationalism in Africa

**Week 5 Independent East Africa
Oct.7 The role of the military in Great Lake Region's politics
Personal Rule, Military and Militarism**

For much of the Great Lakes Region, the final decades of the twentieth century seemed to open with little optimism. We will investigate how the 1970's and 1980's have been decades of economic decline and political and civil hardship. The problems that Great Lakes Region's of Africa and their governments had to face in the early decades after independence were largely, the product of their history.

Readings: Robert Maxon, Chapter 11 (On ARES)
 Shillington, Pages, Chapter 28 and 30 (On ARES)
 Khapoya, Chapter 4 (On ARES)
 Martin Meredith, *The Fate of Africa: A History of Fifty Years of Independence*. Pages 231-238 and Chapter 14, "In Search of Ujamaa". (On ARES).
Short essay topics will be assigned (Oct.7)

Fall Break Oct.21-25

**Week 6 The Challenges of Independence
Oct.28 State, Democracy and Development in the Great Lake Region**

We will also investigate Great Lakes states more recent post-colonial experiences of the politics of nation-building and state formation and the struggle for economic development.

Readings: Eric Gilbert and Jonathan Reynolds, "The challenges of Independence- Congo Crisis" Pages 379-385. (On ARES).
 Barkan, Joel. D. (2001). The many faces of African Democracy across a varied continent. *Harvard International Review*, 24(2) 72-77. (On ARES)
 McNulty, Mel. "the collapse of Zaire: Implosion, Revolution or External Sabotage?" *Journal of Modern African Studies*. 37, no. 1 (1999): 53-82. (On ARES)
 Inside Mueveni's Life Presidency Project, " *The Independent*, August 7, 2017.
 "Uganda's president epitomises Africa's perceived democratic deficit, *The Guardian* January 12, 2016. (ON ARES)

Branch,D.and Cheeseman,N."Democratization,sequencing,and state failure in Africa:Lessons from Kenya" *African Affairs* 1088(433):621-641.(ON ARES)

Study questions (Oct.28)

Week 7 Post-Colonial Great Lakes Region:Economies

Nov.4 The Challenges and delimmas of development:debt and international aid - The political and economic decline of Africa

The existence of developed countries which institutionalised their economic advantages through coloniasation,and then through their domination of the structures which set the rules for trade and aid, has clearly been a major factor in the under-development of Africa.

Readings: Thandike Mkandawire and Charles Soludo."The Adjustment Experience " extract from our continent,our future:African perspective on Structural Adjustment,NJ:Africa World Press,1999,pp49-85. (On ARES)

Brown Stephen,"Authoritarian leaders and multiparty election in Africa:How foreign donors help to keep arap Moi in power."*Third World Quarterly* 22,no.5 (2001):725-739. (On ARES).

Hauser,Ellen. "Ugandan Relations with Western Donors in the 1990's. What impact on Democratization ?" *Journal of Modern African Studies*.37.no.4(1999):621-41. (On ARES)

Three hour-midterm examination (Nov.4)

Week 8

Nov.11 Roots of the Great Lakes Conflict

of ethnic conflict and violence because the post-Cold War has been marked by the resurgence of ethnic conflict in societies like Rwanda,Democratic Republic of the Congo.

-Ethnicity,Race and Gender Relation

Readings: Helen M. Hintjens,"Explaining the 1994 genocide in Rwanda," *The Journal of Modern African Studies*,37,2,(1999),pp.241-286.(On ARES).

Martin Meredith,*The Fate of Africa; A History of Fifty Years of* .Chs.27-28 (On ARES).

Kasara,Kimuli,2017.Does local Ethnic Segregation lead to violence?Evidence from Kenya.*Quarterly Journal of Political Science*. (On ARES).

Week 9

Nov.18 History,Politics and Religion;The Social Structures of Violence in Uganda

Readings: Toyin Falola and Raphael Njoku (eds). *War and Peace in Africa* .Chapter 19 (On ARES)

Blattman Christopher,2009 "from violence to voting:war and political participation in Uganda.*American Political Science Review* 103(2),pp.231-247.(On ARES)

Ryan,Selwyn."Civil Conflict and External Involment in East Africa."*International Journal* 28 (1972-1973):467-90.(On ARES).

Memories, Myths and Meanings of Zanzibar Revolution

Readings: Toyin Falola and Raphael Njoku (eds) *War and Peace in Africa*. Chapter 18. (On ARES)

The Coltan Conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo -Political Agendas and Guerrilla Insurgencies

Readings: Toyin Falola and Raphael (eds) *War and Peace in Africa*. Chapter 20, 21 and 22 (On ARES)

Week 10

Nov.25

Democracy, Liberal Democracy in the Great Lake Region

We will investigate the fate of democracy on the continent, the challenges of both economic and political liberalization and the extent to which democracy has improved conditions of the Great Lake Region's societies.

External influences and internal politics

Readings: State, society and external influences: the case of Tanzania
Robert Pinkney, *The International Politics of Africa*. Chapter 6 (On ARES)

Bartan, Joel. D (2001), The many faces of African Democracy across a varied continent. *Harvard International Review*, 24 (2): 72-77. (On ARES).

Mwangi Wa Githinji and Frank Holmquist, 'Kenya's Hopes and Impeiments: the anatomy of crisis of Exclusion', *Journal of Eastern African Studies*, 2,2 (2008), pp.344-58. (On ARES).

State, society and external influences: the case of Kenya

Robert Pinkey, *The International Politics of East Africa*. Chapter 7 (On ARES).

Alfred Nhema & Pul Tiyambe Zeleza, (ed) *The Roots of African Conflicts-The causes and Costs*, Chapter 9. (On ARES).

Van Hoyweghen, S., T. Trefon, and S. Smis, eds., State Failure in the Congo: Perceptions and Realities. Special Issue of *Review of African Political Economy* 29, no. 93 | 94 (September-December 2002) (On ARES).

Short essay papers due (Nov.25)

Week 11

Dec.2

CONTEMPORARY GREAT LAKE REGION, RECENT EVENTS AND RELATED ISSUES -Regional Instability and External Intervention

Regional and International Relations

Readings: Filip Reyntjens, "Governance and Security in Rwanda." In Gilbert M. Khadiagala (ed) *Security Dynamics in Africa's Great Lake Region*. London: Lynne Rienner Publishers. 2006. (On ARES).
Rene Lemarchand, "Burundi at a Crossroads" In Gilbert M. Khadiagala (ed) *Security Dynamics in Africa's Great Lake Region*. London. 2006. (On ARES).
Mwesiga Baregu, "Congo in the Great Lakes Conflict". In Gilbert M. Khadiagala (ed), (ed). *Security Dynamics in Africa's Great Lake Region*. London. 2006. (On ARES).
Vansina, J. "The Politics of History of the Crisis in the Great Lakes Region." *Africa Today* 45, no. 1 (1998): 37-44. (On ARES).
China an Africa's Great Lake Region

Readings: Erik Gilbert, China, and Africa (pages 407-408) (On ARES)
Ian Tayler, "Sino-African Relations and the Problem of Human Rights," *African Affairs*, vol. 107, no. 426. January 2008. (On ARES).
Anthony, Ross. 2013. "Infrastructure and Influence: China's Presence on the Coast of East Africa" *Journal of the Indian Ocean Region* 9, .2: 134-49. (On ARES).

Review Three-hour final exam-December 9-21 (TBA)

Your instructor

Mohamed Nuuh Alli, Ph.D. University of California, Los Angeles, Formerly Dean of College of Education, Lafole and Professor of African History, Somali National University.