



ANTHROPOLOGY OF MODERN AFRICA
DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY COURSE SYLLABUS
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
FALL 2009
ANT 4354, SECTION 7797
T8-9 (3-4:55 PM), R9 (4:05-4:55 PM), TUR 2333

Instructor: Rachel Harvey
Email: raharvey@ufl.edu
Office: TUR 4407
Hours: Thursdays 1:30-3:30 or by appointment
E-Learning: <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/>
Wiki: <http://anthroharvey.wetpaint.com/>

Image: "Feeling Global", Behrend, *African Arts* Vol. 33:3.

This course is a broad topical survey designed to re-inform and enlighten our popular conceptions of contemporary Sub-Saharan Africa. In the media and global imagination, Africa is often characterized as an invariable and backward land of failure, dependence, poverty, and violence. Students will challenge these ideas by discovering some of the diversity of histories, societies, and experiences that make up this vast and manifold continent. We will explore Africa's vital social, political, and economic connections with the rest of world. As this is an anthropology class, ideas will be filtered through understandings of culture, context, and daily life practices. Grades will be based on weekly participation, writing assignments, presentations, and take-home exams. (Gordon Rule 4000 words)

The course will address the following key themes:

- Backgrounds and Settings
- Globalization and Economic Development
- Health, Gender, and Social Development
- African Urbanism
- Youth, Violence, and War
- Popular Culture

Texts: These books (used or new) are available at Goerings Book Store (1717 NW 1st Ave. 377-3703), in the UF Bookstore, and on-line. Make sure to get the correct editions and lowest prices.

- Beah, Ishmael. 2007. *A long way gone: Memoirs of a boy soldier*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux.
- Booth, Karen M. 2004. *Local women, global science: Fighting AIDS in Kenya*. Bloomington: Indiana UP.
- Trefon, Theodore. 2004. *Reinventing order in Congo: How people respond to state failure in Kinshasa*. London; New York; Kampala, Uganda: Zed Books/Fountain Publishers.
- *Martin, Phyllis, and Patrick O'Meara. 1995. *Africa*. 3rd Edition. Bloomington: Indiana University Press. (**MM** on syllabus) (*We're using only ½ the book so it's on Reserve at Library West and some copies available for check out in TUR B332)

Course pack: Available at Orange & Blue Textbooks, 352.375.2707, 309 NW 13th Street

- These and other articles from print sources are placed on library E-reserve (**ARES**) or on ELearning (**EL**) to defer costs.

Recommended: Strunk, W. and White, E.B. 1999. *The Elements of Style*. (or any edition)

Assessment:	Percent
African News Updates	15
Development Bib/Paper	15
African City Paper/Pres	20
Final Paper/Presentation	20
Final Exam	15
Attendance and Participation	15
Total	100

Final Letter Grades: Be advised that the university now assigns minus grades. See here for more information: <http://www.isis.ufl.edu/minusgrades.html>. Grades will be assigned according to the following percentile breakdown, and will not be rounded up. **Please note:** I will not discuss any grades over email. If you have a concern, make an appointment as soon as possible, not the last week of class. 100-93=A, 92.9-90=A-, 87-89.9=B+, 83-86.9=B, 80-82.9=B-, 77-79.9=C+, 73-76.9=C, 70-72.9=C-, 67-69.9=D+, 63-66.9=D, 60-62.9=D-, < 60 = E (failing grade)

Attendance: Students are expected to attend class regularly and on time. Students who are not present when roll is taken, or leave early, will be considered absent. Students are responsible for all material covered and announcements made during any absence. Food, cell phones, music players, non-class-related use of laptops, or non-class-related reading materials during lecture will not be tolerated.

Class Participation: Students should complete the readings and assignments *prior to* the class on which they are assigned and be prepared to engage in class discussions each week. You should bring three thoughtful questions as if you might lead discussion once a week. You can expect **pop quizzes** and **short writing assignments** that will fall under this grading criterion as well as the **Map Quiz**. Students can also gain participation credit by posting their research and discussion ideas on the class Wiki or in ELearning.

Please Note: *This class covers many important and, at times, sensitive, human issues. The classroom should be a comfortable place to discuss concerns and hear ideas. All students are expected to be respectful in class discussion.*

Deadlines: Students are expected to turn in all assignments on the date scheduled in hard copy. Email submissions are not accepted. Outside of class, papers can be turned in and time stamped at TUR 1112. Late papers will be docked 10 points, then 5 points per day. In exceptional cases where the student is able to provide clear and convincing evidence of severe illness or emergency, the final decision to give a make-up test or accept a late assignment is within the instructor's discretion. If you know you will be absent for a legitimate reason, you must clear this with the instructor at least *one week* ahead of time.

Writing Assignments:

Each student will choose or be assigned an African country, city, and issues to examine and build on in their short research papers and presentations throughout the semester. Detailed rubrics for each assignment will be placed on E-Learning and noted in class. All assignments must be posted to "turnitin.com" in Elearning prior to class. Cite all external sources properly in your papers.

For help with scholarly sources see our class library pages:
<http://www.uflib.ufl.edu.lp.hscl.ufl.edu/cm/anthropology/>
<http://www.uflib.ufl.edu.lp.hscl.ufl.edu/cm/anthropology/ant4354.htm>

- 2 Tuesdays Begin 9/15** **2 Papers/1 Presentation: Africa in Popular News Media (1.5 pgs each, 750 wds total)**
Tuesdays will begin with Current African News Update. During the semester, each student will turn in 2 separate reaction papers evaluating a news story about their country. One of these papers will be presented (3-5 mins) on a Tuesday during the semester. A sign-up sheet will be provided Week 1. Doing these early is advised.
- Due 10/15** **Midterm Reaction/Development Comparison Case Annotated Bibliography (4-5 pages, 1000 words)** This assignment will combine your reaction to readings from weeks 5-7 variously on either Globalization, Development, Health, and Gender with (scholarly) comparison cases from your assigned country. Students may compile an annotated bibliography or write a complete research essay.
- Due 11/3 & 5** **Paper and Presentation: African City Project (3-4 pages and PowerPoint, 950 words)**
Students will create a brief 5 min. PowerPoint with images and facts about their assigned city and turn in a brief research essay/annotated bibliography.
- Due 12/1 & 8** **Presentations: Africa Today – Multi-media Project**
Due 12/11 **Africa Today Paper due (5-6 pages, 1300 words)**
For the final paper, students will draw together what they have learned about their country/city by creating a 10 min. multimedia project and research paper around a contemporary issue. *A 1-page proposal with 5 scholarly sources is due 11/17.* I suggest you schedule a meeting to discuss the paper beginning mid-term. Topic suggestions will be provided on Elearning.

Paper Formatting: Writing assignments must follow these guidelines:

- 1" margins on all sides, Double-spaced (no extra spacing), Stapled
- Times New Roman font – Black Ink, 12-point font
- Pages should be numbered with last name (ex: Harvey 3) in footer or header.
- *If you need to cite references:* References should follow the AAA formatting (guide online).
- One can also include pictures and graphs. Title pages, references, and visuals are in addition to the page length requirements.

Paper Grading Criteria: 50% Content, 20% Organization, 20% Grammar and style, 10% Formatting
Read Files “Gordon Rule Satisfaction”, “Citation Guide”, and “Style 101” in Elearning.

Final Exam: Week 15, I will post a take home exam on Elearning due 12/8. This will consist of short answer essays that draw on readings, lectures, and films. It is 15% of your final grade and should reflect the standards and formatting of a research essay.

Extra Credit Opportunity—Max 5 pts. Students may turn-in a 2 page, informed write-up on Center for African Studies talks (<http://www.africa.ufl.edu>, usually Fridays at 3:30 in Grinter 4th Floor) or other approved Campus/Community Events on an African subject for 0.5 points on final grade each. OR Students may turn-in a 2 page write-up (summary, critique, & discussion) on a recommended (List on Wiki/eLearning) or other pre-approved film or documentary (60min+) on African subject *not* shown in class for 0.5 points on the final grade each. Students must provide proof of viewing/library check-out. Extra credit will NOT be accepted after 12/8.

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism: All assignments should be uploaded onto “turnitin.com” via Elearning prior to the class period in which an assignment is due.

Students are expected to complete their tests and assignments individually. Students found responsible for acts of academic dishonesty (collusion/cheating, plagiarism, or submission of work from other classes) will be subject to sanctions ranging from grades of zero on coursework to failure of course to reporting to the Judiciary Committee. Make sure to cite external sources properly in your papers. Please refer to the UF Honor Code for explicit details. Papers will be checked for plagiarism using Turnitin.com in ELearning.

Students with Disabilities: If special accommodations are needed for students with disabilities, the student should contact the Dean of Students Office for assistance. Documentation regarding a specific disability is required for accommodation arrangements. Confidentiality of the information received will be maintained. Be sure to make requests by the second week of class.

Tutoring: For scholastic assistance, please contact the [Career Resource Center](#), Reitz Union, 392-1601, and the [Reading & Writing Center](#), Broward Hall, 392-0791.

Stress and Student Life: Students struggling with personal issues are encouraged to contact the UF [Counseling Center](#) located in P301 Peabody Hall at (352) 392-1575 or [Student Mental Health Services](#) in Room 245, Infirmary Bldg. at (352) 392-1171 for individual and group sessions or [Sexual Assault Recovery Services](#) (SARS) in the Student Health Care Center at (352) 392-1161.

CLASS SCHEDULE

KEY

MM – Martin and O’Meara, *Africa* **ON RESERVE, COPIES AVAIL**

CP - Course pack

EL – Elearning

ARES – UF Library Course Reserves <https://ares-uflib-ufl-edu.lp.hscl.ufl.edu/>

Optional readings -- Mentioning these in class, papers, or tests will gain you extra participation credit as well as a chance to lead discussion.

Week 1 Background and Context

8/25 Introduction to Course, Resources, and Assignments

8/27 Problems and Perspectives MM Ch 1 **ON RESERVE, COPIES AVAIL**
Contemporary Map of Africa MM Ch 2 **ARES**

Week 2

9/1 Aspects of Early African History MM Ch 4
Africa and Europe before 1900 MM Ch 6
Film: Living Memory

9/3 The Colonial Era MM Ch 7
Comaroff. 1997 in Howes. “Empire’s Old Clothes: Fashioning the Colonial Subject” **ARES**
Film Clip: Les Maîtres Fous

Week 39/8 **Writing Guide Day (Meet in Library)**

Introduction to Library/ Databases

Map Quiz9/10 **Anthropology and Africa: Situating Modernity**Dorothy Hodgson. 1999. "Once Intrepid Warriors": Modernity and the Production of Maasai Masculinities" *Ethnology*, Vol. 38, No. 2, pp. 121-150 **EL, CP**OPTIONAL: Hodgson, 2001, "Of Modernity/Modernities, Gender, and Ethnography" **ARES, CP****Week 4**9/15 **Begin AFRICA NEWS UPDATE Tuesdays (1st Paper Submission Due)****Anthropology and Africa: Rethinking Representation**Edward M. Bruner and Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett, 1994, "Maasai on the Lawn: Tourist Realism in East Africa" *Cultural Anthropology*, Vol. 9, No. 4, pp. 435-470 **EL, CP**SKIM: Edward M. Bruner, 2001, "The Maasai and the Lion King: Authenticity, Nationalism, and Globalization in African Tourism," *American Ethnologist*, Vol. 28, No. 4, pp. 881-908 **EL, CP**9/17 **Decolonization, Independence and the Failure of Politics**MM Ch 8 & 18 **ON RESERVE, COPIES AVAIL****Week 5 Globalization and Economic Development**9/22 **AFRICA NEWS UPDATE**MM Chapter 19 and 20 **ON RESERVE, COPIES AVAIL**

Film: Black Gold

9/24 Brenda Chalfin, 2004, "West African Shea," in *Shea Butter Republic*, pp. 1-29. **ARES, CP**

Guest Speaker

Week 6 Health, Gender, and Social development9/29-10/1 **AFRICA NEWS UPDATE**Booth, 2004, *Local Women, Global Science*, Chs. 1-4**Week 7**10/6-10/8 **AFRICA NEWS UPDATE**Booth, 2004, *Local Women, Global Science*, Chs. 5-6

Guest Speaker

Choose 1 additional reading for class discussion:

- S. Leclerc-Madlala, Popular Responses to Hiv/Aids Policy, *Journal of Southern African Studies*, 2005, 31/4, pp. 845-856. **EL, CP**
- Nguyen, Vinh-Kim (2005) Antiretroviral Globalism, Biopolitics and Therapeutic Citizenship. In Collier and Ong's *Global Assemblages: Technology, Politics and Ethics as Anthropological Problems*. Blackwell Publishing. **ARES, CP**
- Petryna, Adriana (2005) Ethical Variability: Drug Development and Globalizing Clinical Trials. *American Ethnologist* 32(2): 183-197. **EL, CP**

Film Clips: State of Denial

Week 8

10/13 No Class, Library work day

10/15 **Midterm Reaction Paper/ Dev. Comparison Case Bib. due in Class**

In ELearning upload to Turnitin.com, Bring hardcopy

Film: Maids and Madams

OPTIONAL: Catherine Besteman. 2008. "Legacies." In *Transforming Cape Town*. **ARES, CP**

Week 9 Urbanism and Informality

10/20 **AFRICA NEWS UPDATE**

Special Case of South Africa MM Ch 21 **On Reserve, Copies Avail**

Bremner, "Closure, Simulation and "Making do" in the Contemporary Johannesburg Landscape" in *Under Siege*, 2002. **ARES, CP**

10/22 "Introduction" in *Under Siege*, 2002 **EL, CP**

Robins. 2002. "Planning 'suburban bliss' in Joe Slovo Park, Cape Town." *Africa* 72:511-549. **EL, CP**

SKIM: Rakodi, "Order and Disorder in African Cities" in *Under Siege* **CP**

Week 10

10/27 **AFRICA NEWS UPDATE**

T.Trefon, ed. *Reinventing Order in the Congo*, 2004, Zed. Selections.

10/ 29 T.Trefon, ed. *Reinventing Order in the Congo*, 2004, Zed. Selections.

Week 11

11/3 T.Trefon, ed. *Reinventing Order in the Congo*, 2004, Zed. Selections

Presentations Due: African Cities (5 min PowerPoint)

11/5 **African Cities Paper Due, Continue Presentations**

Week 12

11/10 **AFRICA NEWS UPDATE**

Popular Culture

Karen Barber, 1997, "Introduction" in *Readings in African Popular Culture*, p 1-12. **ARES, CP**

Heike Behrend, 2000, "Feeling Global": The Likoni Ferry Photographers of Mombasa, Kenya. *African Arts*, Vol. 33, No. 3, pp. 70-96 **EL, CP**

Music reading **TBA: Guest Speaker**

11/12 Meyer 1999. "Popular Ghanaian cinema and African Heritage." *Africa Today* 46(2):93-114 **EL, CP**

Optional: Larkin, Brian. 1997. "Indian Films and Nigerian Lovers: Media and the Creation of Parallel Modernities." *Africa* 67(3): 406-40. **EL**

Film Clips

Week 13 Youth, War, and Violence

11/17 **AFRICA NEWS UPDATE**

FINAL PAPER PROPOSALS DUE

Beah, 2007, *A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier*, Farrar. First half.

- 11/19 K. Peters and P. Richards, "Why We Fight: Voices of youth combatants in Sierra Leone,"
Africa, 1998, 68/2, 183-224. **EL, CP**
 Mphahlele, Letlapa. 2002 "Child of this soil: My life as a freedom fighter" Selection **TBA – ARES**
 Guest Speaker

Week 14

- 11/24 **AFRICA NEWS UPDATE**
 Beah, 2007, *A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier*, Farrar. Complete.
- 11/26 Thanksgiving Holiday, No Class

Week 15

- 12/1 **Paper 4 Presentations: Africa Today – Multi-media Project (10 mins each)**
- 12/3 Final Exam Posted in ELearning, No Class, Work Day

Week 16

- 12/8 **Paper 4 Presentations: Africa Today – Multi-media Project**
Final Exam due in Class
 Last day to turn in Extra Credit, News updates, etc.
- 12/11 **Final Paper/ Due to Mailbox by 5pm**