

W.P. Holbrook, Ph.D.

Special Topic: "Africa in the Twentieth and Twenty-First Centuries"  
Tuesdays @2:30 pm

21:014:302

Spring 2014  
Conklin 238

"Africa in the Twentieth and Twenty-First Centuries" is presented this term as a reading course focused on social, economic, and political developments in Africa from the late nineteenth-century imperialist "scramble for Africa" to the current struggles for peace, democracy, development, social equality, and economic control. African cultural history is constantly elevated and interwoven in a framework that is for the most part chronological. Colonialism, representation and misrepresentation of Africa, nationalism, new independence, neo-colonialism, gender relations, the impact of wars, urbanization, and global connections are among major topics examined. In addition to our readings (including works of history, anthropology, literature and political science), a film series (with a special focus on works by the Senegalese film-maker Ousman Sembene) is also presented; and a museum visit is planned as a part of the course calendar.

#### STUDENT REQUIREMENTS

Students are expected to attend each meeting of the class. Both a mid-term examination and a final examination are included as a part of our semester's work. The format for examinations is as follows: roughly 30 to 40 percent "fill-in-the-blanks"; and roughly 60 to 70 per cent essays. A research paper of 20 pages is also a required assignment. A list of suggested broad topics for the term paper will be provided during the second week of class. Term paper topics, once chosen, will be narrowed and refined in consultation with the professor and within individual office sessions.

#### BOOKS

The following books have been ordered for your purchase at the New Jersey Books book shop, located at the corner of University Avenue and Bleeker Street.

1. AFRICA SINCE 1940: THE PAST OF THE PRESENT, by Frederick Cooper. (Cambridge University Press)
2. UNDERSTANDING CONTEMPORARY AFRICA, by April A. Gordon and Donald L. Gordon. (Lynne Rienner Publishers)
3. PURPLE HIBISCUS: A NOVEL, by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. (Anchor)
4. KING LEOPOLD'S GHOST, by Adam Hochschild (Mariner)

#### ADDITIONAL READINGS

Short documents (including poems) will be distributed as photo-copied hand-outs; moreover, students will be required to access and to conduct readings on web sites.

Professor Holbrook's Office: 303 Conklin Hall; Hours: Tuesdays 1 to 2 and at other times by appointment. Special hours for term paper advisement will be posted (with a list of times for "signing in") beginning in the third week of the semester.