CIEE Iringa, Tanzania

Course name: History of East Africa  
Course number: HIST 3001 TANZ/ AFST 3003 TANZ  
Programs offering course: Community Development, Language, and Culture  
Language of instruction: English  
U.S. Semester Credits: 3  
Contact Hours: 45 hours  
Term: Fall 2019

Course Description

The course is divided into two major parts; the first surveys the history of the region in pre-colonial times, and the second part deals with the colonial and post-colonial period. The first section will cover such topics as the rise of complex societies and long-distance trading networks. The second part deals with dramatic colonial and post-colonial changes.

Lectures and selected readings will situate colonial and post-colonial East Africa in a broader context of capitalist expansionism and of people’s responses and initiatives within this setting.

A thematic approach will be used and in the teaching process examples will be drawn from Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, and Burundi. Since the course takes place in Tanzania, much of the material will focus on the peoples of this country.

Learning Objectives

By the end of this course students should demonstrate an ability to:

- Understand the East African countries and their environment
- Identify and explain the pre-colonial societies
- Evaluate the East African societies under colonial rule
- Discuss the post-independence development and challenges encountered
- Analyze and assess the contemporary issues emerging in East African countries

Course Prerequisites

Student should have successfully completed at least one college level course in one or more of the following disciplines: History, African Studies, Anthropology, Sociology, or Political Science.

Methods of Instruction

Different teaching and learning methods will be employed to facilitate learning. These include;

- Lectures
- Partner, small-group, and whole-class discussions
- Small-group presentations
Assessment and Final grade

Assessment of the course will be comprised of both continuous and final university assessments. A student will be assessed continuously throughout the course in the form of:

- Map quiz 10%
- Class participation 10%
- Book review (1400-1600 words) 20%
- Small-group presentation 20%
- Final essay (10-15 pages) 40%

Course Requirements

In order for the student to accomplish the requirements of the course s/he should complete the following:

- Map quiz: A map will be distributed on the first day of class and the quiz will be given on day two. Students must know countries, major environmental features, cites, and natural resources of East Africa.
- Class participation: Complete all assigned readings and participate actively in class discussions.
- Book review: 1400-1600 words; Choose a book from the list at the end of this syllabus and evaluate it critically. Give a basic breakdown of the content of the book and then evaluate the positions of the author. Discuss the strengths and weaknesses of the book and give your reader a basic idea of the main thrust of the author’s argument and if s/he was successful in making the argument.
- Small-group presentation: Students will lead a class period in groups of two. They will be in charge of summarizing the reading(s), coming up with discussion questions, and leading discussion of the readings for that day.
- Final essay: 15-20 pages; Use the month-long village homestay to interview elders about their experience with Ujamaa. Analyze and write up these oral histories into a paper that discusses them in light of the current scholarship in this area of study. This will be a combination of primary- and secondary-source material to make an original historical argument.

Attendance and Class Participation

The active and effective participation of the students is important for smooth operation of the course. Students who miss a significant part of the class without permission and notice will be considered absent. Arriving late or leaving early in the middle of the class will cause a disturbance. Similarly, conversation with each other during the lecture is strongly discouraged to avoid disturbing other students and the lecturer. The
student is expected to be actively engaged in all discussion or other activities by contributing substantive thought and relevant responses. Cellular phones and laptops will not be allowed during the class time.

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**Weekly Schedule**

**Week 1**  
1.1 General introduction to the course, teacher and student expectations for the course, discussion of today’s readings  
**Readings:** Lonsdale, “How to Study Africa,” 1-7. Wainaina, “How to Write about Africa” and “How to Write about Africa II”.

1.2 Great Lakes geography, migration, language, ethnicity  
**Reading:** Chrétien, The Great Lakes, 1-83.

1.3 Great Lakes geography, migration, language, ethnicity  
**Reading:** Chrétien, The Great Lakes, 84-200.

**Week 2**  
2.1 Slave trade and slavery  

2.2 African consumerism  
**Reading:** Prestholdt, Domesticating the World, 1-58.

2.3 Swahili Coast  
**Readings:** Fair, Pastimes and Politics, 1-63. Prestholdt, Domesticating the World, 59-87.

**Week 3**  
3.1 Swahili trade continued  
**Reading:** Prestholdt, Domesticating the World, 88-146.

3.2 European exploration  

3.3 European exploration and penetration  
**Readings:** Frank McLynn, "Exploration and Imperialism" and "Psychology of the Explorers" in *Hearts of Darkness, European Exploration of Africa* (London:

Week 4

Imperialism

4.1 Imperialism and colonial conquest


4.2 Imperialism


4.3 The German example in Tanganyika


Week 5

Colonial Science and Medicine and WW2

5.1 Colonial science and medicine

Reading: Graboyes, “The Experiment Must Continue,” Part I.

5.2 Colonial Science and Medicine

Reading: Graboyes, “The Experiment Must Continue,” Part II.

5.3 WW2 in Tanganyika

Reading: John Iliffe, "Fortunes of War" in *A Modern History of Tanganyika*, pp. 240-272.

Week 6

Independence

6.1 Wind of Change


6.2 Tanganyika


6.3 Women and Independence

Reading: Geiger, *TANU Women*, xiii-63.
Week 7  
Semester Break

Week 8  
Independence Struggle

8.1  Mau Mau in Kenya


8.2  Ujamaa


8.3  Ujamaa

**Readings:** Goran Hyden, *Beyond Ujamaa in Tanzania: Underdevelopment and an Uncaptured Peasantry.*

Book review due

Week 9  
Postcolonial State, Genocide, and the Environment

9.1  Postcolonial State

**Readings:** Crawford Young, *The Postcolonial State in Africa: Fifty Years of Independence, 1960–2010*

9.2  Genocide

**Readings:** Straus, *The Order of Genocide*, 1-40. 

9.3  Post-colonial environment and final essay overview


Weeks 10-13

Field Component (village)-No classes

Field Assignment

Work on Final essay research

Week 14

Work on final essay

Week 15

Final essay due
Book Review Options

See your Program Director, Justin Beckham, for CIEE library list of books on East Africa for book review options.

Readings


Goran Hyden, *Beyond Ujamaa in Tanzania: Underdevelopment and an Uncaptured Peasantry*.

