

Prof. John Galaty (Tel. 1336)
Office: Leacock 724
Office Hours: MW 3:30-5:00 p.m.

Fall Term 2012
Class: STBIO N2/2
Schedule: MW 5:35-6:55 p.m.

[Sept.5] Introduction to the Course: Perspectives on Africa

“Perspectives” & “representations”: Africa as objective reality and as concept; disciplines, approaches and problems in African Studies.

**SECTION A.
AFRICAN SOCIETIES, ECONOMIES AND RELIGIONS**

[Sept. 10, 12] Part I. Representation and Discourse

“Frames” and images for interpreting Africa; “imagined landscapes of Africa”.

Focus: South Africa; Problem: The force of discourse

J&J Comaroff (South Africa)

Cheikh Anta Diop (Egypt)

Kwame Anthony Appiah (Africa)

V.Y. Mudimbe (Africa)

[Sept. 17, 19] Part II. From Tribe to Ethnicity: Kinship and Social Organization

Who has tribes & who has ethnicity? ‘Inventions’ of African society.

Focus: Sudan; Problem: The power of identity

E.E. Evans-Pritchard (Nuer/Sudan)

Aidan Southall (Eastern Africa/Comparative)

Leroy Vail (Afrikaners/South Africa)

[Sept. 24, 26] Part III. Economics as a Cultural System

Livelihoods, cultures, markets and states; Economic ideas in Africa.

Focus: Congo; Problem: The social embedding of economic life

Mary Douglas (Lele & Bushong/Congo)

Catherine Coquery-Vidrovitch (West Africa/Comparative)

Sharon Hutchinson (Nuer/Sudan)

[Oct. 1, 3] Part IV. Hunter-Gatherers in Africa

Foragers as ancestors or people? Explaining the persistence of hunter-gatherers and modernity.

Focus: Southern Africa/Kalahari; Problem: Livelihoods in ecological and political context

Colin Turnbull (Mbuti Pygmies/Congo)

Roy Grinker (Lese & Efe/Congo)

Edwin Wilmsen (‘Bushmen’/Southern Africa)

Jacqueline Solway and Richard Lee (San of Kalahari/Southern Africa)

Oct. 8th, No Class (Thanksgiving)

[Oct. 10, 15]

[October 10th, Final Date for sending Essay topics to course TA]

[Oct. 17, 22] Part VI. Ancestors, Gods, and the Philosophy of Religion

Belief, divinity and the social order; religion and cultural creativity.

Focus: Mali; Problem: African unities and diversity

Marcel Griaule (Dogon/Mali)

Paulin Hountondji (Comparative)

Igor Kopytoff (Suku/Congo)

Wednesday, October 24th, Mid-Term Exam

SECTION B.

AFRICAN CULTURE, HISTORY, AND POLITICS IN GLOBAL CONTEXT

[Oct. 29, 31] Part VII. Arts, Aesthetics, and Heritage

Cultural creativity and political play in art, literature, drama and music.

Focus: East African coast; Problem:

[Nov. 26, 28] Part XI. Violent Transformations: Conflict and Displacement
Rituals of rebellion and conflict: Fragmenting and problematizing the State
Focus: Rwanda; Problem: Are African states too weak or too strong?