

Gender and Sexuality in African History

AS 100.430, Spring 2019

Professor

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Class Meeting Time & Place

Tuesdays 4-6:50, Gilman 308

Scope and Purpose

Gender and Sexuality in African History is an upper-level undergraduate seminar that considers a broad set of historical and contemporary issues relating to issues of gender and sexuality in Africa and in African history. We will be reading and discussing half of a book each week. Most of the books are written by historians and two are by anthropologists. Topics include a general history of women in Africa, issues in reproductive health, masculinity, transactional sex and prostitution, genital cutting, infertility, miscarriage, and postcolonial debates about child support and sex work. The purpose of the seminar and its readings is to introduce students to the diversity and the complexity of issues regarding gender and sexuality in Africa and to provide them with essential introductory background for understanding some of the principle questions that scholars have been researching and writing about in recent years. The course takes an open, scholarly approach to the subject. No prior knowledge of or courses about Africa are required to be successful in this course.

Required Books (Available in hard copy or electronically)

*You may purchase hard copies of the six books in the JHU bookstore or from any vendor, if you desire. MSEL also has free electronic versions of some of these, via the library catalog. Hard copies of the books are also available on print reserve in MSEL and may be checked out for short periods of time for reading or photocopying. You may also be able to borrow library hard copies via "Borrow Direct" using the library's online catalog (order ahead to make sure the books arrive on time). Finally, you may purchase electronic copies of the books from various internet vendors, rather than using hard copies or the library's electronic copy. **A combination of the above strategies will help you to minimize book costs.***

Berger, Iris. *Women in Twentieth-Century Africa* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2016). [MSEL has a free electronic copy]

White, Luise. *The Comforts of Home: Prostitution in Colonial Nairobi* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1990). [MSEL has a free electronic copy]

- Meiu, George Paul. *Ethno-erotic Economies: Sexuality, Money, and Belonging in Kenya* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2017).
- Thomas, Lynn M. *Politics of the Womb: Women, Reproduction, and the State in Kenya* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2003). [MSEL has a free electronic copy]
- Gondola, Charles Didier. *Tropical Cowboys: Westerns, Violence, and Masculinity in Kinshasa* (Bloomington, Ind.: Indiana University Press, 2016).
- van der Sijpt, Erica. *Wasted Wombs: Navigating Reproductive Interruptions in Cameroon* (Nashville, Tenn.: Vanderbilt University Press, 2018).

Course Requirements

1. Attendance and participation. I expect you to attend every class and to participate in the discussions. Any absence from class should be explained before class, not after it. I do not require a doctor's or other practitioner's note for absences—just responsible adult behavior by informing me before you miss a class. Participation grades assigned by the professor will be based in part on your record of attending class and on your verbal participation in it.
2. Weekly Journal Posts. Each week, students will upload short responses to the assigned reading. Short means no more than one page of text (single-spaced), generally 2-3 paragraphs. Your journal should take the following form. The first paragraph answers the question: What was the main argument of the assigned reading? The rest of the journal should address any or all of the following questions: What do you think about the argument, and why? What did you find interesting, enlightening, difficult, problematic, or surprising about the reading? How does the reading relate to other works we have read? What questions do you have for in-class discussion? Journal posts are due before the beginning of each class (you will be unable to post your comments after class has begun). You may wish to bring a hard or soft copy of your journal comments to class and use them as a basis for your verbal participation.
3. Midterm Essay. A take-home midterm examination essay covering the first three books. This will consist of one 5-page essay answer to a general question relating to the required readings and course discussions. 5 pages means at least 1,600 words.
4. Review/thought paper, 10 pages, based on your reading of two related books from the list at the end of this syllabus. You will need approval from the professor for your two books. Your review/thought paper is a thoughtful review of the two books you choose that discusses the issues in gender and sexuality in Africa raised by the two works. 10 pages means at least 3,200 words.
5. Final Essay. A take-home final examination essay covering the last three books. This will consist of one 5-page essay answer to a general question relating to the required readings and course discussions. 5 pages means at least 1,600 words.

Grading	Points
attendance & participation (instructor-assigned)	100
weekly journal posts (20 points/week)	250
midterm exam essay	200
review/thought paper	250
final exam essay	200
total points	1000

Important Dates and Deadlines

March 1	Midterm exam essay question available
March 16	Midterm exam due by 11:59 pm
April 20	Review/thought paper is due by 11:59 pm
April 26	Final exam essay question available
May 13	Final exam due by 11:59 pm.

Meeting Dates & Reading Schedule:

January 29: Introduction. No class meeting.

February 5: Berger, *Women in Twentieth-Century Africa*, Introduction – Chapter 4.

February 12: Berger, *Women in Twentieth-Century Africa*, Chapter 5 – end of book.

February 19: White, *The Comforts of Home*, Introduction – Chapter 5.

February 26: White, *The Comforts of Home*, Chapter 6 – Chapter 9.

March 5: Meiu, *Ethno-erotic Economies*, Introduction – Chapter 3.

March 12: Meiu, *Ethno-erotic Economies*, Chapter 4 – Conclusion.

March 26: Thomas, *Politics of the Womb*, Introduction – Chapter 3.

April 2: Thomas, *Politics of the Womb*, Chapter 4 – Conclusion.

April 9: Gondola, *Tropical Cowboys*, Introduction – Chapter 4.

April 16: Gondola, *Tropical Cowboys*, Chapter 5 – Chapter 8.

April 23: van der Sijpt, *Wasted Wombs*, Introduction – Chapter 3.

April 30: van der Sijpt, *Wasted Wombs*, Chapter 4 – Conclusion.

List of Potential Review/Thought Books

- Aderinto, Saheed. *When Sex Threatened the State: Illicit Sexuality, Nationalism, and Politics in Colonial Nigeria, 1900-1958* (Urbana, Ill.: University of Illinois Press, 2014).
- Alidou, Ousseina D. *Engaging Modernity: Muslim Women and the Politics of Agency in Postcolonial Niger* (Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 2011).
- Allman, Jean, and Victoria Tashjian. *"I Will Not Eat Stone": A Women's History of Colonial Asante* (Portsmouth, N.H.: Heinemann, 2000).
- Barnes, Teresa A. *"We Women Worked so Hard": Gender, Urbanization and Social Reproduction in Colonial Harare, Zimbabwe, 1930-1956* (Portsmouth, N.H.: Heinemann, 1999).
- Bay, Edna G. *Wives of the Leopard: Gender, Politics, and Culture in the Kingdom of Dahomey* (Charlottesville, Va.: University of Virginia Press, 1998).
- Berger, Iris. *Women in Twentieth-Century Africa* (Cambridge, Eng.: Cambridge University Press, 2016).
- Boddy, Janice. *Wombs and Alien Spirits: Women, Men and the Zar Cult in Northern Sudan* (Madison, Wisc.: University of Wisconsin Press, 1989).
- Bujra, Janet. *Serving Class: Masculinity and the Feminisation of Domestic Service in Tanzania* (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2000).
- Burnet, Jennie E. *Genocide Lives in Us: Women, Memory, and Silence in Rwanda* (Madison, Wisc.: University of Wisconsin Press, 2012).
- Burrill, Emily S. *States of Marriage: Gender, Justice, and Rights in Colonial Mali* (Athens, Oh.: Ohio University Press, 2015).
- Burrill, Emily S., Richard Roberts, and Elizabeth Thornberry, eds. *Domestic Violence and the Law in Colonial and Postcolonial Africa* (Athens, Oh.: Ohio University Press, 2010).
- Cole, Jennifer. *Sex and Salvation: Imagining the Future in Madagascar* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2010).
- Cooper, Barbara. *Marriage in Maradi: Gender and Culture in a Hausa Society in Niger, 1900-1989* (Portsmouth, N.H.: Heinemann, 1997).
- Decker, Alicia C. *In Idi Amin's Shadow: Women, Gender, and Militarism in Uganda* (Athens, Oh.: Ohio University Press, 2014).
- Epprecht, Marc. *Hungochani: The History of a Dissident Sexuality in Southern Africa* (Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2004).
- Geiger, Susan. *TANU Women: Gender and Culture in the Making of Tanganyikan Nationalism, 1955-1965* (Portsmouth, N.H.: Heinemann, 1997).
- George, Abosede A. *Making Modern Girls: A History of Girlhood, Labor, and Social Development in Colonial Lagos* (Athens, Oh.: Ohio University Press, 2014).
- Hoad, Neville. *African Intimacies: Race, Homosexuality, and Globalization* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2007).
- Heald, Suzette. *Manhood and Morality: Sex, Violence and Ritual in Gisu Society* (London: Routledge, 1999).
- Hirsch, Susan F. *Pronouncing and Persevering: Gender and the Discourses of Disputing in an African Islamic Court* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1998).
- Hodgson, Dorothy L. *The Church of Women: Gendered Encounters between Maasai and Missionaries* (Bloomington, Ind.: Indiana University Press, 2005).

- Hunter, Mark. *Love in the Time of AIDS: Inequality, Gender, and Rights in South Africa* (Bloomington, Ind.: Indiana University Press, 2010).
- Ivaska, Andrew. *Cultured States: Youth, Gender and Modern Style in 1960s Dar es Salaam* (Durham, N.C.: Duke University Press, 2011).
- Jean-Baptiste, Rachel. *Conjugal Rights: Marriage, Sexuality, and Urban Life in Colonial Libreville, Gabon* (Athens, Oh.: Ohio University Press, 2015).
- Jeater, Diana. *Marriage, Perversion, and Power: The Construction of Moral Discourse in Southern Rhodesia, 1894-1930* (Oxford, Eng.: Oxford University Press, 1993).
- Johnson-Hanks, Jennifer. *Uncertain Honor: Modern Motherhood in an African Crisis* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2006).
- Kaler, Amy. *Running after Pills: Politics, Gender, and Contraception in Colonial Zimbabwe* (Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann, 2003).
- Kanogo, Tabitha M. *African Womanhood in Colonial Kenya, 1900-1950* (Oxford, Eng.: James Currey, 2005).
- Kyomuhendo, Grace Bantebya, and Marjorie Keniston McIntosh. *Women, Work, and Domestic Virtue in Uganda, 1900-2003* (Oxford, Eng.: James Currey, 2007).
- Lindsay, Lisa A. *Working with Gender: Wage Labor and Social Change in Southwestern Nigeria* (Portsmouth, N.H.: Heinemann, 2003).
- Lindsay, Lisa A., and Stephan Miescher, eds. *Men and Masculinities in Modern Africa* (Portsmouth, N.H.: Heinemann, 2003).
- Mann, Kristin. *Marrying Well: Marriage, Status, and social Change among the Educated Elite in Colonial Lagos* (Cambridge, Eng.: Cambridge University Press, 1985).
- Martin, Phyllis M. *Catholic Women of Congo-Brazzaville: Mothers and Sisters in Troubled Times* (Bloomington, Ind.: Indiana University Press, 2009).
- Masquelier, Adeline. *Women and Islamic Revival in a West African Town* (Bloomington, Ind.: Indiana University Press, 2009).
- McClendon, Thomas V. *Genders and Generations Apart: Labor Tenants and Customary Law in Segregation-Era South Africa, 1920s to 1940s* (Portsmouth, N.H.: Heinemann, 2002).
- McCulloch, Jock. *Black Peril, White Virtue: Sexual Crime in Southern Rhodesia, 1902-1935* (Bloomington, Ind.: Indiana University Press, 2000).
- Miescher, Stephan F. *Making Men in Ghana* (Bloomington, Ind.: Indiana University Press, 2005).
- Moodie, T. Dunbar. *Going for Gold: Men, Mines, and Migration* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1994).
- Mutongi, Kenda. *Worries of the Heart: Widows, Family, and Community in Kenya* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2007).
- Nast, Heidi. *Concubines and Power: Five Hundred Years in a Northern Nigerian Palace* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2005).
- Osborn, Emily Lynn. *Our New Husbands are Here: Households, Gender, and Politics in a West African State from the Slave Trade to Colonial Rule* (Athens, Oh.: Ohio University Press, 2011).
- Ouzgane, Lahoucine, and Robert Morrell, eds. *African Masculinities: Men in Africa from the Late Nineteenth Century to the Present* (London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2005).
- Presley, Cora Ann. *Kikuyu Women, the Mau Mau Rebellion, and Social Change in Kenya* (Boulder, Colo.: Westview Press, 1992).

- Ray, Carina E. *Crossing the Color Line: Race, Sex, and the Contested Politics of Colonialism in Ghana* (Athens, Oh.: Ohio University Press, 2015).
- Roberts, Richard. *Litigants and Households: African Disputes and Colonial Courts in the French Soudan, 1895-1912* (Portsmouth, N.H.: Heinemann, 2005).
- Robertson, Claire C. *Sharing the Same Bowl: A Socioeconomic History of Women and Class in Accra, Ghana* (Ann Arbor, Mich.: University of Michigan Press, 1990).
- Robertson, Claire C. *Trouble Showed the Way: Women, Men, and Trade in the Nairobi Area, 1890-1990* (Bloomington, Ind.: Indiana University Press, 1997).
- Sargent, Carolyn Fisher. *Maternity, Medicine, and Power: Reproductive Decisions in Urban Benin* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1989).
- Schmidt, Elizabeth. *Mobilizing the Masses: Gender, Ethnicity, and Class in the Nationalist Movement in Guinea, 1939-1958* (Portsmouth, N.H.: Heinemann, 2005).
- Schmidt, Elizabeth. *Peasants, Traders, and Wives: Shona Women in the History of Zimbabwe, 1870-1939* (Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann, 1992).
- Scully, Pamela. *Liberating the Family? Gender and British slave Emancipation in the Rural Western Cape, South Africa, 1823-1853* (Portsmouth, N.H.: Heinemann, 1997).
- Shadle, Brett. *Girl Cases: Marriage and Colonialism in Gusiland, Kenya, 1890-1970* (Portsmouth, N.H.: Heinemann, 2006).
- Sheldon, Kathleen. *African Women: Early History to the 21st Century* (Bloomington, Ind.: Indiana University Press, 2017).
- Smith, Daniel Jordan. *To Be a Man Is Not a One-Day Job: Masculinity, Money, and Intimacy in Nigeria* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2017).
- Spurlin, William J. *Imperialism within the Margins: Queer Representation and the Politics of Culture in Southern Africa* (London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2006).
- Stephens, Rhiannon. *A History of African Motherhood: The Case of Uganda, 700-1900* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2013).
- Thornberry, Elizabeth. *Colonizing Consent: Rape and Governance in South Africa's Eastern Cape* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2019).
- Trotter, Henry. *Sugar Girls and Seamen: A Journey into the World of Dockside Prostitution in South Africa* (Athens, Oh.: Ohio University Press, 2011).
- Vaughan, Megan, and Henrietta Moore. *Cutting Down Trees: Gender, Nutrition, and Agricultural Change in the Northern Province of Zambia, 1890-1990* (Portsmouth, N.H.: Heinemann, 1994).
- Vaughan, Megan. *The Story of an African Famine: Gender and Famine in Twentieth-century Malawi* (Cambridge, Eng.: Cambridge University Press, 1987).
- Waetjen, Thembisa. *Workers and Warriors: Masculinity and the Struggle for Nation in South Africa* (Urbana, Ill.: University of Illinois Press, 2004).
- White, Owen. *Children of the French Empire: Miscegenation and Colonial Society in French West Africa, 1895-1960* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1999).