Instructor Information
Prof. Carina Ray
Mandel 207
cer15@brandeis.edu
Office Hours: T/F 12:30-1:30

Course Meeting Time and Location
Tuesday & Friday @ 9:30-10-50
Location: Pearlman Hall 203
Office Hours: T/F 12:30-1:30

Course Description
This seminar will introduce you to a dynamic range of iconic figures in Africa's history, while also providing you with the investigative and analytical skills associated with sound historical research and writing. We will encounter well-known historical figures, like Nelson and Winnie Mandela, while others, such as Walatta Petros and Thomas Sankara, may be unfamiliar, or infamous like Idi Amin and Robert Mugabe. We will read and critically engage a vast array of sources, including speeches, government documents, autobiographical pieces, films, and press reports, in addition to scholarly studies. Course readings will be complemented by seminar discussions that bring together the major themes under consideration and that provide different ways of thinking about and interpreting the issues at hand.

Learning Goals
* Acquire an in-depth understanding of a broad range of significant figures in African history.
* Develop capacity for independent and critical thought by working with contested, contradictory, and often politicized sources.
* Improve facility in locating and working with primary and secondary sources.
* Refine public speaking skills.
**Course Materials**
The following texts are **REQUIRED** and must be purchased well in advance of the time you are expected to read them. You may purchase them at the Brandeis bookstore or through Amazon or any other online book retailer of your choice:

2) Ernest Harsch, *Thomas Sankara: An African Revolutionary*

Unless otherwise noted, all other readings will be available on Latte (L).

**Grading Structure**

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<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Map Quiz</th>
<th>Africa in the News</th>
<th>Short Essays</th>
<th>Final Paper and Presentation</th>
<th>Seminar Participation</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percentage</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>25%</td>
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**Map Quiz**
A map quiz which requires you to identify each African country will take place on **Tuesday, January 31st**. You can prepare for the quiz by using these apps: [http://online.seterra.net/en/vgp/3034](http://online.seterra.net/en/vgp/3034) and [http://www.ilike2learn.com/ilike2learn/africa.html](http://www.ilike2learn.com/ilike2learn/africa.html). The map quiz counts for 5% of your course grade.

**Africa in the News Oral Presentation**
Working in pairs, you will present a current event news story that links up with the course readings for the day of your presentation. The point of these presentations is not just to stimulate discussion; it is also to help you achieve both comfort with and command over your public speaking voice. This presentation counts for 5% of your course grade. Please see assignment sheet for further details.

**Short Essays**
Over the course of the semester you will write 4 short essays, each worth 10% of your grade for a combined total of 40% of your final course grade. Detailed information about each of these essay assignments is available on Latte.

**Seminar Participation**
Engaged learning is a key to success in this seminar. Your thoughtful analysis of the readings is not only **welcomed it is expected**. Because one of our goals is to refine your public speaking and oral communication skills we will focus not only on the content of what you have to say, but also on your delivery. 25% of your course grade is based on your class participation.

**Course Expectations**

**Weekly Time Commitment**
This is a **Four-Credit Course (with 2.5 hours of class-time per week)**. Success in this 4-credit hour course is based on the expectation that students will spend a minimum of 9 hours of study time per week in preparation for class (readings and preparation for quizzes, presentations, and exams, etc.).

**Attendance and Tardiness**
Attendance is absolutely mandatory. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of every class. The presence of every student is valued and unexcused absences risk disrupting the cohesion of the class. Repeated absences are disrespectful to me, as your professor, as well as to your fellow classmates. If you must miss a class, you must have a **valid excuse** (ie. sickness or injury, family emergency) and inform me ahead of time. More than two unexcused
absences will result in an automatic 1/3 reduction of your final grade. If for any reason you have more than two excused absences, you will need to make arrangements with me to be accountable to the work you’ve missed.

Being tardy is unacceptable. If you are more than 5 minutes late to class, you will be marked absent with a resultant deduction in your final grade based on the aforementioned attendance policy.

Classroom Conduct
Your classroom conduct will be a factor in your participation grade. You are expected to arrive to class on time, be attentive (no falling asleep), and focused (no cellphone use). Please use the restroom BEFORE you come to class. Students who interrupt class by leaving the classroom for water and bathroom breaks, to use the phone, or for any other reason will be asked not to return to class if the problem becomes persistent.

You are expected to maintain the highest standards of collegiality with your classmates and with me. Discussions of the course materials and content must be conducted with awareness that we all bring differing levels of knowledge, experience, and perspective to the subject matter. The sole criteria for contributions to class discussion is your engagement with the assigned readings and other course materials. If you’ve done the reading you are as prepared as anyone else to contribute to class discussions. If you have not done the reading please refrain for usurping discussion time with contributions that are not grounded in the assigned readings. Acts of disrespect will not be tolerated. Repeated disruptive behavior will result in your failure of the course.

Academic Integrity
You are expected to maintain the highest standards of academic integrity as stated in Section 4 of the Rights and Responsibilities handbook. http://www.brandeis.edu/studentlife/srsrcs/rr/

Plagiarism and evidence of cheating on exams will not be tolerated and will result in an automatic failing grade. You may refer to the International Center for Academic Integrity for additional information: http://www.academicintegrity.org/icai/home.php

Disability Policy
If you are a student with a documented disability on record at Brandeis University and wish to have a reasonable accommodation made for you in this class, please see me immediately.

If you have questions about documenting a disability or requesting academic accommodations, you should contact Beth Rodgers-Kay in Academic Services (x63470 or brodgers@brandeis.edu.)

Letters of accommodation should be presented at the start of the semester to ensure provision of accommodations. Accommodations cannot be granted retroactively.

Computer Policy
Computers and other electronic devices, including iPads and other tablets, are not allowed in class. Please ensure that you print out articles and bring them to class with you.

Late Work and Extensions
I will not accept late work under any circumstance. On a case-by-case basis I may grant extensions to students facing hardships (ie, sickness, injury, or family emergency) who request an extension BEFORE their work is late. Advance planning and time management skills are critical assets in life and learning them now will serve you well.

Key Schedule Dates
January 31: Map Quiz
February 7: Essay #1 Due
February 24: No Class
March 3: Essay #2 Due
March 28: Essay #3 Due

February 21: No Class
April 7: Essay #4 Due
April 11: No Class
April 14: No Class
April 18: No Class
COURSE SCHEDULE

Week #1
JANUARY 17: Introduction

JANUARY 20: Africa, Icons, African Icons
*Read for Today:
  1) *African History: A Very Short Introduction* (pp. 1-10 and Chapter 2)
  3) Herbert Cole, “Icons: Ideals and Power in the Art of Africa” (L)

Week #2
JANUARY 24: Nelson Mandela – Early Years
*Read for Today:
  1) Jerri Eddings, “Highlights of South Africa’s Political History,” *NABJ Journal*, 11.7: 4-5. (L)
*Preparatory Work for Today: Highlight important dates in South African history and in Nelson Mandela’s personal and political history. You will use these dates to construct a timeline.

JANUARY 27: Nelson Mandela – International Icon
*Read for Today:
  1) Elleke Boehmer, “Mandela, icon.” (L)
  2) “Profile of an Icon: Nelson Mandela” (L)
*Preparatory Work for Today: Highlight important dates in South African history and in Nelson Mandela’s personal and political history. You will use these dates to construct small group timelines.

Week #3
JANUARY 31: Winnie Mandela – The History Behind the Woman **MAP QUIZ**
*Read for Today:
  3) Winnie Madikizela Mandela, “Detention Alone is a Trial in Itself” in *Women Writing Africa: The Southern Region*, 344-346. (L)
*Preparatory Work for Today: Highlight important dates in South African history and in Winnie Mandela’s personal and political history. You will use these dates to construct small group timelines.

FEBRUARY 3: Winnie Mandela – Gender, Violence, Anti-Apartheid
  1) “The Role of Women in the Struggle Against Apartheid” (L)
  2) *The Women’s Liberation Struggle* (L)
  3) Desiree Lewis, “Mother of a Nation,” *Chimurenga: Who No Know Go Know*. (L)
*Prepare for Today: Bring a rough draft of Essay #1 – we will use these as the basis for our discussion today.
Week #4
FEBRUARY 7: Walatta Petros – Ethiopian Saint
*Read for Today:
**Short Essay #1 Due**

FEBRUARY 10: Walatta Petros – Anticolonial Icon
*Read for Today:

Week #5
FEBRUARY 14: Walatta Petros – Iconoclast
*Read for Today:
   2) Wendy Belcher, “Same Sex Intimacies in the Early African Text Gadla Walatta Petros (1672): Queer Reading an Ethiopian Female Saint.” (L)

FEBRUARY 17: Fela Kuti Listening Party
*Read for Today:
   1) Kofi Agawu, “African Music as Text” (L)

Week #6 – WINTER BREAK – ENJOY LISTENING TO FELA OVER THE BREAK!!

Week #7
FEBRUARY 28: Fela Kuti – “Felasophy”
*Read for Today:
   2) Derek Stanovsky, “Fela and His Wives: The Import of a Postcolonial Masculinity” (L)
*In-class Screening, “Finding Fela” Part I
*Select Sections of Ntama special issue on Fela for discussion on Friday.

MARCH 3: Fela – Music is the Weapon
*Read for Today:
   1) Ntama selections (L)
*In-class Screening, “Finding Fela” Part II
**Short Essay #2 Due**

Week #8
MARCH 7: Idi Amin Dada – “Farce and Fatality in Amin’s Uganda”
*Watch for Today: The Last King of Scotland
**Read for Today:**
1) Alicia Decker, “Violence, Militarism, and Masculinity: The Making of Idi Amin” (L)
2) Mark Leopold, “Idi Amin: Icon of Evil” (L)
4) Mark Leopold, “‘Print the Legend’: Myth and Reality in *The Last King of Scotland*”

*In-class Screening of “GENERAL IDI AMIN DADA: AUTO-PORTRAIT” Part I

**MARCH 10: Idi Ami—Amin and The Asian Expulsion**

**Read for Today:**
1) Amin, Idi. “Speech by His Excellency the President of Uganda, General Amin, to the Asian Conference Held on 8th December, 1971, in the Uganda International Conference Centre” in *East Africa Journal*, vol. 9, no. 2, February 1972. (L)
2) Select and read three other articles from the handout “Sources on the Expulsion of Asians from Uganda.” As you make your selections be sure to choose articles that offer different viewpoints on the expulsion. Your sources must provide you with information that you can use to argue in support of AND against the expulsion. Jamison’s annotated bibliography will provide you with a brief summary of many of the articles and texts that have been put on electronic and print reserve for this assignment.

*Preparatory Work for Today: Outline the main points of each of the articles you have selected, particularly as they relate to the legal, ethical, socio-economic and racial aspects of the expulsion. Include which point each author seems to place the most emphasis on as the leading factor behind the expulsions. Indicate whether you agree or disagree with the authors’ analysis and why? Bring your outlines to class — you will use them to prepare for our in-class debate to be held on March 14th.*

*In-class Screening of “GENERAL IDI AMIN DADA: AUTO-PORTRAIT” Part II

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**Week #9**

**MARCH 14: PUBLIC SPEAKING WORKSHOP PART I, FOLLOWED BY IN-CLASS DEBATE ON AMIN’S ASIAN EXPULSION**

**MARCH 17: Thomas Sankara—The World’s Richest Revolutionary and Poorest President**

**Read for Today:**
2) Thomas Sankara, *Thomas Sankara Speaks*. Read 2 speeches of your own choosing from the uploaded text.

**FINAL PROJECT ASSIGNMENT HANDOUT**

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**Week #10**

**MARCH 21: Sankara: Found and Lost**

**Read for Today:**
2) Thomas Sankara, *Thomas Sankara Speaks*. Read 2 speeches of your own choosing from the uploaded text.

**SCREENING OF “THOMAS SANKARA”**

**MARCH 24: Individual Meetings to Discuss Final Project Proposals**
Week #11
MARCH 28: Robert Mugabe—From Southern Rhodesia to Zimbabwe
*Read for Today:
3) Andrew Meldrum, “Robert Mugabe: President of Zimbabwe,” Africa Report 39.5: 70, 82-83. (L)

**Short Essay #3 Due**

MARCH 31: Robert Mugabe
*Read for Today:
4) Stephen Chan, “Mugabe: Right and Wrong,” African Affairs, 102.407: 343-347. (L)
7) U.S. Department of State, “Zimbabwe’s Manmade Crisis”. (L)
*Preparatory Work for Today: Create an annotated bibliographic entry for each of today’s readings.

Week #12
APRIL 4: Robert Mugabe—“The Land Issue: Rightful Redistribution or Greedy Grab?”
*Read for Today:
1) Aeneas Chigwedere, British Betrayal of the Africans: Land, Cattle, Human Rights – Case for Zimbabwe. (L)
4) Selected articles from various African and British newspapers and magazines. (L)
*Preparatory Work for Today: Create an annotated bibliographic entry for each of today’s readings. You will use your annotations to help you prepare for our debate.

APRIL 7: Robert Mugabe **LAND REDEMPTION: IN-CLASS DEBATE**

**Short Essay #4 Due**

Week #13 – SPRING BREAK

Week #14
APRIL 21: Public Speaking Workshop Part II/ Individual Meetings to Discuss Final Project Progress

Week #15
April 25: Individual Research and Writing
April 28: Individual Research and Writing

Week #16
May 2: Final Project Roundtable