

# **Decolonization & The Cold War in Africa**

**HIST 4385/5485**

**MW 12:30 – 1:45**

**Pafford 102**

## **Contact Information:**

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Office Hours – MW 11-12:15, 2 – 2:45

## **Course Overview & Objectives:**

This class explores the way the Cold War played out in Africa and how African struggles for decolonization and independence became entangled in the larger struggle between East and West. By looking at both an overview of American engagement with Africa as well as looking in very close detail at three case studies, we will get a better understanding of how and why the Cold War was hot in Africa and the role that Africans played in modern global politics.

By the end of this course, students should:

- Demonstrate an in-depth understanding of the course of the Cold War and Decolonization in Africa, specifically in Guinea, Congo, and Rhodesia
- Complete a research paper requiring students to
  - Locate, analyze, and synthesize primary sources to develop a persuasive argument about a specific topic
  - Demonstrate an appreciation and knowledge of the historiography on said topic
  - Write in clear, cogent, and grammatically correct standard English
  - Illustrate a basic command of Chicago-style notation (history majors/minors)

## **Required Texts:**

The following books are required reading for this class. All the books will be available on reserve at Ingram library. Books are available for purchase online or at the University Bookstore.

Schmidt, Elizabeth. *Foreign Intervention in Africa: From the Cold War to the War on Terror*. (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2013).

- \$24.55 paperback (new) / \$14.60 Kindle

Schmidt, Elizabeth. *Cold War and Decolonization in Guinea, 1946-1958*. (Athens, OH: Ohio University Press, 2012).

- \$29.95 paperback (new)

Muehlenbeck, Philip. *Betting on the Africans: John F. Kennedy's Courting of African Nationalist Leaders*. (New York: Oxford University Press, 2012).

- \$25.06 paperback (new)

Namikas, Lise. *Battleground Africa: Cold War in the Congo, 1960-1965*. (Chicago: Stanford University Press, 2012).

- \$29.95 paperback (new)

White, Luise. *Unpopular Sovereignty: Rhodesian Independence and African Decolonization*. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2014).

- \$30 paperback (new) / \$16.50 Kindle

## **Policies:**

- **Attendance** - Attendance is taken for university administrative purposes only. However, attendance in class is essential to performing well and to your participation grade.
- **Missed Work** - You are responsible for all missed work. I do not give out notes.
- **Technology** - Do not use your phone in class and only use your computer to take notes. If your use of technology is disruptive, you will be asked to put it away and/or leave the classroom.

- **Email Policy** - University of West Georgia students are provided a MyUWG e-mail account. This is the official means of communication between the University and the student. **It is your responsibility to check your email. Only email me in Course Den.**
- **Academic Honesty** - All work must abide by the UWG honor code. All work must be completed independently unless otherwise specified and must be original. The UWG Honor Code is always in force. Each student is responsible for understanding the nature of, and rules regarding, academic dishonesty. **Academic dishonesty will result in a failing grade for the course.**
- **Accommodations** - If you require accommodations, **it is your responsibility to provide me with documentation** from the office of accessibility services. It is **also your responsibility to arrange for extra time, alternative testing locations, etc., and to remind me in advance.** I cannot provide accommodations without University documentation.
- **Grading** - I will not discuss grades within 48 hours of posting them and I do not change grades except in cases of mathematical error. It is against university policy to discuss grades via email.
- **Late Assignments** – Late assignments are penalized 1/3 letter grade per 24-hour period they are late. Be advised that turning something in late creates more work for me, so I will get it graded when I get it graded.
- **University Policies** - Please see the following link for a complete listing of University policies - <http://www.westga.edu/UWGSyllabusPolicies/>

### **Assignments and Grading:**

The main assignments for this class are reading, a book review, and a research paper. These assignments are designed to familiarize you with the historical content of the class but also to the skills of historical research and writing. They all build on completing your final paper successfully.

- Readings are due on the day they are assigned on the schedule. Keeping up with the reading and engaging in thoughtful discussions are key to doing well in this class. In general, the reading is 2 chapters per class.
- Each student will sign up to complete a review of one of the books assigned for the class. Reviews should be 1000-1500 words. Examples and specific instructions are available on Course Den.
- The main project for the semester is a research paper on one of the following broad topics: US relations with Africa during the Cold War, the Congo Crisis, and the Second Chimurenga. We will complete this project in stages. Further instructions and research resources are available on Course Den.

#### Grade Distribution:

- Participation & attendance – 20%
- Book Review – 10%
- Siege of Jadotville Review – 5%
- Topic Selection & Work Plan – 5%
- Abstract & Annotated Bibliography – 10%
- Draft Introduction & Outline – 10%
- Complete Draft – 10%
- Final Paper – 30%

### **Schedule**

Weds. 8/15 – Introduction to Class & Setting the Stage

Mon. 8/20 – Decolonization, the Cold War, and Africa

- Schmidt, *Foreign Intervention*, Intro & Ch. 1

#### **Unit 1 – Guinea**

Weds. 8/22 - Communists, Colonies, & Constitutions

- Schmidt, *Cold War & Decol in Guinea*, Intro & Ch. 1
- Guinea: A Brief Overview – Course Den

Mon. 8/27

- Schmidt, *CWDG*, Ch. 2

Weds. 8/29

- Schmidt, *CWDG*, Ch. 3

Monday 9/3 – Labor Day – No Classes

Wednesday 9/5

- Schmidt, *CWDG*, Ch. 4

Monday 9/10

- Schmidt, *CWDG*, Ch. 5

Wednesday 9/12

- Schmidt, *CWDG*, Ch. 6 & Conclusion

## **Unit 2 – The Kennedy Administration**

Monday 9/17

- Muehlenbeck, *Betting on the Africans*, Introduction & Ch. 1
- Topic Selection & Work Plan Due

Wednesday 9/19

- Muehlenbeck, *Betting on the Africans*, Ch. 2 & 3

Monday 9/24

- Muehlenbeck, *Betting on the Africans*, Ch. 4 & 5

Wednesday 9/26

- Schmidt, *Foreign Intervention in Africa*, ch. 2
- Muehlenbeck, *Betting on the Africans*, Ch. 6

Monday 10/1

- Muehlenbeck, *Betting on the Africans*, Ch. 7

Wednesday 10/3

- Schmidt, *Foreign Intervention in Africa*, Ch. 7
- Muehlenbeck, *Betting on the Africans*, Ch. 8

Monday 10/8

- Muehlenbeck, *Betting on the Africans*, Ch. 9 & 10

Wednesday 10/10

- Muehlenbeck, *Betting on the Africans*, Ch. 11 & Conclusion
- Abstract & Annotated Bibliography Due

### **Unit 3 – The Congo Crisis**

Monday 10/15

- Schmidt, *Foreign Intervention in Africa*, Ch. 3
- Namikas, *Battleground Africa*, Introduction & Ch. 1

Wednesday 10/17

- Namikas, *Battleground Africa*, Ch. 2 & 3

Monday 10/22

- Namikas, *Battleground Africa*, Ch. 4 & 5

Wednesday 10/24

- Namikas, *Battleground Africa*, Ch. 6 & 7

Monday 10/29

- Namikas, *Battleground Africa*, Ch. 8 & 9
- Begin Watching *The Siege of Jadotville* at home (Due Monday)

Wednesday 10/31

- Namikas, *Battleground Africa*, Ch. 10 & 11

## **Unit 4 – Rhodesia**

Monday 11/5

- Namikas, *Battleground Africa*, Chs. 12, 13, & Conclusion
- *Siege of Jadotville* Review Due

Wednesday 11/7

- Schmidt, *Foreign Intervention in Africa*, Ch. 5
- White, *Unpopular Sovereignty*, Ch. 1
- Draft Introduction & Outline Due

Monday 11/12

- White, *Unpopular Sovereignty*, Ch. 2 & 3

Wednesday 11/14

- White, *Unpopular Sovereignty*, Ch. 4 & 5

Monday 11/19 – Friday 11/23 – Thanksgiving Holiday – No Classes

Monday 11/26

- White, *Unpopular Sovereignty*, Ch. 6 & 7

Wednesday 11/28

- White, *Unpopular Sovereignty*, Ch. 8 & 9

Monday 12/3 – No Class

- Work on Papers

Wednesday 12/5

- White, *Unpopular Sovereignty*, Ch. 10, 11, & 12
- Wrap Up Class
- Complete Draft Due

Monday 12/10

- Final Paper Due by 5:00 pm