2013

HIST 451-01 France and West Africa ca. 1800-1940

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Course Description: This course will discuss the key themes of the historiography on French West Africa prior to the Second World War. This course can serve as either an introduction to key themes in French and African history during this time period or as a supplement to courses already taken.

Requirements:

Historiographical Essay (15%): Students will write a 5-7 page historiographical essay on a topic of their choosing. Essays need to be sent via e-mail to strotherc@xavier.edu by 12 a.m. on September 26th.

Peer Review Essay (25%): Students will write a 12-15 page essay on a topic of their choosing that will be peer reviewed by two of their classmates. Peer review will be anonymous and I will facilitate the paper exchanges. Students will then have a chance to make any corrections to their paper based on the comments by the reviewers and then submit the paper to me for a final grade. The final grade will account for the quality of the original paper (33%) and the quality of the finished product (66%).

Reading reflections (10%): You will be expected to turn in a one to two page reflections on each reading assignment for the week. These assignments are an essential aid to help you to reflect upon the assigned readings before the seminar discussions. Therefore, the reflections are due prior to the start of class.

Class Participation 10%: Students are expected to actively participate in class discussion and be fully prepared for each class. Therefore students will be graded based on how active a role they play in daily class discussions.

Final Project (15%): The final project will consist of a ten minute presentation based on any topic related to the course. Students are encouraged to use their creativity here and create a presentation using any medium of their choosing. All topics will have to be approved by me by the end of week 12.
Final exam (25%) The final will consist of a 7-10 page essay. Questions will be handed out a week before the final and will be due during the scheduled final exam.

Attendance Policy: Class participation in an integral part to succeeding in this class. Because of this regular attendance is expected for all students.

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism: Properly citing sources is an essential part in being a historian. Plagiarism and/or failure to properly cite will not be tolerated. If you have any questions on whether you need to cite or not, please feel free to ask me.

The University has a policy on academic honesty as stated on page 26-27 of the 2010-2011 Catalog.

‘The pursuit of truth demands high standards of personal honesty. Academic and professional life requires a trust based upon integrity of the written and spoken word. Accordingly, violations of certain standards of ethical behavior will not be tolerated at Xavier University. These include theft, cheating, plagiarism, unauthorized assistance in assignments and tests, unauthorized copying of computer software, the falsification of results and material submitted in reports or admission and registration documents, and the falsification of any academic record including letters of recommendation.

All work submitted for academic evaluation must be the student’s own. Certainly, the activities of other scholars will influence all students. However, the direct and unattributed use of another’s efforts is prohibited as is the use of any work untruthfully submitted as one’s own. Penalties for violations of this policy may include one or more of the following: a zero for that assignment or test, an “F” in the course, and expulsion from the University.’

Grading:
A  94-100%
A-  91-93%
B+  88-90%
B   84-87%
B-  81-83%
C+  78-80%
C   74-77%
C-  71-73%
D   64-70%
F   63% and below

Course Outline
Week 1 Course Introduction and French Attitudes towards Africa

Tuesday: Course Introduction

Thursday: French Attitudes Towards Africa Prior to 1800

Assignments:

August 27:

No readings

August 29:


Week 2 Métis Society and Urban Politics in 19th century Senegal

September 3: Inter-racial Marriage and African Society

September 5: Urban Politics in 19th century Senegal

Assignments:

Tuesday:


Owen White, Children of the French Empire: Miscegenation and Metis Society in French West Africa 1895-1940, 7-32 (Available on Blackboard)

Thursday:


**Week 3 Slavery and Emancipation In French West Africa**

September 10: Abolition and French Africa

September 12: Emancipation and its meaning French Africa

**Assignments:**

Tuesday:


Thursday:


**Week 4 French Expansion and the Scramble for Africa**

September 17: French Expansionist Policy in Senegal

September 19: African Interpretations of French Expansion

**Assignments:**

Tuesday:


Thursday:


**Week 5 The Idea of the Civilizing Mission and Changing Conceptions of Citizenship**

Tuesday: The Civilizing Mission

Thursday: Changing Conceptions of Citizenship

**Assignments:**

September 24:


September 26:


Historiographical Essay Due

**Week 6 Colonial Law and Punishment in French West Africa**

October 1: The French West African Legal System

October 3: Punishment in French West Africa

**Assignments:**

Tuesday:


Thursday:


**Week 7 Islam and the French West African Government**

October 8: Fall Break (No Class)


**Readings:**

Tuesday:

No Class

Thursday:


**Week 8 The Colonial Economy and African Workers**

October 15: Cotton and The Colonial Economy

October 17: African Workers and Labor Reserves
Assignments:

Tuesday:


Thursday:


1st Draft of Peer Review Essay Due

**Week 9 French West Africa and the First World War**

October 27: Mobilizing for War

October 31: Fighting the War

Assignments:

Tuesday:


Thursday:


### Week 10 Political Change and The Formation of Medina

November 7: The 1914 Election and Its Impact

November 9: Sanitary Segregation and the Creation of Medina

**Readings:**

Tuesday:


Thursday:


### Week 11 The Bubonic Plague Epidemic of 1914 and Epidemic Disease in French West Africa

November 12: Yellow Fever: Setting the Precedent

November 14: The Bubonic Plague

**Assignments:**

Tuesday:

Christian Strother, “‘A Danger Which More or Less Threatens Us All:’ Yellow Fever and the Politics of Disease Control in Senegal, 1890-1920,” *Journal of Colonialism and Colonial History*, (Forthcoming)

Thursday:


**Week 12 Education in French West Africa**

November 19: Elite Education

November 21: Comparing Colonial Education Systems

**Assignments:**

Tuesday:


Thursday:


Final Draft of Peer Review Paper due

**Week 13 The Office du Niger**

November 26: The Office du Niger

November 28: No Class (Thanksgiving)
Assignments:

Tuesday:


Thursday:

No Class

**Week 14 French West Africa and The Second World War**

December 3: Vichy French West Africa

December 5: West African Soldiers and the Second World War

Assignments:

Tuesday:

Ruth Ginio, *French Colonialism Unmasked: The Vichy Years in French West Africa*, TBA (Available on Blackboard)


Thursday:


**Week 15 Class Presentations**

December 10: Presentations Part I
December 12: Presentations Part II

Week 16 Exam