

FRANCOPHONE WEST AFRICA

University of Florida
Department of History
AFH 3931
Spring 2020

Instructor:	Frédéric MADORE	Class location:	0012 Matherly Hall
Office:	490 Grinter Hall	Class time:	T, 8:30–10:25 AM Th, 09:35–10:25 AM
Email:	frederick.madore@ufl.edu	Office hours:	W, 1:00–3:00 PM

Schedule a meeting with me: <https://calendly.com/frederick-madore>

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces the history of Francophone West Africa from 1800 to the present. Throughout the semester, we will examine some of the political, social, economic, cultural, and religious dynamics that have shaped these societies. The course is broadly divided into two sections: the colonial and postcolonial era. In the first part, topics include the French conquest of West Africa in the 1880s and 1890s; the *Afrique Occidentale Française* (AOF); and the rise of anti-colonial and nationalist movements that emerged after the Second World War and eventually brought Independence in French West Africa by 1960. The second part of the course will explore the trajectories of postcolonial Francophone West African societies through a variety of issues such as the challenges faced by independent states (e.g. authoritarianism, the economic crisis of the 1970s–80s, neocolonialism); the Cold War; the wave of “democratization” in the 1990s; and the emergence of jihadi groups in the Sahel. The course will explore a series of case studies, including lesser-known countries such as Burkina Faso, Benin and Togo, to highlight both the similarities and differences of the historical development of the region.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of this course students should:

- Acquire a general understanding of the major political, social, economic, cultural and religious issues in colonial and postcolonial Francophone West Africa;
- Understand the terms “Assimilation”, “*Originaires*”, “*Mission civilisatrice*” (“Civilizing Mission”), “*Mise en valeur*”, and “*Évolué*” in the French West Africa colonial context;
- Explain the historical process of decolonization in the *Afrique Occidentale Française*, the rise of new nation states, and the challenges of independence;
- Develop the ability to effectively communicate critical thinking, both in written and oral forms appropriate to the historical discipline;
- Evaluate primary and secondary sources on Francophone West African history.

COURSE MATERIALS

All the readings are available in electronic format on the Canvas course website.

EVALUATION

The final grade will be determined by:

- Attendance (10%);
- Active participation and in-class presentation (10%);
- Map quiz (5%);
- 3 papers on an assigned topic worth 25% each (75%).

There are no opportunities for extra credit in this class.

Attendance

Students are expected to attend all classes. All students are allowed two unexcused absences. Each unexcused absence after the second will result in a one-point deduction (out of ten) from the overall attendance. Absences will be considered excused only if a written request is submitted and accepted in advance or if written explanations are submitted and accepted with valid documentation. If you miss class for any reason, it is your responsibility to find out from your classmates what you have missed. It is also important to arrive to class on time.

Active Participation and In-Class Presentation

To achieve full credit for participation, students should be consistently prepared, engage in discussions, actively take notes, and offer informed questions and comments. Students must read the material carefully before coming to class. Use tact and understanding when presenting your ideas so that everyone feels respected in the classroom.

Each student, in teams of two, will make one brief presentation (10 minutes) on the readings of a designated class in which they summarize the argument and generate questions to foster class discussion.

Map Quiz

To understand Francophone West African history, you must be familiar with the basic geography of the region. Therefore, you will be given a map quiz on January 21 during the class. You will be asked to identify all present-day Francophone West African states and their capital city.

Essay Papers

These papers (2,000–2,500 words each) on an assigned topic will be based on class readings, lectures, and discussions. The objective is to encourage students to read the materials carefully and articulate their own informed and analytically nuanced perspectives. Essay questions will be distributed at least a week before the assignment is due. Students **MUST** submit their essays electronically on Canvas.

GRADING SCALE

A 93-100%	A- 90-92%	B+ 87-89%	B 83-86%
B- 80-82%	C+ 77-79%	C 73-76%	C- 70-72%
D+ 67-69%	D 63-66%	D- 60-62%	E Below 60%

For information regarding current UF policies for assigning grade points, see: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>.

PROCEDURE AND POLICIES

Procedure

The course will consist of lectures and informal class discussions as well as occasional screenings of films. Students are expected to attend each session and participate actively in discussions. Paper questions will come directly out of lectures and readings. Not everything in the readings will be discussed in class, however, so it is essential that students complete all assigned readings.

Attendance

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other works in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>.

Need Help?

If you have questions about the course or assignments, please first consult this syllabus. You may also contact me by email or come to my office hours. If you do contact me by email, use your university issued email and adhere to professional email etiquette. I will do my best to respond within one business day. I will make it a priority to respond as quickly as possible to emergencies and other extreme issues.

I hold two hours of office hours per week (1:00 PM to 3:00 PM on Wednesdays). I encourage you to make use of the meeting scheduling app Calendly: <https://calendly.com/frederick-madore>. You can use this app to book 15-minute meetings with me during my office hours or select other times throughout the week, which will vary week-to-week during the term. You may arrange a meeting outside of those hours if you are unavailable during this time.

Late Assignments

You may receive an extension only in extraordinary circumstances. If you do not receive an extension from the instructor, assignment will be penalized one third of a letter grade (e.g., from B to B-) per 24-hour period after the deadline.

Grade Disputes

Grade disputes will be considered only if they adhere to this policy. Grade disputes must be made in writing. You must wait at least 2 full days after you receive your grade to submit a grade dispute (“cooling off period”); you may wait no more than 2 weeks after you receive your grade to submit a dispute. Your written dispute must contain a documented logic for why you believe your paper was incorrectly marked. The instructor will then review your dispute and issue a decision within one week. Failure to comply with this procedure will result in forfeiture of your ability to dispute your grade.

Use of Technology

I do not restrict the use of laptops or tablets in this course. Students who use electronic devices for non-course purposes may be asked to put devices away and take notes on paper. Participation grades are tied to appropriate use of technology.

Student Honor Code

As a UF student, you have agreed to adhere to the UF Student Honor Code and the UF Student Conduct Code: <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/>. It is your responsibility to acquaint yourselves with these and to adhere to them.

Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center by visiting <https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/>. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

Online Course Evaluations

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.blucera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1 Introduction & Course Overview

Tuesday, 7 January: Course Overview

- Syllabus

Thursday, 9 January: Studying Africa & Media Coverage of Africa

- Wainaina Binyavanga, “How to Write About Africa”, *Granta* 92 (2005).
- Sophie Dulucq, “Writing African History in France during the Colonial Era” In *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of African History*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2018 (excerpt).

PART 1 ADVENT AND DEMISE OF FRENCH COLONIAL RULE IN WEST AFRICA

Week 2 West Africa Before the European “Scramble for Africa”

Tuesday, 14 January: The Abolition of Slavery and the Rise of “Legitimate” Commerce

- Richard J. Reid, *A History of Modern Africa: 1800 to the Present*. 3rd edition. Hoboken: Wiley, 2020, pp. 25–46 (Ch. “Western Transitions: Slave Trade and ‘Legitimate’ Commerce in Atlantic Africa”).

Thursday, 16 January: Islamic Revolutions and State-Building in Western Africa

- Richard J. Reid, *A History of Modern Africa: 1800 to the Present*. 3rd edition. Hoboken: Wiley, 2020, pp. 103–111 (Ch. “Jihad: Revolutions in Western Africa”).

Week 3 Towards the Scramble for Africa: French Colonial Conquest in West AfricaTuesday, 21 January: Colonial Expansion in Senegambia and the Four Communes

- Hilary Jones, *The Métis of Senegal: Urban Life and Politics in French West Africa*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2013, pp. 22–28; 120–125 (Parts “European Authority in a West African Town (1758–1809)” & “Conquest and Colonial Administration”).
- Mamadou Diouf, “The French Colonial Policy of Assimilation and the Civility of the Originaires of the Four Communes (Senegal): A Nineteenth Century Globalization Project”, *Development and Change* 29, 4 (1998), pp. 671–696.

*Map Quiz*Thursday, 23 January: French Conquest of the Interior and the “*Mission Civilisatrice*”

- Alice L. Conklin, *A Mission to Civilize: The Republican Idea of Empire in France and West Africa, 1895–1930*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1997, pp. 11–37 (Ch. “The Setting: The Idea of the Civilizing Mission in 1895 and the Creation of the Government General”).

Week 4 The *Afrique Occidentale Française* (AOF)Tuesday, 28 January: The Consolidation of Colonialism and World War I

- Alice L. Conklin, *A Mission to Civilize: The Republican Idea of Empire in France and West Africa, 1895–1930*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1997, pp. 38–51; 65–72 (Ch. “Public Works and Public Health: Civilization, Technology, and Science (1902–1914)”).
- Joe Harris Lunn, “Kande Kamara Speaks: An Oral History of the West African Experience in France 1914–18” In *Africa and the First World War*, edited by Melvin E. Page, 28–53. London: Palgrave Macmillan, 1987.

Thursday, 30 January: Muslims under French Colonial Rule

- Jean-Louis Triaud, “Islam in Africa under French Colonial Rule” In *The History of Islam in Africa*, edited by Nehemia Levtzion and Randall L. Pouwels, 169–187. Athens: Ohio University Press, 2000.

**Guest Lecturer: Macodou Fall*

Week 5 The Interwar PeriodTuesday, 4 February: Colonial Surveillance, Protest and the Great Depression

- Kathleen A. Keller, *Colonial Suspects: Suspicion, Imperial Rule, and Colonial Society in Interwar French West Africa*, Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2018, pp. 1–14; 149–176 (Ch. “Introduction” [excerpt] & “Creating Networks: African Suspects, Radical Politics, and Colonial Repression”).

Thursday, 6 February: Pan-Africanism and Négritude

- Élisabeth Mudimbe-Boyi, “Léopold Sédar Senghor (1906–2001)” In *The Columbia History of Twentieth-Century French Thought*, edited by Lawrence D. Kritzman, 655–656. New York: Columbia University Press, 2006.
- Mireille Rosello, “Négritude” In *The Columbia History of Twentieth-Century French Thought*, edited by Lawrence D. Kritzman, 65–67. New York: Columbia University Press, 2006.

*Guest Lecturer: Professor Alioune Sow

<i>First response paper due Friday, 7 February</i>
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Week 6 World War II and the Beginning of the End of AOFTuesday, 11 February: World War II and the Beginning of the End of AOF

- Ruth Ginio, *The French Army and Its African Soldiers: The Years of Decolonization*, Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2017, pp. 13–33 (Ch. “The Aftermath of World War II: Frustration, Protest, and Rebellion”).

Thursday, 13 February: A New Political Context (1944–1946)

- Tony Chafer, *The End of Empire in French West Africa: France’s Successful Decolonization*. Oxford: Berg, 2002, pp. 55–81 (Ch “New Political Context 1944–6”).

Week 7 French Union (1946–1956)Tuesday, 18 February: French Union, Politics and the Struggle for African Emancipation

- Tony Chafer, *The End of Empire in French West Africa: France’s Successful Decolonization*. Oxford: Berg, 2002, pp. 93–115; 143–161 (Ch “Decolonization through Assimilation?: The Struggle for Emancipation, 1946–50” (excerpt) & “Policy and Politics 1950–6”).

Thursday, 20 February: The Roman Catholic Church in the Postwar Period

- Elizabeth A. Foster, *African Catholic: Decolonization and the Transformation of the Church*, Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2019, pp. 1–20 (Ch. “Introduction: Catholic Conversations at the End of Empire”).

Week 8 Nationalism, Protests and Paths to IndependenceTuesday, 25 February: From the Loi-Cadre to the Decolonization in Francophone West Africa (1956–1960)

- Tony Chafer, *The End of Empire in French West Africa: France’s Successful Decolonization*. Oxford: Berg, 2002, pp. 163–221 (Ch “The Loi-cadre and the ‘Balkanization’ of French West Africa, 1956–60”).

Thursday, 27 February: Nationalist Movements in the 1950s: Trade Union, Student and Youth Movements

- Elizabeth Schmidt, *Mobilizing the Masses: Gender, Ethnicity, and Class in the Nationalist Movement in Guinea, 1939–1958*. Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann, 2005, pp. 1–3; 113–143 (Ch. “Women Take the Lead: Female Emancipation and the Nationalist Movement, 1949–1954”).

Week 9 Spring BreakNo class**PART 2 CHALLENGES OF INDEPENDENCE AND TRENDS IN
CONTEMPORARY FRANCOPHONE WEST AFRICA****Week 10 Authoritarian Regimes, One-Party States and the Military in Politics**Tuesday, 10 March: Authoritarian Regimes, One-Party States and the Military in Politics

- Paul Nugent, *Africa since Independence*, 2nd edition, New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2012, pp. 207–211; 213–214; 227; 242–246 (Ch. “Khaki Fatigue: Military Rule in Africa, 1960–95” [excerpts]).
- Kate Skinner, “West Africa’s First Coup: Neo-Colonial and Pan-African Projects in Togo’s ‘Shadow Archives’”, *African Studies Review*, 2020.

Thursday, 12 March: Authoritarian Regimes, One-Party States and the Military in Politics

- Ernest Harsch, *Burkina Faso: A History of Power, Protest, and Revolution*. London: Zed Books, 2017 (Ch. “Ministries of Plunder”).

*Second response paper due Friday, 13 March***Week 11 Youth Resistance and Internationalism (1960s–1970s)**Tuesday, 17 March: Student Activism and May 68

- Tatiana Smirnova, “Student Activism in Niger: Subverting the ‘Limited Pluralism’, 1960–83”, *Africa* 89, S1 (2019), pp. 167–188.
- Pascal Bianchini, “The 1968 Years: Revolutionary Politics in Senegal”, *Review of African Political Economy* 46, 160 (2019), pp. 184–203.

**Guest Lecturer: Dr. Tatiana Smirnova (to be confirmed)*Thursday, 19 March: Malick Sidibé and the 60s in Bamako

- Manthia Diawara, “The Sixties in Bamako: Malick Sidibé and James Brown”, *Politics and Culture* 1 (2002).

Week 12 The Cold War in Francophone West AfricaTuesday, 24 March: “African Socialisms,” “Afro-Marxist” Regimes and State-Led Development

- Paul Nugent, *Africa since Independence*, 2nd edition, New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2012, pp. 141–143; 191–206 (Ch. “‘Ism Schisms’: African Socialism and Home-Grown Capitalism, 1960–85” [excerpts]).
- Austin Jersild, “Sino-Soviet Rivalry in Guinea-Conakry, 1956–1965: The Second World in the Third World” In *Socialist Internationalism in the Cold War: Exploring the Second World*, edited by Patryk Babiracki and Austin Jersild, 303–325. Cham: Springer International Publishing, 2016.
- Samuel Decalo, “Benin: First of the New Democracies” In *Political Reform In Francophone Africa*, edited by John F. Clark. Boulder: Westview Press, 1996, pp. 44–51 (excerpt).

Thursday, 26 March: Thomas Sankara and the Burkina Faso Revolution (1983–1987)

- Ernest Harsch, “The Legacies of Thomas Sankara: A Revolutionary Experience in Retrospect”, *Review of African Political Economy* 40, 137 (2013), pp. 358–374.

Week 13 Neocolonialism, Neoliberalism and UnderdevelopmentTuesday, 31 March: The “*Françafrique*”

- Tony Chafer, “Franco-African Relations: Still Exceptional?” In *The Palgrave Handbook of African Colonial and Postcolonial History*, edited by Martin S. Shanguhya and Toyin Falola, 801–819. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2018.
- Jean-Pierre Bat, “Jacques Foccart, *Eminence grise* for African affairs” In *Francophone Africa at Fifty*, edited by Tony Chafer and Alexander Keese, 135–152. Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2013.

Thursday, 2 April: The Economic Crisis of the 1970s–80s & the Structural Adjustment Programs

- Richard J. Reid, *A History of Modern Africa: 1800 to the Present*. 3rd edition. Hoboken: Wiley, 2020, pp. 317–324 (Ch. “Unsafe Foundations: Challenges of Independence” [excerpt]).
- J. Barry Riddell, “Things Fall Apart Again: Structural Adjustment Programmes in Sub-Saharan Africa”, *The Journal of Modern African Studies* 30, 1 (1992), pp. 53–58; 67–68 (excerpts).

Week 14 The “Third Wave” of Democratization in the 1990sTuesday, 7 April: The National Conferences and the Democratic Transitions

- Susanna D. Wing, *Constructing Democracy in Transitioning Societies of Africa: Constitutionalism and Deliberation in Mali*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2008, pp. 35–36; 39–56 (Ch. “Democratic Transitions and their Legacies in Comparative Perspective” [excerpts]).
- Dennis Galvan, “Francophone Africa in Flux: Political Turnover and Social Change in Senegal”, *Journal of Democracy* 12, 3 (2001), pp. 51–62.

Thursday, 9 April: A Failed Democratic Transition: The Civil War in Côte d’Ivoire

- Elizabeth Schmidt, *Foreign Intervention in Africa after the Cold War: Sovereignty, Responsibility, and the War on Terror*. Athens, OH: Ohio University Press, 2018, pp. 215–233 (Ch. “Côte d’Ivoire: Civil War and Regime Change (2002–11)”).

Week 15 Democracy Struggles in the Twenty-First CenturyTuesday, 14 April: Youth Resistance in West African Cities

- Rosalind Fredericks, “‘The Old Man is Dead’: Hip Hop and the Arts of Citizenship of Senegalese Youth”, *Antipode* 46, 1 (2014), pp. 130–148.
- Leo Zeilig, “Burkina Faso: from Thomas Sankara to popular resistance”, *Review of African Political Economy* 44, 151 (2017), pp. 155–164.

Thursday, 16 April: Religion, Identity and Politics

- Konstanze N’Guessan, “Côte d’Ivoire: Pentecostalism, Politics, and Performances of the Past”, *Nova Religio: The Journal of Alternative and Emergent Religions* 18, 3 (2015), pp. 80–100.

Week 16 The Malian Crisis and the Instability in the Sahel

Tuesday, 21 April: The Malian Crisis and the Instability in the Sahel

- Bruce Whitehouse and Francesco Strazzari, “Introduction: Rethinking Challenges to State Sovereignty in Mali and Northwest Africa”, *African Security* 8, 4 (2015), pp. 213–226.
- Adib Bencherif and Aurélie Campana, “Alliances of Convenience: Assessing the Dynamics of the Malian Insurgency”, *Mediterranean Politics* 22, 1 (2017), pp. 115–134.

**Guest Lecturer: Dr. Adib Bencherif*

Thursday, 23 April: No Class / Reading Day

Third response paper due Friday, 24 April

***Please understand the instructor reserves the right to make necessary changes to the syllabus when needed. Thank you.**