



artwork by Philip Kwame Apagya

ANT 4352
PEOPLES OF AFRICA:
THE ETHNOGRAPHY OF URBAN AFRICA
Spring 2007, T 4/R 4-5, Turl. rm. 2353

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Course Description:

Popular conceptions of Africa are typically grounded in images of nature: of safaris, wild animals and rural communities living close to the land with minimal access to life's amenities. This course takes as its starting point a very different and in many ways truer vision of contemporary Africa: the African city.

Going back two-thousand years, urban life-ways across the continent are by no means recent developments or simply the product of foreign contact. Rather, urbanism is an essential feature of African history and civilization as well as a specter of the continent's future. With close to fifty percent of the population residing in cities, Africa is urbanizing faster than any other continent and is home to some of the world's largest urban centers, a.k.a. 'megacities.'

This course examines both the distinctive and widely shared ways in which Africans confront, negotiate and shape the conditions of urban living. Through course readings, discussions and assignments we consider a host of topics and themes:

- the indigenous roots of African urbanism and the changes wrought by colonial intervention;
- urban location and infrastructure (touching on shelter, sustenance, livelihood, migration and mobility);
- the sociality of urban life (including youth, gender, sexuality, and transnationalism);
- urban culture (from the power of church and mosque and traditional leaders in urban communities, to popular culture, mass media, and African participation in global cultural flows).

A central intellectual concern of the class is to evaluate the implications of the African experience for understanding processes of urbanization more generally. In Africa, as elsewhere, and perhaps even more so, cities are characterized by both dynamism and uncertainty. Dependent on hinterlands and more distant realms for basic resources and containing highly mobile populations, cities are constantly being reshaped by new influences and imperatives. For the same reasons, cities are also spaces of diversity and creativity. Attracting persons with varied backgrounds and skills, cities foster innovation and provide opportunities for specialization and distinction—whether social and cultural or political and economic. Such diversity, however, reflects the inequalities and struggles inherent to urban living, as groups of people enjoy greater or lesser access to power and resources and vie ardently to protect or improve their lot. We will return to these perspectives throughout the course.

Course content is drawn from throughout sub-Saharan Africa.

Course Goals

1. Understand the social, cultural, political and economic conditions of contemporary urban life in Africa.
2. Gain familiarity with the history of African urbanization.
3. Grasp the general themes and methodologies of Urban Anthropology.
4. Participate in UF Center for African Studies programs and utilize the UF African Studies Library Collection.

REQUIREMENTS:

This is a seminar style course designed for students with prior coursework in Anthropology or African Studies. Students are required to attend all classes and complete all reading assignments prior to class. Class meetings will include lectures, discussions and presentations and the full participation of each student is required. Students are expected to uphold the UF Honor Code (<http://www.sg.ufl.edu/branches/judicial/honorcode.aspx>).

Examinations:

Exam 1: February 8 (20%)
 Exam 2: March 6 (20%)
 Exam 3: Finals Week (20%)

Assignments:

Itineraries Group Project: January 18 (10%)
 Food Supply Assignment: February 15 (10%)
 Popular Video Project: March 22 (10%)

Participation: 10%

Extra-Credit: 5% (Based on attendance of Barazas and other UF Center for African Studies events. A one page write-up is required (1% each). See Schedule at end of syllabus and CAS website <<http://web.africa.ufl.edu/events.html>>)

COURSE MATERIALS:

Required texts: Available at OBT, 309 NW 13th St, 375-2707

- G. Connah, *Forgotten Africa*, Routledge, 2004
- J. Parker, *Making the Town*, Heinemann, 2002
- T. Falola & S. Salm eds., *Urbanization and African Cultures*, Carolina, 2005.

Required Course Pack:

- Available at OBT, 309 NW 13th St, 375-2707

Other required Reading:

- Available on-line or via e-reserve, as indicated in syllabus. E-reserve can be downloaded from the UF library website under 'course-reserve'. Search under course number or professor's name. On-line sources can be accessed through UF Libraries website. Find Databases; use Quicklinks to find Ebsco host. Search under author's name. Articles will be available as PDF files or via SFX. You can also search in UF Libraries, Journals and follow links, or search for articles via JSTOR. Most articles can be accessed via Ebsco. Whenever possible, they will be made accessible through the electronic version of the syllabus on the professor's website. www.clas.ufl.edu/users/bchalfin

COURSE SCHEDULE:

T January 9/Class 1

Distribute Syllabus

R January 11/Class 2

Overview of Course

Distribute Itineraries Assignment

Theme 1: African Urbanism in Historical, Comparative and Geographic Perspective

T January 16/Class 3

Themes and Theories of African Urbanization

(all reading for this week will be available on UFLIB E-reserve)

Catherine Coquery-Vidrovitch, "Urban Cultures: Relevance and Context," in T. Falola ed., Urbanization and African Cultures, Carolina, 2005, pp. 17-22.

Eugene Linden, "The Exploding Cities of the Developing World," Foreign Affairs, 1996, 75/1, pp. 52-63.

AbdouMaliq Simone, "Introduction: Remaking African Cities," in For the City Yet to Come, Duke, 2004, pp. 1-15.

R January 18/Class 4

Cross-Continental Travels

Itineraries Project Due/Class Presentations

T January 23/Class 5

African Geography and the Urban Landscape

A. Mbembe, Africa's Frontiers in Flux, Le Monde Diplomatique, 1999

Distribute Maps

R January 25/Class 6

Indigenous Urbanization: East Africa

John Lamphear and Toyin Falola, "Aspects of Early African History," in Africa, P. Martin and P. O'Meara, eds., 1995, pp. 73-96.

Graham Connah, Forgotten Africa, Routledge, 2004
Ch 11 (Nubia), Ch 12 (Askum), E. Africa), Ch. 26 (Zimbabwe).

Guest Speaker: Jonathan Walz, Dept. of Anthropology, University of Florida

T January 30/Class 7

Indigenous Urbanization: West Africa

Graham Connah, Forgotten Africa, Routledge, 2004
Ch. 17 (Jenne), Ch. 21 (Benin).

R February 1/Class 8

African Cities and Colonial Rule: The Case of Accra

John Parker, Making the Town, Heinemann, 2000 (selections)

Guest Speaker: Dr. James Essegbey, Assistant Professor, Department of Asian and African Languages and Literature, UF

T February 6/Class 9

African Cities and Colonial Rule: Zanzibar and the Swahili Coast

Sticks and stones: Colonialism and Zanzibari housing. By: Myers, Garth Andrew. Africa, 1997, Vol. 67 Issue 2, p252, 21p, 2 maps

C. Coquery-Vidrovitch, "Residential Segregation in African Cities," in T. Falola ed., Urbanization and African Cultures, Carolina, 2005, pp. 343-356.

Optional: John Iliffe, "Colonial Change," Africans: The History of a Continent, Cambridge, 1995, pp. 212-242.

R February 8/Class 10

Exam 1

Distribute Urban Food Supply Research Assignment

Theme 2: URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE: MEETING BASIC NEEDS

T February 13/Class 11

Feeding Urban Populations

Daniel Maxwell, The Political Economy of Urban Food Security in Sub-Saharan Africa. World Development, 1999, 27/11, pp. 1939-1953.

Eric Tollens, Food security in Kinshasa : coping with adversity," in Reinventing Order in the Congo, T. Trefon ed., Zed, 2004, pp. 47-64. UFLIB E-Reserve

R February 15/Class 11

Food Supply and Rural-Urban Linkages

Gracia Clark, Onions are my Husband, Chicago, 1995.
pp. 1-26, 35-72, 108-121.

Urban Food Supply Papers and Presentations Due

T February 20/Class 12

Making a home in the city: The Case of Cape Town, S. Africa

Steven Robins, "Planning Suburban Bliss in Joe Slovo Park, Cape Town," Africa, 2002, 72/ 4, pp. 511-549.

Tony Samare, "Youth, Crime and Urban Renewal in the Western Cape," Journal of Southern African Studies, Mar2005, 31/1, pp. 209-22.

Guest Speaker, Rachel Harvey, Township Life in Post-Apartheid S. Africa

R February 22/Class 13

Housing: Making a home in the city: Rethinking Accra

Ian Yeboah, "Demographic and Housing Aspects of Structural Adjustment and Emerging Urban Form in Accra, Ghana." Africa Today, 2003, 50/1, pp.107-119.

Henry Nii-Adziri Wellington, "Kelewele, Kpoipoi and Kpanlogo," in Accra in the 21st Century, Woeli, 2002, pp. 79-89.

Alf Bremer, "Conflict Moderation and Participation: Prospects and Barriers for Urban Renewal in Ga Mashie," in Accra in the 21st Century, Woeli, 2002, pp. 106-116.

Marco Burra, "Land Use in Dar es Salaam," in Reconsidering Informality, K. Hansen ed., Nordiska, 2004, pp. 143-157.

Optional:

C. Rakodi, "Residential Property Markets in African Cities," in The Urban Challenge in Africa, ed., C. Rakodi, UN University Press, 1997.

T February 27/Class 14

Making a Living: Getting by

Karen Hansen, Ch. 7 "Clothing Retail Practices," Salaula, Chicago, 2000, pp. 156-183.

Pierre Petit and Mutambwa, Georges Mulumbwa. 'LA CRISE': LEXICON AND ETHOS OF THE SECOND ECONOMY IN LUBUMBASHI. Africa, 2005, 75/4, pp. 467-487.

Jean-Luc Piermay, "Kinshasa: A reprieved mega-city?," in The Urban Challenge in Africa, ed., C. Rakodi, UN University Press, 1997.

R March 1/Class 15

Making a Living: Getting rich.

Jean-Pascal Daloz, "Big Men" in Sub-Saharan Africa: How Elites Accumulate Positions and Resources. Comparative Sociology, Feb2003, 2/1. UFLIB- E-reserve

PC Lloyd, New Elites of Tropical Africa, International African Institute, 1966, pp. 4-13, 126-139.

Shannon Moffett and Bill Freund, "Elite Formation and Elite Bonding: Social Structure and Development in Durban." Urban Forum, Apr-Jun2004, 15/2, pp.134-161.

FRIDAY, MARCH 2: SPOTLIGHT ON GHANA- 8:30-5PM & Ghanaian Independence Day Celebration, 7PM, Keene Faculty Center, Dauer Hall

T March 6/Class 16

Working the City: Urban Pursuits and Urban Form

Bibi Bakare-Yusuf and Jeremy Weate, "Ojuelegba: The Sacred Profanities of a West African Crossroad," in T. Falola ed., Urbanization and African Cultures, Carolina, 2005, pp. 323-340.

Optional:

J.O. Abiodun, "The Challenges of Growth and Development in Metropolitan Lagos," in The Urban Challenge in Africa, ed., C. Rakodi, UN University Press, 1997.

Film: Lagos/Koolhaas

R March 8/Class 17

Exam 2

Distribute Video Viewing Assignment

NO CLASS SPRING BREAK MARCH 11-16

THEME 3: CULTURAL PRODUCTION AND SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION

T March 20/Class 18

Popular Culture

Karin Barber, "Introduction," Readings in African Popular Culture, Indiana, 1997, pp. 1-12

John Collins, "The Decolonization of Ghanaian Popular Entertainment," in T. Falola ed., Urbanization and African Cultures, Carolina, 2005, pp. 119-137.

Mary Nooter Roberts and Allan Roberts, "Walls that Speak," in A Saint in the City, UCLA, 2003, pp. 123-151.

R March 22/Class 19

Popular Video

Video Viewing Assignment Due

Birgit Meyer, "Visions of Blood, Sex and Money: Fantasy Spaces in Popular Ghanaian Cinema," Visual Anthropology, 2003, 16/1, pp. 27-41.

or

Birgit Meyer, "Popular Ghanaian cinema and African Heritage," Africa Today, 1999, 46/2 p93-114.

or

Birgit Meyer, "Praise the Lord: Popular cinema and Pentecostalite style in Ghana's new public sphere," American Ethnologist, 2004, 31/1, p92-110. UF LIBRARY – E-Reserve

T March 27/Class 20

Christian Revival

Paul Gifford, "Persistence and Change in Contemporary African Religion," Social Compass, 2004, 51/2, pp.169-177.

Optional:

Birgit Meyer, "Christianity in Africa," Annual Review of Anthropology, 2004, 33/1, pp. 447-474. UF LIBRARY – E-Reserve

R March 29 Religious Proliferation and Syncretism

Paul Gifford, Ghana's new Christianity : Pentecostalism in a globalizing African economy, Indiana, 2004. pp. 20-82.

Ikukomi Eason, "Thron Church: An Urban Religion in Cotonou," in T. Falola ed., Urbanization and African Cultures, Carolina, 2005, pp. 247-258.

NO CLASS TUESDAY, APRIL 3: EASTER/PASSOVER

R April 5 Urban Islam

David Robinson, "The Islamization of Africa" and "The Africanization of Islam," Muslim Societies in African History, Cambridge, 2003, pp. 27-59.

Mary Nooter Roberts and Allan Roberts, "Portraits on the Hidden Side," in A Saint in the City, UCLA, 2003, pp. 69-84.

T April 10 Islam and Politics in Urban Africa

Michael Watts, "Islamic Modernities," Public Culture, 1996. UF LIBRARY – E-Reserve

Guest Speaker: Abubakar AlHassan, School of Journalism, UF.

R April 12 Gender, AIDS and Perils and Possibilities of Sexuality

Brooke Schoepf, "Health, Gender Relations, and Poverty in the AIDS Era," in K. Sheldon ed., Courtyards, Markets and City Streets, Westview, 1996, pp. 153-168.

Daniel J. Smith, "Youth, sin and sex in Nigeria: Christianity and HIV/AIDS-related beliefs and behaviour among rural-urban migrants." Culture, Health & Sexuality, Sep/Oct2004, 6/ 5, p425-437.

Rachel Spronk, Female sexuality in Nairobi: Flawed or favoured? Culture, Health & Sexuality, May/Jun2005, 7/3, p267-277.

T April 17 Youth Mobilization and Marginalization

Donal Cruise-O'Brien, "A Lost Generation? Youth Identity and State Decay in West Africa," in R. Werbner ed., Post-Colonial Identities in Africa, Zed Press, 1996, pp. 54-74.

Susann Baller, "Creating the Postcolonial City: Urban Youth Clubs in Senegal," in T. Falola ed., Urbanization and African Cultures, Carolina, 2005, pp. 139-153.

R April 20 Street Corner Society and Anti-Society

Filip De Boeck, "On being shege in Kinshasa : children, the occult and the street," in Reinventing Order in the Congo, T. Trefon ed., Zed, 2004, pp. 155-173.
UF LIBRARY – E-Reserve

Eileen Moyer, Street-Corner Justice in the Name of Jah: Imperatives for Peace among Dar es Salaam Street Youth. Africa Today, Spring2005, 51/3, p31-58.

T April 25 Wrap-up and Review

Center for African Studies**Spring 2007 Events****January**

12 Baraza: Julie Silva, University of Florida. *Neoliberalization and Inequality in Mozambique: A Case Study in the Use of Iterative Mixed Methods*. **3:30pm - 471 Grinter**

17 Modern African Cinema Series: *O Heroi*. **7pm - Alachua County HQ Library**

19 Baraza: Thomas Kelley, University of North Carolina. *Exacerbating Contemporary "Slavery": Categorical Confusion and Unintended Consequences of Legal Westernization in Niger*. **3:30pm - 471 Grinter**

26 Baraza: Kjetil Tronvoll, University of Oslo. *Conflict After War: the Political Plight of Eritrea and Ethiopia*. **3:30pm - 471 Grinter**

February

3-4 Southeast Africanist Network annual meeting (Valdosta State University)

***9 Baraza:** Ebenezer Obadare, University of Kansas. *Between the State and Western Union: Transnational Resource Flow and the Antinomies of Citizenship in Africa*. **3:30pm - 471 Grinter**

14 SASA lunch: Amb. Harriet L. Elam-Thomas (Ret.). Title TBA. **11:45am - 471 Grinter**

***16 Baraza:** Scott Taylor, Georgetown University. *Cleaning Out the Trash: "Operation Murambatsvina" and Prospects for Political Change in Zimbabwe*. **3:30pm - 471 Grinter**

21 Modern African Cinema Series: *Forgiveness*. **7pm - Alachua County HQ Library**

***23 Baraza:** Peter Garretson, Florida State University. *Glimpses of Addis Ababa from Contemporary Diaries: Artistic Life in the Capital, 1930-80*. **3:30pm - 471 Grinter**

March

***2 Baraza:** Sara Berry, Johns Hopkins University. *Property, Authority and Citizenship: Land Claims, Politics and the Dynamics of Social Division in West Africa*. **3:30pm - 219 Dauer**

***9 Baraza:** Karen Hansen, Northwestern University. Title TBA. **3:30pm - 471 Grinter**

16 spring break

21 Sarah Cervone, University of Florida. *Socio-demographic Factors and Differential Opportunities for Women in the Moroccan Tourism Economy: Preliminary Findings from Toubkal National Park*. **11:45am - 471 Grinter**

21 Modern African Cinema Series: *Le silence de la forêt*. **7pm - Alachua County HQ Library**

22-24 African Language Teachers' Association: *African Language Pedagogy and Media*. **Reitz Union**

22-24 Annual Conference on African Linguistics: *Linguistic Theory and African Language Documentation*. **Reitz Union**

***28-31 ACASA Triennial Symposium on African Art:** *Global Africa*. **Locations TBA**

April

4 SASA lunch: Noelle Sullivan, University of Florida. *Forging a Universal Symptomatology: Exploring Psychiatric Notions of Depression in Africa, 1960-1981*. **11:45am - 471 Grinter**

***6 Baraza:** Alioune Badara Diop, Université Gaston Berger. *Religion in a Secular Republic: Assessing Prospects for Democracy in Senegal*. **3:30pm - 471 Grinter**

7 CAS spring picnic: **1-5pm - Lake Wauberg**

12-14 Association of African Studies Programs annual meeting (Washington, D.C.)

18 Modern African Cinema Series: **7pm - Alachua County HQ Library**

***20 Baraza:** Holly Hanson, Mt Holyoke College. *Power in the Landscape: Kampala over a Century*. **3:30pm - 471 Grinter**

***27 Baraza:** Jan K. Simonsen, University of Trondheim. *Contemporary Female Initiation Rituals in Zambia*. **3:30pm - 471 Grinter**