**Professor Mhoze Chikowero**

**History 148A: Pre-colonial Southern Africa**

Mon. & Wed. 9:30-10:45 HSSB 4020

Venue & Time: HSSB 4020, 9:30-10:45am

UCSB History Department

Consultation: Wed. 2-4pm or by appointment

Office: 4214

[Chikowero@history.ucsb.edu](mailto:Chikowero@history.ucsb.edu)

Winter 2017

This course examines the history of Southern Africa from about the year 900-1900CE. It focuses on social systems, spirituality, state formation, food production, health, science and technology, trade, and population mobilities of some of the major peoples in the Zambezian states and empires like Mapungubwe, Great Zimbabwe, Khami, Rozvi/Lozi, Mutapa, Zulu, Gaza, Ndebele, Sotho and Ngwane/Swazi. All these and other state systems predated the contemporary states that now constitute this diverse but interconnected region, Southern Africa. Our major concern is to understand how these diverse peoples and dynamic state systems shaped this geopolitical region into one of the most significant regions in world economies in the period up to about 1900CE, when European colonialism took root. We will then conclude by exploring European colonial encroachment and impact on these civilizations.

**NO pre-requisites**—bring along a curious, inquisitive mind.

**Textbook**: Innocent Pikirayi, *The Zimbabwe Culture: Origins and Decline of Southern Zambezian States.* Available at UCEN Bookshop.

**Course format**

This is a research-oriented, hybrid lecture/seminar course. This means we will interspace lectures with student research, presentations and discussions. Each student picks a topic or a **week-theme** they intend to research on and present to class. Starting Week 3, we will have at least two students briefly presenting their research ideas and receiving feedback from everyone.

Grading Rubrics

* Quizzes: 20
* Participation: 10
* Presentation: 10
* Research Paper: 60

**Weekly Readings/Activities**

* **This bullet symbol denotes required weekly readings. All the documentaries will be viewed in class, unless I indicate otherwise.**
* **This one denotes materials suggested for research or further reading. Also consult with me: I have some of these materials.**

**Mon. Jan. 9: Peopling Southern Africa**

* Course introduction

**Wed. Jan. 11: Discourse Analysis**

* Chris Lowe, Tunde Brimah, Pearl-Alice Marsh, William Minter and Monde Muyangwa, “Talking About Tribes: Moving from Stereotypes to Analysis,” <http://www.ciaonet.org/wps/loc01/>

**Mon. Jan. 16:** **The Khoisan People**

* Pikirayi, Chapter 3.
* The Khoisan (Film): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p1NamQj-E9I>

**Some Research Resources**: The Fate of the Khoisan People to the 1800s:

* John Philip, *Researches in South Africa*, vol. 1 & 2.
* Richard Elphick, *Kraal and Castle*.

**Wed. Jan. 18: Mapungubwe, Great Zimbabwe and other Madzimbabwe**

* Pikirayi, Chapter 4.
* Film: Lost Kingdoms of Africa: Great Zimbabwe

**Mon. Jan 23: Metallurgy and Technological Innovations**

* Chirikure, “New Light on Njanja Metal Working: Towards a Systematic Encounter between Ethnohistory and Archaeometallurgy,” *The South African Archaeological Bulletin* 61, 184.

Some Research Resources:

* “The City of Black Gold,” in *Vanished Civilizations of the Ancient World* (ask professor for source if you are working on this question)*.*
* Chanaiwa, *The Zimbabwe Controversy.* Book available in library.

**Wed. Jan 25: African Spiritualities**

* Ranger, “Seeing the Matopos,” *Voices from the Rocks*, pp.11-38.
* Film: Mbira DzaVadzimu, Religion at Family Level

Some Research Documents:

* “Ngomalungundu,” *The Copper miners of Musina*, pp.10-32.
* Credo Vusa’mazulu Mutwa, “Marimba,” *Africa My People*, pp.21-33.
* J. Theodore Bent, *The Ruined Cities of Mashonaland*, 1891. (Ask professor for the book).

**Mon. Jan. 30: Trade and State Formation**

* S. I. Mudenge, “The Role of Foreign Trade in the Rozvi Empire,” *Journal of African History* 15, 3, 1974.
* Pikirayi, Chapter 7

**Wed. Feb. 1: State Making in Angola**

* Joseph Miller, “Nzinga of Matamba in Historical Perspective,” *Journal of African History* 16, 2, 1975.

Some Primary Documents

* “Instructions to the captain-major D. Francisco de Almeida, 1505,” *Documents on the Portuguese in Mozambique and Central Africa*, 1497-1840, Vol. 1 (1497-1507), pp.179-203.
* “Letter from Diogo de Alcova to the King [of Portugal],” Nov. 20 1506, *Documents on the Portuguese in Mozambique and C. Africa*, Vol. 1, pp.389-401.
* “Letter from Pero Vaz Soares, Factor of Sofala, to the King, June 30, 1513” *Documents on the Portuguese in Mozambique*, Vol. 3, pp.459-375.
* “Letter from Antonio Caiado to a Friend [on the killing of Fr. Goncalo da Silveira],” 1561, *Documents,* Vol. 8, pp.3-9.
* “Letter from Jesuit Priest Luis Frois, Dec. 15, 1561, Goa,” [on the killing of Silveira], Documents, vol. 8, pp.35-59.
* “Letter from Vasco Fernandes Homem to Luis da Silva, Sena, Feb. 15, 1576,” *Documents*, Vol. 8, pp.459-469.

**Mon. Feb. 6: Mozambican Interaction with the Portuguese**

* Pikirayi, Chapter 8.
* Allen and Barbara Isaacman, “Chikunda on the Prazos: An Overview, 1750-1850,” *Slavery and Beyond: The Making of Men and Chikunda Ethnic Identities in the Unstable World of South-Central Africa, 1750-1920*, pp.39-82*.*

**Wed. Feb. 8**: Research Feedback. Reviewing students’ progress

**\*\*\*Mon. 13 & Wed. 15: Feb. Professor away for Conference: conduct own research**

**Mon. Feb. 20: Military Revolutions in Southern Africa**

* J. D. Omer-Cooper, “The Zulu Aftermath,” *Problems in African History: The Precolonial Centuries*, Robert Collins (ed.), pp.103-108.
* Film: Lost Kingdoms of Africa: The Zulu Kingdom

**Wed. Feb. 22: Historiographical Significance of the Mfecane**

* Julian Cobbing, “Mfecane as an Alibi: The Battle of Dithakong and Mbolompo,” *Journal of African History*, 29, 3, 1988.

Some Research Documents: Memories of Tshaka:

* Baleka kaMpitikazi, James Stuart Archive, Vol. 1, pp.4-14
* Baleni kaSilwana, James Stuart Archive, Vol. 1, pp.17-52.
* Makewu, James Stuart Archive, Vol. 2, pp.161-164

**Mon. Feb. 27: Minerals Revolution and the Reshaping of Southern Africa**

* William Worger, “Workers as Criminals: The Rule of Law in Early Kimberley, 1870-1885,” *Struggle for the City: Migrant Labor, Capital, and the State in Urban Africa*, Frederick Cooper (ed.), 1985.
* Film: Anglo-Zulu War
* Primary document: Moshweshwe’s letter to Lord Grey: http://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1858basuto.asp

**Wed. Mar. 1: British Colonization of Zimbabwe**

* Terence Ranger, “Administration in Mashonaland, 1890-1896,” *Revolt in Southern Rhodesia*, pp.46-88.

Mon**. Mar. 13: The Congo and Belgian Incursion**

* Documentary for in-class viewing: White King, Red Rubber, Black Death

**Wed. Mar. 15: Colonial Genocide in Namibia; Reading Colonial Archives**

* Film: German Genocide in Namibia
* *Kaffir Express* (newspaper), 1870s-1900s. Accessible on-line through UCSB Library African Newspapers website

**Research Papers Due: March 20, 4pm in my office.**