**Professor Mhoze Chikowero**

**History 147R: Undergraduate Research Seminar in African History**

UCSB History Department **Spring 2019**

Office: **HSSB 4253** Office Hours: Thursday 10-12am

Venue: HSSB 4041 Day/Time: Tue. 2-4:50 pm.

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**Prerequisite**: An open, curious, critical mind.



This is undergraduate research seminar revolves around the two interconnected concepts: colonialism and African self-liberation. These are the two dominant forces that have shaped African history and consciousness since at least the beginning of the last century. The course introduces to students the European psychology and practices that shaped the colonial experience, and the African responses, particularly the struggles for freedom against the alien force that is colonialism. The course foregrounds African voices not simply as informants, but as actors, thinkers, authors and philosophers of Africa and the world according to their own perspectives. This means we have got to closely read materials written by Africans to understand their ideas, perspectives and experiences in the same way that we need to read the confessional archive of European colonialism to understand the colonist’s mind. This is a research seminar, which means that the course revolves around student discussion of the assigned weekly readings, presentation of own and other students’ research ideas. Students must read class materials before each meeting in order to make informed contributions. Full and punctual attendance is expected, otherwise marks will be deducted.

**Grading rubric**: 10 % attendance, 20 % class discussion, 10 class presentation; 10 thesis and outline, 50 % research paper.

**Themes & Readings**

**Colonialism and its Psychologies: Some Key Readings**

**Week 1**

* Chris Lowe, “Talk about tribe: moving from stereotypes to analysis:” <http://www.africafocus.org/docs08/ethn0801.php>
* John Philip, “Extirpate the Natives,” *Researches in South Africa*, Vol. 1, pp.36-62.
* *The Kaffir Express*--**in-class materials**
* German Herero genocide--available on YouTube.

**Week 2**

* Walter Rodney, “Colonialism as a System for Underdeveloping Africa,” *How Europe Underdeveloped Africa*,pp.203-281.
* Red Rubber

**Week 3:**

* Mhoze Chikowero, *African Music, Power and Being in Colonial Zimbabwe*, Ch. 1-3.

**Week 4**

* Chikowero, Is Propaganda Modernity?
* The Kaffir Express

**Week 5**

* Frantz Fanon, “Concerning Violence,” *The Wretched of the Earth*.
* “Concerning Violence,” in-class material.
* Michael Raeburn, “The Crocodile Gang,” *Black Fire*.

**Week 6**

* Caroline Elkins, *Imperial Reckoning: The Untold Story of Britain’s Gulag in Kenya.*
* Bob Coen, Anthrax Wars, **in-class**.

**Week 7**

* Naomi Klein, “Democracy Born in Chains: South Africa’s Constricted Freedom,” *The Shock Doctrine: The Rise of Disaster Capitalism.*
* Winnie, **in-class material**

**Week 8**: Neocolonialism

* Kwame Nkrumah, “The Mechanisms of Neo-Colonialism,” pp.239-254.
* The French African Connection--Youtube.

**Week 9**: Resource Reclamation

* Mugabe & the White African--YouTube
* Gregory Elich, “Zimbabwe under Siege.”

**Week 10**

* Ngugi waThiong’o, “The Quest for Relevance,” *Decolonizing the Mind.*
* Sol Plaatje, “The Natives Land Act in the Cape Colony,” *Native Life in South Africa*, pp.173-181.
* What sort of question is this: “Does land reform threaten our future?” (YouTube), **in-class**.

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**Some key subthemes and prospective sources for research**

**Government Reports, e.g.:**

-The Dual Mandate

-Native Education Commissions--Rhodesia, SA

-Native Land Commission, 1894

-Native Committee of Inquiry Report, SR, 1910-11

**Examples of early African Resistance (late 1800s-early 1900s)**

-The Maji Maji (Tanganyika)

-The Mahdi Revolution (Sudan)

-The First Chimurenga (Zimbabwe, 1893/1896-97)

-The Bambatha Rebellion (South Africa, 1894-95)

-The Herero Uprising, Namibia, 1896

-The Aba Women’s War, Nigeria

**African Independence Struggles**

-Steve Biko

-Chikowero, Ch. 8-10

-Black Fire

- Rendani Moses Ralinala, Jabulani Sithole, Gregory Houston and Bernard Magubane, “The Wankie and Sipolilo Campaigns,” <http://www.sadet.co.za/docs/RTD/vol1/SADET1_chap12.pdf>

-Thomas Sankara (Burkina Faso)

-Amilcar Cabral (Guinea Bissau & Cape Verde)

-Agrippah Mutambara, *The Rebel in Me* (The Zimbabwe armed struggle)

-The Mau Mau in Kenya

**What is independence? Some available independence era newspapers**

-Newspaper analysis

-Herald

-Sunday Mail

-Chronicle