

AFA 4243

**GLOBAL CAPITALISM AND THE AFRICAN DIASPORA IN THE MODERN
WORLD-SYSTEM**

Jean Muteba Rahier

Date / Time / Location

Course Instructor: Jean Muteba Rahier, Ph.D. Professor of Anthropology and African & African Diaspora Studies

Course Description

The African diaspora as an analytic for studying the black experience is integrally tied to the formation of the modern world-system and the proliferation of global capitalism, starting in the 16th century. The conscription and exploitation of black labor and human capital has been essential to each cycle of accumulation that has sustained capitalism. Violent dispossession by imperial powers, starting with the systematic enslavement of African people and continuing through neocolonial formations, created conditions of dependency within the diaspora nationally and globally that continue to shape the material realities of diasporic subjects. The World-Systems approach is foundational to understanding the relationship between the African diaspora and global capitalism; in the final analysis, it is unequal integration into the capitalist world-system that both established and sustains the African diaspora over time and space.

This course surveys the emergence and evolution of the African diaspora in relation to changes in the global capitalist economy, and how that history continues to shape material conditions of African descendants. Drawing upon a range of theoretical perspectives, we will examine structural features of the contemporary global political economy and how they produce, reproduce, and reconstitute the African Diaspora based on the ways in which Diasporic subjects are represented in the racial global axial division of labor. The course will encourage critical analyses to more adequately understand and potentially address conditions of inequality within the African diaspora locally, nationally, and globally.

This is a Global Learning Discipline-Specific course that counts towards your Global Learning graduation requirement.

The readings are interdisciplinary and engage texts across fields.

Student Learning Outcome

By the end of this course, enrolled students:

- will have gained an enhanced historical knowledge and understanding of the development of the African diaspora within the context of global capitalism's history.
- Will have acquired a basic understanding of practices, structures, issues and

dynamics constituting African diaspora studies as a field of inquiry.

- Will have developed critical awareness of, and critical skills in analyzing how capital operates in, and is sustained by, the African diaspora.
- Will be able to self-reflect upon theorizing of the African diaspora.

GL Student Learning Outcomes

- **Global Awareness:** Students will be able to demonstrate knowledge of the interrelatedness of local, global, international, and intercultural dimensions of African diaspora realities, which is the main focus of this course.
- **Global Perspective:** Students will be able to use the knowledge and diverse theorizing accumulated in the field of African diaspora studies to conduct a multi-perspective analysis of local, global, international, and intercultural issues as they relate to the great experiential diversity of African diaspora communities.
- **Global Engagement:** Students will be able to demonstrate willingness to engage in local, global, international, and intercultural problem solving as it pertains to the challenges of racism, xenophobia, marginalization, discrimination, etc.

Course Expectations

This is an upper-division course and presumes some familiarity with the basics of African diaspora theory. In an upper-division course students are expected not only to be well prepared but also to show initiative in class participation and in taking up the challenge of critical, intellectual inquiry. I will conduct the course more as a seminar than as lecture-based, with the expectation of active participation by all enrolled students; participation in class discussion is a significant part of your grade.

Course Requirements

| | |
|---------------------|-----|
| 5 Reader Responses | 50% |
| Final Paper | 30% |
| Class Participation | 20% |

Required Texts

Rodney, Walter. *How Europe Underdeveloped Africa*. Washington, D.C.: Howard University Press, 1982.

Robinson, Cedric. *Black Marxism*. London: Zed Books, 1983.

Wallerstein, Immanuel. *World-Systems Analysis: An Introduction*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2007.

Amsden, Alice H. *Escape from Empire: The Developing World's Journey through Heaven and Hell*. Cambridge: Massachusetts Institute of Technology Press, 2007.

Mamdani, Mahmood. *Citizen and Subject: Contemporary Africa and the Legacy of Late Colonialism*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1996.

All other required readings will be provided online.

Written assignments

All assignments must be type-written hard copies, appropriately formatted (12 point Times New Roman font, 1-inch margins, double spaced, right justified, etc.), with the course name, student name, date, and assignment clearly visible. They must be uploaded

onto the Blackboard site associated with this course.

Reader Response

Students are responsible for a 5-7 page reader response based on the following required texts:

Response 1: *World Systems Approach: An Introduction*

Response 2: *Black Marxism*

Response 3: *How Europe Underdeveloped Africa*

Response 4: *Citizen and Subject*

Response 5: *Escape from Empire*

Although only selected chapters may be assigned for the course, reader responses should cover the *entire* book, addressing the author's main thesis/purpose; main theme(s) of each chapter/section; critical response to the author's position (agree, disagree, qualify); and a discussion of how the text relates to the theme of the course as a whole. Please note that this is not a book report or a mere summarization of the text, but rather a critical engagement with the author's ideas. Familiarity with the argument(s) being made is essential to articulate your own point of view; basic regurgitation of the text is not acceptable.

A *hard copy* of each reader response will be due during the last discussion date of each section as denoted on the syllabus. They must be uploaded onto the Blackboard site associated with this course. *No e-mail or late copies are permitted.*

The Reader Response 3 will be directly linked to the GL Student Learning Outcome "Global Awareness." Specific questions that have for objective to have students discuss and demonstrate their knowledge of the interrelatedness of local, global, international, and intercultural dimensions of African diaspora realities, which is the main focus of this course, will be asked. The answers will have to use each individual student discussion of *How Europe Underdeveloped Africa*.

The Reader Response 5 will be directly linked to the GL Student Learning Outcome "Global Engagement." Specific questions that have for objective to have students discuss and demonstrate their willingness to engage in local, global, international, and intercultural problem solving as it pertains to the challenges of racism, xenophobia, marginalization, discrimination, etc. will be asked. The answers will have to use each individual student discussion of *Escape from Empire*.

Final Paper

Each student will be required to write a comprehensive 15-20 page research paper that examines, exhaustively, some aspect of the intersection between global capitalism and the African diaspora, or should critically examine relevant theoretical and analytical issues raised in the readings and class discussions. Students are required to attend office hours to discuss the proposed paper topic; the instructor must approve it. A *hard copy* of the paper is due on the last day of class.

This assignment is directly linked to the GL Student Learning Outcome “Global Perspective.” Therefore, students are here asked to use the knowledge and diverse theorizing accumulated in the field of African diaspora studies to conduct a multi-perspective analysis of local, global, international, and intercultural issues as they relate to the great experiential diversity of African diaspora communities as it relates to global capitalism. Specific additional instructions will be given in class.

Class Participation

Students are expected to attend all class sessions and to participate in class discussions on the basis of an engaged and critical reading of each session's assignments *prior* to sessions. Arrive *on time* and turn off cell phones and other noise-making devices during class. Because this is an upper-division course, lectures will not focus on ‘explaining’ the readings to you; I expect you to bring question you may have to class and to be prepared to discuss the readings from the perspectives of analytically engaged, informed students. Make sure you grasp the *key points* of all readings (what is the author saying and why?) and *think relationally* (how do the readings relate? How does each reading converge with or contradict other readings? How are the main points of the readings related?)

Final Grade

Your final grade will be based on your cumulative points, not on a curve. The maximum number of points you can earn for the course is 100. I will be using the following conversion from number to letter grade:

| | | |
|------------|------------|------------|
| A 93 and> | A- 90-92.9 | |
| B+ 87-89.9 | B 83-86.9 | B- 80-82.9 |
| C+ 77-79.9 | C 73-76.9 | C- 70-72.9 |
| D+ 67-69.9 | D 63-66.9 | D- 60-62.9 |
| F below 60 | | |

Weekly Readings

PART I: PRECOLONIAL AFRICA

Week 1: Introduction

Day 1:

Syllabus and Course Overview

Documentary: “500 Years Later”

Day 2:

How Europe Underdeveloped Africa: Chapter 2

Week 2: World-Systems and Global Capitalism

Day 1:

World-Systems Theory: An Introduction: Entire Book

The Long Twentieth Century: Chapter 1

“Exiting the Crisis of Capitalism or Capitalism in Crisis?”

Day 2:

“Phases of Capitalist Development in World-Historical Perspective”

Black Marxism: Chapter 1

How Europe Underdeveloped Africa: Chapter 3
Capitalism and Slavery: Chapter 7

Week 3: Diaspora Theory

Day 1:

Black Marxism: Chapter 4

Becoming Black: Chapter 1

Day 2:

“Unfinished Migrations”

“The Violence of Diaspora”

“Theorizing the African Diaspora: Metaphor, Miscognition, and Self-Recognition”

“The Uses of Diaspora”

**Reader Response 1 Due

PART II: ENSLAVEMENT (1600-1880)

Week 4: Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade in the Diaspora: A Comparative Approach

Day 1:

Black Marxism: Chapters 5 & 6

Capitalism and Slavery: Chapter 1

“Eric Williams and Slavery: A West Indian View Point?”

“Capitalism, Slavery and Bourgeois Historiography”

Day 2:

How Europe Underdeveloped Africa: Chapter 4

Capitalism and Slavery: Chapter 2

“Slavery, Race, and Ideology in the U.S.”

Week 5: Abolition and the transition to Industrial Capitalism

Day 1:

Africans and the Industrial Revolution in England: Introduction

Black Reconstruction: Chapter 4

“Slavery in Capitalism”

Day 2:

“Capitalism and the Origins of the Humanitarian Sensibility Part I”

Capitalism and Slavery: Chapters 10-12

**Reader Response 2 Due

PART III: FORMAL COLONIALISM (1884-1957)

Week 6: The Partitioning of Africa (Berlin Conference and Beyond)

Day 1:

How Europe Underdeveloped Africa: Chapter 5

Citizen and Subject: Part I

Day 2:

“License to Colonise”

“The Spoils of Berlin”

“Africa: The 1884 scramble was for resources to develop Europe”

Week 7: Marcus Garvey, W.E.B. DuBois, and the Interwar Period (1914-1945)

Day 1:

“The Economic Philosophy of Marcus Garvey”

“Marcus Garvey: The Remapping of African and its Diaspora”

“Caribbean labor politics in the age of Garvey, 1918-1938”

Day 2:

“‘A Negro Within the Nation’: W.E.B. DuBois and the Creation of a Revolutionary Pan-Africanist Tradition, 1903-1947”

“DuBois the pan-Africanist and the development of African nationalism”

**Reader Response 3 Due

PART IV: FIRST AMERICAN EMPIRE (1945-1980)

Week 8: The Cold War and Decolonization

Day 1:

“The end of the Third World?”

“After the Third World: History, destiny, and the fate of Third Worldism”

“Nation and the Cold War: Reflections on the Circuitous Routes of the African Diaspora”

Day 2:

“Kwame Nkrumah: Cold War Modernity, Pan-African Ideology and the Geopolitics of Development”

“Black Power, Decolonization, and Caribbean Politics: Walter Rodney and the Politics of *The Groundings with my Brothers*”

“Walter Rodney’s Pan-African Nationalism”

The Wretched of the Earth: Chapter 1- pp 52-63

Week 9: Bretton Woods and Embedded Liberalism

Day 1:

Escape From Empire: Chapters 1-4

“The Pillars of the System”

Day 2:

Escape From Empire Chapters 5-8

Global Capitalism: Chapter 15 (The End of Bretton Woods)

Week 10: Modernization Theory vs. Dependency Theory

Day 1:

“The Stages of Economic Growth: A *Non-Communist Manifesto*”

“The Change to Change: Modernization, Development, and Politics”

The Politics of Development Cooperation: Chapter 2-pp. 31-35

“Women and Modernization Theory: A Decade of Feminist Criticism”

Day 2:

The Challenge of Third World Development: Chapter 1

“The Development of Underdevelopment”

How Europe Underdeveloped Africa: Chapter 1

Week 11: Underdevelopment and Internal Colonialism

Day 1:

Documentary: "Speaking Freely Volume 2: Susan George"

"How the Poor Develop the Rich"

Unequal Development: Chapter 4- Sections 1, 4 & 5

Day 2:

"Internal Colonialism and Ghetto Revolt"

Black Power: The Politics of Liberation: Chapter 1

"Internal Colonialism: An American Theory of Race"

**Reader Response 4 Due

PART V: SECOND AMERICAN EMPIRE (1980-Present)

Week 12: Neoliberal Globalization

Day 1:

Globalization and its Discontents: Chapter 1 & 4

A Brief History of Neoliberalism: Chapter 3

Day 2:

"The Uses of Neoliberalism"

Globalisms: Chapter 1&3

Week 13: Rollback: Debt Crisis, Structural Adjustment and Punishing the 3rd World

Day 1:

Escape From Empire: Chapters 9-11

Dark Victory: Chapter 4

Day 2:

Dark Victory: Chapters 5-7

Global Shadows: Chapter 3

Week 14: Poverty Reduction and Growing Inequality

Day 1:

Global Shadows: Introduction & Chapter 1

Documentary: "The End of Poverty?"

Day 2:

"Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers: A New Convergence"

"The new Biopower: Poverty Reduction Papers and the obfuscation of international collective responsibility"

Week 15: Alternatives to Neoliberalization

Day 1:

A Brief History of Neoliberalism: Chapter 6 & 7

"Toward an Inclusive-Neoliberal Regime of Development: From the Washington to the Post-Washington Consensus"

Day 2:

“Geography and development: development/s beyond neoliberalism? Power, culture, political economy”

Globalisms: Chapter 9

**Reader Response 5 Due

***Final Paper Due

Global Capitalism and the African Diaspora in the Modern World-System

List of readings, order in which they appear on the syllabus; sources not repeated.

- Rodney, Walter. *How Europe Underdeveloped Africa*. Washington, D.C.: Howard University Press, 1982.
- Arrighi, Giovanni. *The Long Twentieth Century*. New York: Verso, 1994.
- Wallerstein, Immanuel. *World-Systems Analysis: An Introduction*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2007.
- Amin, Samir. "Exiting the Crisis of Capitalism or Capitalism in Crisis?" *Globalization* 7 (2010): 261-273.
- Arrighi, Giovanni and Jason W. Moore. "Phases of Capitalist Development in World-Historical Perspective." In *Phases of Capitalist Development*, by Robert Albritton, 56-75. New York: Palgrave MacMillan, 2001.
- Robinson, Cedric. *Black Marxism*. London: Zed Books, 1983.
- Williams, Eric. *Capitalism and Slavery*. Chapel Hill: UNC Press, 1944.
- Wright, Michelle M. *Becoming Black: Creating Identity in the African Diaspora*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2004.
- Kelley, Robin D.G. and Tiffany Patterson. "Unfinished Migrations: reflections on the African Diaspora and the making of the modern world." *African Studies Review* 43, no. 1 (2000): 11-45.
- Thomas, Deborah A. "The Violence of Diaspora: Governmentality, Class Cultures, and Circulations." *Radical History Review* 103 (2009): 84-104.
- Hintzen, Percy. "Theorizing the African Diaspora: Metaphor, Miscognition, and Self Recognition." In *Global Circuits of Blackness: Interrogating the African Diaspora*, by Jean, Percy Hintzen and Felipe Smith Rahier, 1-29. Urbana Champaign: The University of Illinois Press, 2009.
- Hayes Edwards, Brett. "The Uses of Diaspora." *Social Texts* 66 (2001): 45-73.
- Darity Jr., William. "Eric Williams and Slavery: A West Indian Viewpoint?" *Callaloo* 20 (1997): 800-816.
- Robinson, Cedric. "Capitalism, Slavery, and Bourgeois historiography." *History Workshop Journal* 23 (1987): 122-140.
- Fields, Barbara. "Slavery, Race, and Ideology in the United States of America." *New Left Review* 181 (1990): 95-118.
- Inokari, Joseph E. *Africans and the Industrial Revolution in England*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2002.
- DuBois, W.E. Burghardt. *Black Reconstruction in America, 1860-1880*. New York: The

- Free Press, 1935.
- McMichael, Philip. "Slavery in Capitalism: The Rise and Demise of the U.S. Ante Bellum Cotton Culture." *Theory and Society* 30 (1991): 321-349.
- Haskell, Thomas. "Capitalism and the Origins of Humanitarian Sensibility, Part I." *American Historical Review* 90 (1985): 339-361.
- Mamdani, Mahmood. *Citizen and Subject: Contemporary Africa and the Legacy of Late Colonialism*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1996.
- Boateng, Osei. "License to Colonise." *New Africa* (2010): 14-20.
- _____. "The Spoils of Berlin." *New Africa* (2010): 24-25.
- Sanokre, Rotimi. "Africa: The 1884 scramble was for resources to develop Europe." *New Africa* (2005): 25.
- Carter, Shawn. "The Economic Philosophy of Marcus Garvey." *The Western Journal of Black Studies* 26 (2002): 1-5
- Lewis, Rupert. "Marcus Garvey: The Remapping of African and its Diaspora." *Critical Arts* 25 (2011): 473-483.
- Ewing, Adam. "Caribbean labor politics in the age of Garvey, 1918-1938." *Institute of Race Relations* 55 (2013): 23-45.
- Rucker, Walter. "'A Negro Within the Nation': W.E.B. DuBois and the Creation of a Revolutionary Pan-Africanist Tradition, 1903-1947." *The Black Scholar* 32 (2003): 37-46.
- Kendhammer, Braondon. "DuBois the pan-Africanist and the development of African nationalism." *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 30 (2007): 51-71.
- Berger, Mark. "After the Third World? History, destiny, and the fate of Third Worldism." *Third World Quarterly* 25 (2004): 9-39.
- _____. "The End of the 'Third World'?" *Third World Quarterly* 15 (1994): 257-275.
- Brock, Lisa. "Nation and the Cold War: Reflections on Circuitous Routes of African Diaspora Studies." *Radical History Review* 103 (2009): 7-15.
- White, Evan. "Kwame Nkrumah: Cold War Modernity, Pan-African Ideology and the Geopolitics of Development." *Geopolitics* 8 (2003): 99-124.
- Bogues, Anthony. "Black Power, Decolonization, and Caribbean Politics: Walter Rodney and the Politics of *The Groundings with my Brothers*." *Boundary 2* 36 (2009): 127-147.
- Young, Kurt B. "Walter Rodney's Pan-African Nationalism." *Peace Review: A Journal of Social Justice* 20 (2008): 487-495.
- Fanon, Frantz. *The Wretched of the Earth*. New York: Grove Weidenfeld, 1963.
- Gelinas, Jacques B. "The Pillars of the System". In *Global Backlash* ed. Robin Broad. Lanham: Rowan & Littlefield, 2002.
- Frieden, Jeffrey A. *Global Capitalism: Its Fall and Rise in the Twentieth Century*. London: W.W. Norton & Company, 2006.
- Roberts, Timmons and Amy Bellone Hite, Eds. *The Globalization and Development Reader*. Malden: Blackwell Publishing, 2007.
- Huntington, Samuel P. "The Change to Change: Modernization, Development, and Politics." *Comparative Politics* 3 (1971): 282-322.
- Aubrey, Lisa. *The Politics of Development Cooperation*. London: Routledge, 1997.
- Jaquette, Jane S. "Women and Modernization Theory: A Decade of Feminist Criticism." *World Politics* 34 (1982): 267-284.

- Handelman, Howard. *The Challenge of Third World Development*. London: Pearson, 1996.
- Frank, Andre Gundar. "The Development of Underdevelopment." In *Dependence and Underdevelopment*, by James D., Andre Gundar Frank, and Dale Johnson, Eds. Cockcroft. New York: Anchor Books, 1972.
- George, Susan. *How the Poor Develop the Rich*. Atlantic Heights: Zed Books, 1997.
- Amir, Samin. *Unequal Development*. Sussex: The Harvester Press, 1976.
- Blauner, Robert. "Internal colonialism and ghetto revolt." *Social Problems* 16 (1969): 393-408.
- Hamilton, Charles V. and Kwame Ture. *Black Power: The Politics of Liberation*. New York: Random House, 1967.
- Gutierrez, Ramon. "Internal Colonialism: An American Theory of Race". *DuBois Review: Social Science Research on Race* 1 (2004): 281-295
- Stiglitz, Joseph. *Globalization and Its Discontents*. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2002.
- Harvey, David. *A Brief History of Neoliberalism*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007.
- Ferguson, James. "The uses of Neoliberalism." *Antipode* 41 (2009): 166-184.
- Steger, Manfred. *Globalism: Market Ideology Meets Terrorism*. Lanham: Rowman and Littlefield Publishers, Inc, 2007.
- Bello, Walden. *Dark Victory: The United States and Global Poverty*. London: Pluto Press, 1994.
- Ferguson, James. *Global Shadows: Africa in the Neoliberal World Order*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2009.
- Kamruzzaman, Palash. "Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers: A New Convergence." *Development in Practice* 19 (2009): 61-71.
- Tan, Celine. "The new Biopower: Poverty Reduction Papers and the obfuscation of international collective responsibility." *Third World Quarterly* 32 (2011): 1039-1056.
- Ruckert, Arne. "Toward an Inclusive-Neoliberal Regime of Development: From the Washington to the Post-Washington Consensus." *Labour, Capital and Society* 39 (2006): 34-67.
- Hart, Gillian. "Geography and development: development/s beyond neoliberalism? Power, culture, political economy." *Progress in Human Geography* 26 (2002): 812-822