

# **HISTORY 294: GLOBAL ENCOUNTERS IN HISTORY**

## **AFRICA AND CHINA**

**Macalester College, Spring Semester 2015**

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### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

Is China a “new colonial power” that threatens to gobble up Africa’s natural resources? Or does China offer an alternative development model that results in a “win-win” relationship for African nations starting to “look East?” Both sides in this heated current debate about China and Africa have overlooked the critical historical dimensions of China-Africa engagement. In this course we will begin by exploring the long history of interaction between Africa and East Asia, from the time of early sailing ships in the Indian Ocean through the Afro-Asian solidarities of the Cold War. We will focus specifically on the relationship between the People’s Republic of China and African nations, from the 1960s through to the present day. We will place these relations in context, not only historically but also in terms of global processes of economic, social and cultural interaction. We will use written texts, film and visual media, poetry, life stories and other resources to understand China-Africa relations from the perspective of everyday, lived experience. Each student will also carry out a research project on an individual topic.

### **STUDENT ASSIGNMENTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

As always in a small seminar-based topics course, student engagement and participation is the primary responsibility of each student. I expect students to come to class regularly having prepared for class – not only doing the assigned readings but bringing informed discussion questions (Tuesdays) and relevant news or opinion items on the China-Africa topic (Thursdays).

There will also be three written assignments in the course. Two of these will be short essay assignments and the third will be a longer research project on a topic of the student’s interest. These assignments are described in more detail below.

### **GRADING AND EXPECTATIONS**

## DESCRIPTION OF RESEARCH PAPER AND PROMPT FOR OTHER PAPERS

### PAPERS ONE AND TWO:

These papers will have the same format. Each will be a 3-4 page paper that includes 2-3 pages about the historical event covered in our classroom simulation activity. (Paper one addresses the Bandung Conference; paper two addresses the Zambian copper mining labor dispute). The final page of the paper should be a reflection about the simulation and the experience of participation.

Due dates:

Paper One: Monday, March 10 at 5 pm

Paper Two:

### COURSE PLAN

#### Part One: The Star Raft: Exploration and Exchange in the Indian Ocean World

##### Week One: Beginnings

T 1/27 Introductions

Th 1/29 Earliest Records

Read: Philip Snow, *The Star Raft*, chapter 1

Don Wyatt, *Blacks of Pre-Modern China*, Chapter One

##### Week Two: Africa-China Connections Before 1800

T 2/3 FILM

Th 2/5 Exploration and the Indian Ocean World

Read: Sheriff, *Dhow Cultures of the Indian Ocean*

Li Anshan, *Overseas Chinese in Africa*

##### Week Three: Slave Labor, Coolie Labor and the Sugar Plantation

T 2/10: The Afro-Asian Plantation in the Atlantic

Read: Lisa Yun, *The Coolie Speaks*

Moon-ho Jung, *Coolies and Cane*

Th 2/12: Afro-Asian History and the Sugar Plantations of the Indian Ocean  
Read: Cornelia Tremann on Chinese and Madagascar

**Week Four: Discourses of African and Asian Labor in Colonial Africa**

T 2/17 Race and Labor in the Colonies  
Read: "We Cast about for a Remedy": Chinese Labor and African Opposition in the Gold Coast, 1874-1914," Kwabena O. Akurang-Parry, *IJAHS*, 2001.

Th 2/19: Happy Spring Festival!  
The Asian Question and Colonial Labor in South Africa  
Read: Karen Harris, "Anti-Sinicism: Roots in Pre-Industrial Colonial Southern Africa," *African & Asian Studies*; 2010, Vol. 9 Issue 3, p213-231.  
Tu Huynh paper on Postcards in South Africa

**Part Four: Bandung and Beyond: Afro-Asian Solidarity Movements and Decolonization**

**Week Five: The Bandung Moment**

T 2/24 Afro-Asian Solidarity  
Read: Christopher Lee, *A World Beyond Empire*, Introduction

Th 2/26 Cold War Contexts and Decolonization  
Read: Gary Burgess, "Mao in Zanzibar"  
Bandung documents and cast of characters to prepare for roundtable

**Week Six: Bandung and The Non-Aligned Movement**

Tu 3/3 Class Roundtable I: The Bandung Conference (preparation day)  
Th 3/5 Class Roundtable I: The Bandung Conference (roundtable)

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**ASSIGNMENT ONE DUE: MONDAY, 3/10 AT 5 PM ON MOODLE  
STATEMENT AND REFLECTION FROM BANDUNG ROUNDTABLE  
LENGTH: 3-4 PAGES**  
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## **Part Five: China-Africa Engagement in the 1960s and 1970s**

### **Week Seven:**

Tu 3/10 China's Friends and Enemies

Read: George Yu, "Beijing vs. Taipei in Africa"

Deborah Brautigam, *Dragon's Gift*, chapter one, "Mao and Missionaries"

Visit website: [http://oldlettersfromchina.wordpress.com/2006/07/18/chinaafrica\\_fri/](http://oldlettersfromchina.wordpress.com/2006/07/18/chinaafrica_fri/)

View in class: Phoenix TV documentary, "Passion for Africa"

Th 3/12 Revolutionary Solidarities? Doctors, Acrobats and Engineers

Amanda Schulman, Athletes from China in Africa

Emmanuel Hevi, *An African Student in Red China*,

Philip Liu, re-reading of the African student

View in class: Phoenix TV documentary, "Passion for Africa"

[In-class mid-term course evaluation]

### **3/17 – 3/19 Spring Break**

**==WEEK EIGHT: PREPARE PAPER TOPIC AND BIBLIOGRAPHY FOR NEXT WEEK'S MEETING==**

## **Part Six: Economic Reform, Global Liberalization and China "Going Out" in the 1980s**

**Week Eight:** The 1980s: Global Economic Reforms and the China-Africa Relationship

Tu 3/24 Structural Adjustment and Economic Opening in Africa and China

Read: Deborah Brautigam, *Dragon's Gift*, chapter 2: "Feeling the Stones"

Deborah Brautigam and Tang Xiaoyang, "African Shenzhen: China's special economic zones in Africa," *Journal of Modern African Studies*, 2011.

Th 3/26 China "Going Out"

Read: Deborah Brautigam, *Dragon's Gift*, chapter 3: "Going Global"

**==WEEK NINE: MEETINGS TO DISCUSS RESEARCH PAPER TOPICS==**

**==BE PREPARED WITH RESEARCH TOPIC, BIBLIOGRAPHY OF SOURCES==**

## **Week Nine: Research Papers and Documentary Film**

Tu 3/31 Meetings this Week to Discuss Research Paper Topics

Th 4/2 FILM: "When China Met Africa"

## **Part Seven: Global Liberalization and China's Expanded African Engagement in the 2000s**

### **Week Ten: China's Resource Investments in the Extractive Sectors**

#### **Tu 4/7: China's Oil Investments in Africa: The Ghana Case from Two Perspectives**

Hardus, S. "Chinese National Oil Companies in Ghana: the Cases of Cnooc and Sinopec." *Perspectives on Global Development and Technology*. 13 (2014): 588-612. Here is the [abstract](#) of the article, the PDF is on the way from ILL.

Rupp, S. "Ghana, China and the Politics of Energy," in *African Studies Review*, v56 n1 (2013): 103-130.

#### **Th 4/9: China and the Mining and Agriculture Sectors in Africa**

Read:

Josh Maiyo, "The Political Ecology of Chinese Agricultural Investment in Uganda," SAIS Policy Brief, 2014.

<https://saiscari.files.wordpress.com/2014/10/maiyo-v-3-original.pdf>

Solange Chatelard and Jessica Chu, "Chinese Agricultural Engagements in Zambia," SAIS Policy Brief, 2015

<https://saiscari.files.wordpress.com/2014/10/maiyo-v-3-original.pdf>

Hilson and Adu-Darko, "Chinese participation in Ghana's informal gold mining economy: Drivers, implications and clarifications," *Journal of Rural Studies*, [Volume 34](#), April 2014, Pages 292–303. PDF is on the way from ILL

## **Week Eleven: Copper Mining in Zambia: Re-enacting the Controversy over Human Rights**

Tu 4/14: Copper Mining in Zambia and Chinese Investments

**Watch:** King Cobra and the Dragon, documentary on Al Jazeera, 2012

Link to film documentary: <http://www.aljazeera.com/programmes/peopleand-power/2012/01/20121484624797945.html>

**Read:** Debate about human rights and Chinese mining investment in Zambia:

Yan Hairong and Barry Sautmann, in debate with authors of Human Rights Watch Report:  
<http://www.pambazuka.org/en/category/features/79570/print>  
Dan Haglund, "Regulating FDI in weak African states: a case study of Chinese copper mining in Zambia," *Journal of Modern African Studies*, 2008

**To prepare for re-enactment:**

Possible cast of characters: Human Rights Watch; Yan Hairong and Barry Sautman; Zambia's President Michael Sata; Zambia's former president Levy Mwanawasa; Deborah Brautigam; Zambian Mineworkers; Zambian Daily Mail; Chinese Embassy/Ministry of Foreign Affairs; other players

**Th 4/16: RE-ENACTMENT OF CONTROVERSY OVER CHINESE MINING IN ZAMBIA**

**Part Eight: Globalization from Below: Africans in China, Chinese in Africa**

**Week Twelve: Africans Living and Working in China**

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**ASSIGNMENT TWO DUE: MONDAY, 4/20 AT 5 PM ON MOODLE**  
**STATEMENT AND REFLECTION FROM ZAMBIAN MINING RE-ENACTMENT**  
**LENGTH: 3-4 PAGES**  
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**Tu 4/21 African Traders in Guangzhou and Yiwu**

Read: Heidi Haugen, "African Pentecostal migrants in China: Marginalization and alternative geographies of a mission theology," in *African Studies Review*, v56 (n1) (April 2013): 81(22)  
Han Huamei, "Individual Grassroots Multilingualism in Africa Town in Guangzhou: The Role of States in Globalization," *International Multilingual Research Journal*, 2013.

**Th 4/23 Globalization from Below? Culture and Performance**

Take a look at Roberto Castillo's website: <http://africansinchina.net/>  
Read his article: "Homing Guangzhou: Emplacement, Belonging and Precarity among Africans in China" found on his website

## **Week Thirteen: Chinese Living and Working in Africa**

### **Th 4/28 Chinese in African Trade**

Read: Nina Sylvanus, "Chinese Devils, the Global Market and the Declining Power of Togo's Nana-Benzenes," *African Studies Review*, 56, 2013.

Yoon Jung Park, "Perceptions of Chinese in Southern Africa: Constructions of the "Other" and the Role of Memory," *African Studies Review*, 56, 2013.

Th 4/30 Work in African Companies

Read: Tang Xiaoyang, "Bulldozer or Locomotive? The Impact of Chinese Enterprises on Local Employment in Angola and the DRC," *Journal of Asian and African Studies*, 45,3,2010.

Karsten Giese and Alena Thiel, "The Vulnerable Other: Distorted Equity in Chinese-Ghanaian Employment Relations," *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, 2012.

Ching Kwan Lee, "Raw Encounters"

### **5/5: Last Day of Class**

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**FINAL RESEARCH PAPER DUE: FRIDAY 5/6 ON MOODLE**

**TOPIC: OF YOUR CHOICE**

**LENGTH: 9-10 PAGES**

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