

BIBLIOGRAPHY OF AFRICA, IS 451ACG/ACU

Syllabus

Atoma Batoma & Laila Hussein Moustafa

Tuesday, 9:30 pm – 12:20 pm

August 25 to December 8

[Office hours](#) by appointment

Location: Online (ZOOM) via MOODLE

To learn about the zoom please watch [iSchool training](#)

This course is designed for two groups: graduate students in the humanities and social sciences studying Africa and interested library science students. We will focus on the identification and evaluation of African studies reference sources and library techniques as a foundation for in-depth research. Because the history and culture of North Africa are so intimately linked with those of the Arab world in general and the Middle East in particular, we will also identify and evaluate several multidisciplinary documents on the Middle East. Sources covered will be in all formats, including print, microform, and electronic resources. The course can be taken for either 2 or 4 credit hours, however M.A. students in African Studies take the course for 4 credit hours.

Class sessions will consist of a mixture of lecture, discussion, and hands-on examination of sources and databases. We will have guest lectures. Students will be expected to purchase and use the following textbook through the semester.

◆ **Kagan, Alfred & Atoma Batoma *Reference Guide to Africa: A Bibliography of Sources*.3rd ed. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2014.**

***A list of additional required texts**

◆ **Corm, Georges. 2020. *Arab Political Thought : Past and Present* Première publication en français : Pensée et politique dans le monde arabe : Contextes historiques et problématiques, XIXe-XXIe siècle aux Editions La Découverte en 2015 ed. London: Hurst & Company.**

◆ **Robert W. Harms, *Africa in Global History with Sources* (New York, NY: W.W. Norton & Company, 2018).**

The remaining required readings for the course will be available in PDF on Moodle.

Scholars of Africa must know how to correctly format bibliographic citations as well as evaluate sources. Students are expected to master these skills. Please use one of the two documentation styles thoroughly explained in *The Chicago Manual of Style* (16th ed., 2010), which is available in print in many libraries and online through the Library Gateway. Students can have access to the online copy at the library.

ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY -- 50% of grade

Each student will prepare a useful annotated bibliography. This assignment has several purposes. It should be on a subject that interests you and that will likely have application to your future research. The successful project will demonstrate your ability to find and use databases, indexes, bibliographies, and other reference materials to find appropriate materials exactly on your research topic. It will also demonstrate your ability to organize materials in a coherent manner using standard bibliographic formats, and to write substantive annotations. Although abstracts are now available online from many databases, students will be expected to examine sources and write original annotations. Note that copying abstracts without attribution constitutes plagiarism, grounds for dismissal from the University of Illinois.

Students taking the course for 2 credit hours will compile a minimum of 25 scholarly citations with descriptive annotations. Those taking the course for 4 credit hours will compile at least 50 scholarly citations with descriptive annotations. (Avoid articles from popular magazines and newspapers). Your bibliography should include a table of contents and an introduction discussing the importance of your topic and describing scope, arrangement, and format. It is also helpful to describe your search strategy noting any special problems encountered along the way. Include a list of the databases, indexes, bibliographies, and other reference materials consulted. Don't forget the general sources listed in Chapter 1 of the *Reference Guide to Africa*.

Note where you first found each citation. Use a code to refer back to your list of sources.

Proposed topics should be thoroughly discussed and then approved by the instructor. The scope of the project and its organization must be well defined for a successful outcome. Please continue consultation throughout the semester as necessary. To be sure that you are on the right track, introductory materials and sample citations with annotations will be due in the third week of September. In addition, introductory materials and 20 formatted and organized citations with annotations will be due in mid-October. The project will be due on the last day of class.

Prepare a nearly comprehensive work on a narrowly defined topic.

Selective bibliographies (the “best” or most easily available sources) will NOT be accepted. Make sure you include materials by African authors published in Africa and elsewhere!

Submit interlibrary loan requests early!(if the service is available)

Turn in one copy online via email on December 8th the last day of class. Note well that extensions will only be approved in the case of emergencies. Your final project will be graded and returned to you with comments.

OTHER ASSIGNMENTS—50% OF GRADE

In addition to keeping up with reading and doing all assignments on time your other 50% grad will be based on

5%: Attendance and participation

5%: Two reviews of [events](#) held at the Center for African Studies/ Center for South Asia and Middle East Studies

40%: A weekly assignment of a presentation and a written blog

CLASS ATTENDANCE

Graduate students are expected to be responsible and considerate of their fellow students and their professors. If you are scheduled to do a class presentation, please make every effort to attend the class. If you will not be able to attend due to illness or other emergency, please e-mail or phone Professor [Atoma Batoma](#) and [Laila Hussein](#) so that other arrangements can be made to cover your materials. Students are expected to be online on time. If you must be late for a legitimate reason, be sure to notify the Professors in advance.

SOURCE EVALUATIONS

Each student will evaluate and present specific sources to the class throughout the second part of the course; 10 sources for those taking the course for 4 credit hours or 5 sources for those taking the course for 2 credit hours. Written presentations should be posted on the blog on Moodle prior to the class meeting and delivered orally in class.

Plan ahead and pick your subjects and dates wisely. Choose and hand-in your proposed list of 12 or 6 sources at or before the time noted on the class schedule.

PUBLIC EVENTS

Each student will present two reviews of non-class [events](#). These include [events](#) held at the [Center for African Studies/ the Center for South Asian and Middle East Studies](#), as well as public [events](#) such as lectures, panel discussions, exhibits, films showings online, etc. Check with the instructors if in doubt

Timeline:

Preliminary bib project proposal due any time before September 25th

Revised proposal due October 13th

Consult with instructors, by appointment from October 27- 30th

Final project due December 8th

Chancellor's Recommendations

Following University policy, all students are required to engage in appropriate behavior to protect the health and safety of the community, including wearing a facial covering properly, maintaining social distance (at least 6 feet from others at all times), disinfecting the immediate seating area, and using hand sanitizer. Students are also required to follow the campus COVID-19 testing protocol.

Students who feel ill must not come to class. In addition, students who test positive for COVID-19 or have had an exposure that requires testing and/or quarantine must not attend class. The University will provide information to the instructor, in a manner that complies with privacy laws, about students in these latter categories. These students are judged to have excused absences for the class period and should contact the instructor via email about making up the work.

Students who fail to abide by these rules will first be asked to comply; if they refuse, they will be required to leave the classroom immediately. If a student is asked to leave the classroom, the non-compliant student will be judged to have an unexcused absence and reported to the Office for Student Conflict Resolution for disciplinary action. Accumulation of non-compliance complaints against a student may result in dismissal from the University.

online thesaurus

UNESCO - <http://vocabularies.unesco.org/browser/thesaurus/en/>

Eric - <https://eric.ed.gov/>

What should you expect to get out of this class?

- The ability to decipher and compose accurate bibliographic citations.
- The ability to locate specific works at UIUC or elsewhere.
- An understanding of the different types of reference works available.
- The ability to critically evaluate reference works and databases.
- An appreciation of the wealth of available African Studies materials.
- The ability to creatively research almost any topic in African studies.
- An appreciation of the interdisciplinary nature of African studies research.
- The compilation of an annotated bibliography on a topic of your interest.