

# Conceptualizing Danger: Love and politics in the time of HIV/AIDS in Africa

(Washington University, Freshmen Seminar)  
African & African-American Studies (AFAS) 194, Fall 2005  
Louderman 461; TuTh 2:30-4:00

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Office Hours: Wed 1:30-3:30, McMillan 132

Course readings reserve page: <http://eres.wustl.edu/eres/coursepage.aspx?cid=1490>



Anti-AIDS and Condom Billboard on the Namibia / Botswana border

## Overview:

HIV/AIDS is the leading infectious cause of adult death worldwide and soon HIV will kill more people globally than all world wars put together. By the end of 2003, an estimated 11.5 million people in sub-Saharan Africa have died of AIDS—the equivalent of the combined populations of New York City and Los Angeles. One quarter of those deaths were among children. While Africa only accounts for one tenth of the world's population, it is estimated that 83% of all AIDS deaths worldwide have occurred in sub-Saharan Africa, and this region makes up almost 75% of the 34 million HIV/AIDS cases in the world. The challenge of combating HIV/AIDS in Africa is not resources, medicines, or knowledge about condoms, safer sex and abstinence. Rather, the greatest obstacles are global inequalities, poverty political will, economic incentives, and a lack of global human rights ethic. Many public figures note that AIDS is the worst human tragedy of our time.

This freshmen seminar provides social contexts and historical approaches for understanding constructions, responses, the spread, and effects of the HIV pandemic. Course materials include articles, ethnographic and historical analyses, media articles, and videos. Topics explored include the history and trends of the epidemic, structural factors enabling virus' spread, cultural construction of AIDS and risk groups, political and government responses, ethics and responsibilities, drug testing and marketing, prevention and education strategies, living with HIV, and medical advances and hopes. This course does not provide an in-depth biological and medical understanding of the virus and AIDS. Rather, it is intended for students interested in understanding the social, political, and historical complexities underlying today's most virulent infectious disease.

Students are required to keep up with readings, participate in class discussions and AIDS Week, and write two response papers and a final analysis of an ethnography.

### **Course Requirements and Grading:**

**Class participation and AIDS Week (20%):** This class is discussion based interspersed with lectures and small group activities. Active student participation is required. Student participation grade will be based on attendance, general class discussion, and participation in World AIDS Week

From Wed Nov 30<sup>th</sup> until Fri Dec 2<sup>nd</sup> the class will assist the upper-level AIDS course with a campus-wide campaign for World AIDS Week. Students are responsible for developing a class activity, tabling for two hours during the week, and participating in at least one evening event. Class campaign activities might include a program in the freshmen dorms, a movie night and discussion, or one of the global campaigns.

**Two Response Papers (40%):** Students will write two 3- to 4-page response papers. Response papers should include: (1) an overall argument or thesis that you will advance in your paper, (2) *brief* summaries of the readings that relate to your thesis; (3) your analysis of your topic or the main points raised. Late papers will affect your grade. Papers are to be turned in to the AFAS office, McMillan 226.

### **Final Ethnographic Analysis Essay (40%):**

Students will write a 5- to 7-page (double-spaced, 1" margins, 12 pt font) analysis paper based primarily on an assigned ethnography. The paper should provide a *brief* summary of the book and should develop in depth one theme or argument based on the book. Students should incorporate other class materials and case studies in developing their arguments. Students are required to take a draft of their papers to one of the **writing centers by December 2<sup>nd</sup>**, which will allow a week for revision. You should turn in your **final paper by Friday December 9<sup>th</sup>** by 5:00pm in the AFAS office.

### **Student Resources:**

**Writing Centers:** Students are strongly encouraged to take their papers to the writing centers. One is located in Eads and there is another one at Cornerstone in Gregg Hall on the South 40.

**Disability Services:** Students who are seeking disability information or support should contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at 935-5970 or [drc@aismail.wustl.edu](mailto:drc@aismail.wustl.edu). The DRC is located at Cornerstone in Gregg Hall on the South 40.

### **Academic Integrity:**

Students are expected to adhere to the University's academic integrity and plagiarism policies, found on: [https://acadinfo.wustl.edu/WUCRSLFrontMatter/WebWUCRSLInfo\\_AcadIntegrity.htm](https://acadinfo.wustl.edu/WUCRSLFrontMatter/WebWUCRSLInfo_AcadIntegrity.htm). The policy states that: "In all academic work, it is important that the ideas and contributions of others be appropriately acknowledged, and that work that is presented as original is in fact original."

### **Course Materials:**

#### **Required Books (available at the campus bookstore)**

Michelle Lewis Renaud. 1997. *Women at the Crossroads: A Prostitute Community's Response to AIDS in Urban Senegal*.

Catherine Campbell. 2003. *'Letting them die': Why HIV Prevention Programs Fail*. Indiana Press.

Karen Booth. 2004. *Local Women, Global Science: Fighting AIDS in Kenya*. Indiana University Press

Required articles are available on electronic reserve (ERes) at Olin Library.

**Optional Books:**

Ezekiel Kalipeni, Susan Craddock, Joseph R. Oppong, and Jayati Ghosh (editors). 2003. *AIDS in Africa: Beyond Epidemiology*. Blackwell Publishing.

Tony Barnett, Alan Whiteside. 2003. *AIDS in the Twenty-First Century: Disease and Globalization*. Palgrave Macmillan.

**Videos (Watched in-class)**

- And the Band Played On (based on book by Randy Shilts)
- Death by Denial, 60 Minutes
- A State of Denial
- Women with Open Eyes
- Sangoma: Traditional Healers

**Course Schedule**

Date	Reading	In-Class
1-Thursday September 1 <sup>st</sup> <u>Introduction</u>		Discussion of media articles on Africa
<b>Week #2</b>		
2-Tuesday September 6 <sup>th</sup> <u>Beyond Epidemiology</u> Understanding HIV in Africa beyond the numbers and headlines	"Introduction: Beyond Epidemiology: Locating AIDS in Africa." By Susan Craddock. <i>In</i> HIV/AIDS in Africa edited by Kalipeni, Craddock, Oppong, and Ghosh. (herein, HAIA)  George Bond, John Kreniske, and Ida Susser. 1997. "Preface" (pgs ix-xiii) and Chapter 1: "The Anthropology of AIDS in Africa and the Caribbean" (pgs 3-9)	Lecture & discussion
3- Thursday September 8 <sup>th</sup> <u>Western Representations of AIDS in Africa</u> How is Africa and HIV in Africa represented in U.S. media? What are some assumptions?	"Perceptions and Misperceptions of AIDS in Africa," By Joseph Oppong and Ezekiel Kalipeni. <i>In</i> HAIA  Sharon LaFraniere. "AIDS now compels Africa to challenge widows' cleansing" in the <i>New York Times</i> . May 11, 2005	Lecture & discussion. Analyze the NYTimes article using the framework in the Oppong and Kalipeni article.
<b>Week #3</b>		

<p>4-Tuesday September 13<sup>th</sup></p> <p><u>Global Emergence of HIV/AIDS</u>                  Early 1980s the history and politics of the identification of HIV in the U.S. and East Africa</p>	<p>Garrett, Laurie. 1994. "Hatari: Vinidogodogo (Danger: A Very Little Thing): The Origins of AIDS." In <i>The Coming Plague: Newly Emerging Diseases in a World Out of Balance</i>. NY: Penguin Books. pp 281-389. (Skim 281-334; <b>Read 334-389</b>)</p> <p>Articles from <i>MMWR</i>, <i>New York Times</i>, and gay journalists</p>	<p>HBO movie, <i>And the Band Played On</i> (ABPO), based on Randy Shilts' book</p>
<p>5- Thursday September 15<sup>th</sup></p> <p><u>Global Emergence of HIV/AIDS (continued)</u></p>	<p>Finish Garrett's "Hatari"</p>	<p>Finish ABPO movie</p>
<p><b>Week #4</b></p>		
<p>6-Tuesday September 20<sup>th</sup></p> <p><u>East Africa: A Regional Overview</u>                  Urbanization, migration, instability, mobility, violence, and initial political and public responses to HIV.</p>	<p>Mapping The AIDS Pandemic In Eastern And Southern Africa: A Critical Overview. Ezekiel Kalipeni, Susan Craddock, And Jayati Ghosh</p> <p>Urbanization, Poverty, and Sex: Roots of Risky Behaviors in Slum Settlements in Nairobi, Kenya. By Eliya Msiyaphazi Zulu, Alex Chika Ezeh, Nii-Amoo Doodoo. In <i>HAIA</i></p>	<p>Discussion &amp; lecture</p>
<p>7-Thursday September 22<sup>nd</sup></p> <p><u>West Africa: A Regional Overview</u>                  Economic restructuring, political instability</p>	<p>HIV/AIDS In West Africa: The Case Of Senegal, Ghana And Nigeria Joseph R. Opong And Samuel Agyei-Mensah. In <i>HAIA</i></p>	<p>Lecture &amp; discussion</p>
<p><b>Week #5</b></p>		
<p>8-Tuesday September 27<sup>th</sup></p> <p><u>Political Economy &amp; History</u>                  Poverty, colonial legacy, trade, and global racism and stereotypes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Medicine and Morality: A Review of Responses to STDs in Uganda in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. By Maryinez Lyons. In <i>Histories of STDs and HIV in Sub-Saharan Africa</i>. Edited by Setel, Lewis, and Lyons. 1999.</li> <li>• Politics, Culture, and Medicine: An Unholy Trinity? Historical Continuities and Rupture in the HIV/AIDS Story in Malawi. John</li> </ul>	<p>Lecture &amp; discussion</p>

	Lloyd Lwanda. In <i>HAIA</i>	
9-Thursdays September 29 <sup>th</sup> <u>Apartheid Legacy and HIV</u> Perspectives on political and economic histories and HIV in South Africa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Van der Vliet, Virginia. 1994. "Apartheid and the Politics of AIDS." In <i>Global AIDS Policy</i>. Edited by Douglas A. Feldman. Westport: Bergin &amp; Garvey. pp. 107-128.</li> <li>• Karen Jochelson. 1999. "Sexually Transmitted Diseases in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century in South Africa." In <i>Histories of Sexually Transmitted Diseases and HIV/AIDS in Sub-Saharan Africa</i>, edited by Setel, Lewis &amp; Lyons. Westport: Greenwood.</li> </ul>	Video, "Death by Denial"
<b>Week #6</b>		
10-Tuesday October 4 <sup>th</sup> <u>Women at Risk: Commercial Sex Work</u> Introduction to ethnography, research methods, and sex workers in Senegal	Michelle Lewis Renaud. 1997. <i>Women at the Crossroads: A Prostitute Community's Response to AIDS in Urban Senegal</i> . <b>Read:</b> Preface, Intro, Chp 1-4. (pages xi-89)	Discussion: What is ethnography?  Begin campus research activity for World AIDS Week Campaign
11-Thursdays October 6 <sup>th</sup> <u>Women at Risk (continued)</u> Social networks, interaction with health clinic, religion, and family	(Finish) <i>Women at the Crossroads</i>	Lecture & discussion.
<b>Week #7</b>		
12-Tuesday October 11 <sup>th</sup> <u>Why Research Matters</u> Sex workers, empowerment, psychology of change and denial. Is Uganda a success story? Education, prevention, and levels of intervention.	Catherine Campbell. 2003. <i>Letting Them Die: Why HIV/AIDS Prevention Programs Fail</i> . Indiana University Press. <b>Read:</b> Intro, Chapters 1, 2, 4, and 6	Lecture & discussion
13-Thursdays October 13 <sup>th</sup> <u>Does Prevention Work?</u> Comparing prevention for sex workers and youth.	Catherine Campbell. 2003. <i>Letting Them Die: Why HIV/AIDS Prevention Programs Fail</i> . Indiana University Press. <b>Read:</b> Chapters 7 & conclusion.	Lecture & discussion.  Student reports on preliminary campus research findings
<b>Week #8</b>		
21-Thursdays October 18 <sup>th</sup> <u>Social Effects</u> Orphans, workforce, families, and gender	Excerpt from: We miss you all. By Noerine Kaleeba. In <i>HAIA</i>  A Mother to her brothers: a child-headed household's story, South Africa. By Emma Guest.	"Everyone's Child"

	In <i>HAIA</i>	
15-Thursday October 20 <sup>th</sup> <u>Economic Effects</u> Living with HIV, impact on economic growth	Excerpts: <i>Positive Women: Voices of Women Living with AIDS</i> . Rudd & Taylor (eds). 2 <sup>nd</sup> story.  Economic Growth in sub-Saharan Africa: The potential impact of HIV/AIDS. By Lynn Brown. In <i>HAIA</i> .	
<b>Week #9</b>		
20-Tuesday October 25 <sup>th</sup> <u>Health and Healing</u> What about local systems of healing?	Matthew Steinglass. 2001. "It Takes a Village Healer." <i>In Lingua Franca</i> , 11(3)	Video, "Sangoma"
21-Thurs October 27 <sup>th</sup> <u>Ethics &amp; Research</u> How should Western research ethics apply to research in poorer regions? Case studies from Uganda, Nigeria, the U.S., and Asia. The muse of clinical trials.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rothman, David. Nov 30, 2000. "The Shame of Medical Research." In <i>NY Times Book Review</i>.</li> <li>Killen, Grady, Folkers, and Fauci. March 2002. "The Ethics of Clinical Research in the Developing World." In <i>Nature Reviews Immunology</i> 2: 210 - 215.</li> </ul>	
<b>Week #10</b>		
22-Tuesday November 1 <sup>st</sup> <u>Access to Care &amp; Human Rights</u> Patents, profits & profiteering. Strategies & obstacles to drugs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Donald McNeil. Jan 26, 2005. "A Path to Cheaper AIDS Drugs for Poor Nations." <i>New York Times</i>.</li> <li>TBA</li> </ul>	Video, "A State of Denial"
19-Thursday November 3 <sup>rd</sup> <u>Solutions and Obstacles</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Socioeconomic obstacles to HIV prevention and treatment in developing countries. By Peter Lurie, Percy Hintzen, and Robert Lowe. In <i>HAIA</i>.</li> <li>TBA</li> </ul>	Lecture & Discussion
<b>Week #11</b>		
20-Tuesday November 8 <sup>th</sup> <u>Ethnographic Study (Kenya)</u> Women and HIV, local response	Karen Booth. 2004. <i>Local Women, Global Science</i> . Indiana Press. Chapters 1-3	Discuss Final Assignment. Video (optional)
21-Thursday November 10 <sup>th</sup> <u>Ethnographic Study (Kenya)</u>	<i>Local Women, Global Science</i> . Chapters 4-5	Discussion.

<b>Week #12</b>		
22-Tuesday November 15 <sup>th</sup> <u>Ethnographic Study (Kenya)</u>	<i>Local Women, Global Science.</i> Chapter 6.	Reports on final project
23-Thursday November 17 <sup>th</sup> <u>World AIDS Day Planning</u>	Reading: World AIDS Day website.	Plan for World AIDS Week
<b>Week #13</b>		
24-Tuesday November 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Discuss on Plans for World AIDS Week.  Reports on final project (optional)	
25-Thursday November 24 <sup>th</sup>	Thanksgiving	
<b>Week #14</b>		
25-November 29 <sup>th</sup>	Plan for World AIDS Week	
Wed November 30 <sup>th</sup> to Fri December 2 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>World AIDS Week Campus Campaign</b>	
<b>Week #15</b>		
26-Tuesday December 6 <sup>th</sup>	Process AIDS Week campaign.  Reports on Final Paper	
27-Thursday December 8 <sup>th</sup>	Wrap-up!	

**Final Paper Due: Friday December 9<sup>th</sup> by 5:00pm  
 in the AFAS Office, McMillan 226**