

First Short Essay Assignment
PSCI 0321 Anglophone vs. Francophone Africa
Middlebury College—Spring 2017
Professor Nadia Horning
March 7, 2017

Instructions:

Your essay is due by March 14, 2017 on Middfiles. Please submit your essay in your **individual RETURN folder**.

It should not exceed **1,250 words (excluding cover page and bibliography)**, using the following format:

- A **cover page** with title, your name, the course number, the Professor's name and the date. Please write and sign the Honor Pledge on this cover page.
DO NOT PRINT ANYTHING ON THE BACK OF THIS SHEET
- Your **essay** with page numbers and NO headers or footers containing your name (for name-blind grading).
- Your **bibliography**, properly formatted (check your list of required readings and articles/screenings from the syllabus for formatting suggestions. If referring to class discussion, make sure the date is specified).
- Sources from outside the course are not permitted. Instead, make maximum use of the *various* sources with which you have been presented in this class, thus far.
- Please **double-space** your paper.
- Please **report the total number of words** at the end of your essay.

Cautioning You against Common "Traps"

1. Make time for proofreading your work.
2. Back up your drafts and final essay somewhere safe to make sure nothing gets lost.
3. Check your spelling and grammar before sending the final version of your essay.
4. **Plagiarism** is a serious offense at Middlebury College. Make sure you avoid this "trap." If you have questions about what may constitute plagiarism on any of your written assignments, speak to the Professor or consult the *Middlebury Handbook*.
5. You have one week to produce your essay. Please plan accordingly. **Late work will be penalized.** Without a Dean's excuse, no extension will be granted. Please DO NOT ASK.

Grading Criteria

This paper will be graded principally on the following criteria: (a) clarity of thesis (make sure that you state your thesis/main argument in the Introduction); (b) consistency of argumentation; (c) use of well-selected evidence to back up your claims; (d) a demonstration that you have considered alternatives to your own argument; and (e) style (grammar, spelling, eloquence).

A-range papers are those papers that are simply excellent. They indicate mastery of the subject and are exceptionally well written. As such, they are not common.

B-range work indicates a good comprehension of the course material, good writing style, and good understanding of the question addressed. That is, B papers are good papers.

C-range papers demonstrate adequate comprehension of the course material but fail to convey the student's understanding of the question asked, including the criteria specified above. With reasonable work and effort, C papers have the potential to turn into B-quality papers.

D papers indicate minimal command of the course materials, minimal comprehension of the question asked, multiple grammatical errors and, generally, sloppy work. D papers are unsatisfactory.

F papers fail to address the question altogether or are simply unacceptably late.

Essay Questions

Question 1: Consider the British, French, and Belgian strategies of colonizing African territories. Based on what you have learned, how valid do you think the "Anglophone vs. Francophone Africa" classification is? In answering this question, be sure to substantiate your claims with *clear* and *specific* evidence drawn from the course's materials (no additional sources permitted)

Question 2: Achieving independence from the British and the French was an extraordinarily difficult task. Based on what you have learned about the experiences of Madagascar, Algeria, and Kenya, do you find this statement to be accurate? Upon reflecting on this specific question, do you find the "Anglophone vs. Francophone Africa" classification useful? Please explain your position.