

Second Short Essay Assignment
PSCI 0321 Anglophone vs. Francophone Africa
Middlebury College—Spring 2017
Professor Nadia Horning
April 10, 2017

Instructions:

Your essay is due by April 17, 2017 on Middfiles. Please submit your essay in your **individual RETURN folder**. The manual assignment is due by April 20, 2017 in my RAJ mailbox (hanging on my office door).

The essay 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.

The manual should not exceed 10 pages (including illustrations, if chosen), and each page must contain no more than 200 words.

Cautioning You against Common "Traps"

1. Make time for proofreading your work.
2. Back up your drafts and final work 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

(Essay option)

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.

(Manual option)

A-range manuals are simply excellent and place candidates on the short-list due to their exceptional quality. They indicate mastery of the subject, careful choice of sources, and they are exceptionally well written.

B-range work indicates a good comprehension of the course material, good writing style, and good understanding of the question addressed. That is, B manuals are good but not enough to place candidates on the short list.

C-range manuals demonstrate adequate comprehension of the course material but fail to convey the student's understanding of the task at hand. With reasonable work and effort, C work has the potential to turn into B-quality work.

D manuals indicate minimal command of the course materials, minimal coverage of the elements required, multiple grammatical errors and, generally, sloppy work. D work is unsatisfactory.

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

Questions

Question 1 (individual assignment only): Firmin-Sellers (2000) and MacLean (2002) write about specific aspects of colonial legacy. Please compare their analyses, paying attention to the following elements: (1) the puzzle; (2) the central question; (3) the hypothesis/es; (4) the methods; and (5) conclusions. Which of the two arguments do you find more compelling? Please explain why (no sources outside the course permitted).

Question 2 (pair assignment): You are applying for a position at the Free Africa Institute (fake name!), a Panafrican think tank whose mission is to decolonize African political systems. Part of the application process entails producing a short manual called *Colonization for Dummies*. The manual must cover the following aspects of colonization: motivation (3 pages), means (3 pages), and impact (4 pages). Typically, candidates who make the short list compare across the Anglophone and Francophone blocs. *Illustrations are optional* (no sources outside the course permitted).