

**Additional Contact Details:** [adebayod@yorku.ca](mailto:adebayod@yorku.ca) | Office: 416 736 2100 (ext. 66969)

**Expanded Course Description (expanded from course calendar description):**

This course examines the influence of indigenous and adopted technologies on Africa’s social and economic development since the earliest times. Drawing from documentaries, films, podcasts, news media, and secondary sources across disciplines (especially Archaeology, and Science & Technology Studies), our class discussions will revolve around two questions: What are Africa’s contributions to global science and technology? What are the socioeconomic and political contexts within which Western technologies were introduced and their impact on African societies?

The course will begin with a discussion on the definitions of technology, invention, and innovation, and how these concepts may be (in)applicable in Africa. Other themes to be discussed include the development of technical knowledge and skills; environmental and socioeconomic factors affecting the choice of techniques by the various regions of Africa; gender and class (who could access what technology and why?); technologies of warfare and political authority; production and manufacturing; imported technologies and the invention of new traditions; technologies as “tools of empire” (imperialism and colonialism); modernity and conspicuous consumption; indigenous technologies and patents; technology and globalization.

**Additional Requirements:**

None.

**Required Course Text/Readings: \*TENTATIVE\***

Headrick, Daniel R. *The Tools of Empire: Technology and European Imperialism in the Nineteenth Century*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1981.

Mavhunga, Clapperton Chakanetsa. *What Do Science, Technology, and Innovation Mean from Africa?* Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2017.

Tilley, Helen. *Africa as a Living Laboratory: Empire, Development, and the Problem of Scientific Knowledge, 1870-1950*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2011.

**Weighting of Course: \*TENTATIVE Grade Breakdown\***

Individual Presentation:	25%
Class Participation:	20%
Fall Term Quiz:	10%
Book Review:	15%
Research Paper:	30%

**Organization of the Course:**

The course will meet in person. Topics would be taught via lectures, seminar-style discussions, and student presentations.