

HISTORY OF AFRICA to 1500
Fall - 1990

Tues/Thurs. 8:00-9:15
1221 Humanities

Professor K. Green
Office: 5118 Humanities
Phone: 263-1821
263-1800

Office hours: T 10:00-12:00
Th 1:00-2:00
and by appointment

4 CREDIT or 3 CREDIT?

If you take the course for 4 credits you will write a 10-15 page term paper due November 29-NO EXCEPTIONS. The topic of the paper must be approved by the instructor. If you elect this option your topic must be set by September 27 and you will not be required to take the mid-term exam.

This course deals with the main themes of African history up to c. 1500. It is a vast and varied continent. We will only be able to hit some of the high points. There is still much work to be done on this early period of African history so that some areas are better understood than others. Some of the major topics covered in the course are: an introduction to African peoples, social systems, and geography; African prehistory; early population movements into North Africa; the influence of Islam and Christianity on various areas of the continent; trans-Saharan and Indian Ocean trading systems; the Ghana and Mali empires of West Africa; Bantu migrations; Swahili city-states; Southern African population movements.

Required texts

G. Mokhtar, editor. UNESCO General History of Africa, Vol. II-Ancient Civilizations of Africa. Abridged Edition. U.C. Press, 1990.

M. El Fasi, editor. UNESCO General History of Africa, Vol. III-Africa from the Seventh to the Eleventh Century. U.C. Press, 1988

D. T. Niane, editor. General History of Africa, Vol. IV-Africa from the Twelfth to the Sixteenth Century. U.C. Press, 1984.

Graham Connah. African civilizations. Cambridge University Press, 1987.

D. T. Niane. Sundiata: An Epic of Old Mali. Longman Drumbeat edition, 1979. Any edition of this work is acceptable.

Outline maps of Africa

Recommended: J. D. Fage. An Atlas of African History. Second Edition. New York: Africana Publishing Co., 1978.

Course requirements

Map quiz, September 20: 50 points

Mid-term Exam (for 3-credit students)-Essays and identifications:
October 18: 200 points (Term paper=200 points)

Objective Quiz (identifications, multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank on
Islam and North African Islamic period) November 1: 100 points

Final Map Quiz, December 6: 75 points

Final Exam, Tuesday, December 18, 7:45-9:45 am: 250 points

Attendance at two African Studies Center movies or lectures, or films
on Africa shown on Public T.V., typing up a two-page description and
discussion of each: 50 points each = 100 points

Map work: You are to study the following list, locating the ethnic
groups, place names, and geographical features. Use your
text book maps as well as the Atlas recommended above. A
copy is also placed on reserve for this class. For the
map quiz on September 20 I will select 25 terms. You will
place the corresponding number for each of the terms on a
blank map purchased at the bookstore. It is suggested
that you purchase an extra map to use as a study sheet.
For the final map quiz on December 6 I will choose terms
from the following list and include other map terms taken
from lectures. A study list will be distributed one week
before the quiz.

Senegal River	Tripoli	Nubia
Niger River	Fezzan	Kanem
Volta River	Napata	Meroe
Gambia River	Cairo	Pemba
Nile River	Begho	Bambuk
Blue Nile	Boure	Kru ethnic group
White Nile	Mogadishu	Asante ethnic group
Lake Tana	Gao	Carthage
Futa Jalon	Timbuktu	Grain Coast
Futa Toro	Taghaza	Mossi ethnic group
Lake Chad	Wolof ethnic group	Hausa ethnic group
Lake Victoria	Mombasa	Thebes
Lake Tanganyika	Zanzibar	Zambezi River
Cape of Good Hope	Alexandria	Orange River
Red Sea	Elmina	Gold Coast
Kilwa	Drakensberg Mountains	Cirta/Constantine
Memphis	Lower Egypt	Upper Egypt
Qayrawan	Mapungubwe	Buganda
Bunyoro	Luba	Mbanza Kongo
Axum	Massawa	Lalibela

Lecture assignments:

The African Studies Center at the University of Wisconsin offers weekly lectures Wednesdays at noon and occasional films on Africa. Numerous other lectures are also offered through the year as scholars pass through the area. Some African subject video tapes are available for viewing on site in the Learning Support Services Lab, Room 274 Van Hise Hall. The room is open M-Th, 8:30 a.m.-8:30 p.m. and F 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. There are also films shown on Africa on public t.v. from time to time. To encourage you to become acquainted with these offerings I am asking you to attend two during the semester, writing up a two-page report on each. As lectures and films come to my attention I will try to announce them in class, but keep your eyes open. I will not accept wildlife films on Africa to fulfill this assignment. With very few exceptions, feature films are not appropriate for this assignment. If you're unsure of the appropriateness of a lecture or film for this assignment, ask me before you write it up.

NOTE: You are not assured full credit on this assignment. Your papers must be neat, thoughtful, and grammatically correct.

Readings: Readings below are an integral part of the course. The articles by Posnansky, Solanke, and Munson are available in xerox form from Kinko's Copies at 620 University Avenue. They are also available on Reserve in the College Library (Helen C. White).

GRADING

There are 750 points possible total credit for the course.

To receive an A you must have	697 points
A/B	652 points
B	622 points
B/C	577 points
C	520 points
D	450 points
F	below 450 points

Lecture Topics & Reading Assignments

WEEK I September 4 - Introduction to the Course
September 6 - Geography of Africa with slides

READING: Merrick Posnansky, "Anatomy of a Continent," in The Africans: A Reader, edited by Ali A. Mazrui (New York: Praeger, 1986), pp. 31-47.

WEEK II September 11 - Peoples of Africa and Social Systems
September 13 - Sources for African History; Prehistory

READINGS: Jolayemi Solanke, "Traditional social and political institutions," in African History and Culture, edited by Richard

Olaniyan (Lagos: Longman Nigeria, 1982), pp. 27-37.
 Patrick J. Munson, "Africa's Prehistoric Past," in
Africa, edited by Phyllis M. Martin & Patrick O'Meara (2nd edition)
 (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1986), pp. 43-63.
UNESCO History of Africa-Vol. II, Chapter 21, pp.
 296-305.

WEEK III September 18 - African prehistory/Bantu expansion
 September 20 - Discussion and slides; MAP QUIZ-50 points

READINGS: UNESCO History of Africa-Vol. II, Chapters 23 and
 24, pp. 313-38
UNESCO History of Africa-Vol. III, Chapter 6, pp.
 140-62, Chapter 28, pp. 750-93 (to be reviewed for several following
 lectures)

WEEK IV September 25 - Ancient and Pharaonic Egypt
 September 27 - Egypt cont. with slides (TERM PAPER TOPICS DUE
 TODAY FOR 4-CREDIT STUDENTS)

READINGS: UNESCO History of Africa-Vol. II, Intro. and
 Chapters 1-5, pp. 1-118.

WEEK V October 2 - North Africa-Berbers, Phoenicians/Carthage
 October 4 - North Africa-Greeks and Romans

READINGS: UNESCO History of Africa-Vol. II, Chapters 6-7, pp.
 119-40; Chapters 17-18, pp. 236-60; Chapter 19, pp. 261-80.

WEEK VI October 9 - North Africa-Vandals and Byzantines; pre-Christian
 Ethiopia and Nubia
 October 11 - Christian Ethiopia and Nubia

READINGS: UNESCO History of Africa-Vol. II, Chapter 19, pp.
 280-85; Chapters 8-16, pp. 141-235.
UNESCO History of Africa-Vol. III, Chapter 20, pp.
 575-85.
UNESCO History of Africa-Vol. IV, Chapters 16 and
 17, pp. 398-454.
 Connah, African Civilizations, Chapters 3-4, pp. 24-
 96

WEEK VII October 16 - Cont. of Oct. 11 topic and slides
 October 18 - MID-TERM EXAM, 200 points

READINGS: Finish readings from Week VI.

WEEK VIII October 23 - Islam
 October 25 - Arab conquest of North Africa, Fatimids,
 Mamluks

WEEK VIII (cont.) READINGS: UNESCO History of Africa-Vol. III,

Chapters 2-4, pp. 31-118; Chapter 7, pp. 163-93, Chapter 12, pp. 314-35.

UNESCO History of Africa-Vol. IV, Chapter 15, pp. 371-97.

WEEK IX Oct. 30 cont. of October 25; oasis settlements and the trans-Saharan trade

Nov. 1 - QUIZ, 100 points

READINGS: UNESCO History of Africa-Vol. II, Chapter 20, pp. 286-95.

UNESCO General History of Africa-Vol. III, Chapter 11, pp. 276-313.

WEEK X November 6 - slides and discussion

November 8 - Ghana and Mali empires, and early Songhay

READINGS: UNESCO General History of Africa-Vol. III, Chapter 5, pp. 119-39; Chapter 14, pp. 367-435.

UNESCO General History of Africa-Vol. IV, Chapters 6-8, pp. 117-210.

Connah, African civilizations, Chapter 5, pp. 97--120.

Niane, Sundiata: An Epic of Old Mali.

WEEK XI November 13 - Mande diaspora

November 15 - Fulbe, Hausa, and Yoruba

READINGS: UNESCO General History of Africa-Vol. III, Chapter 17, pp. 506-13

UNESCO General History of Africa-Vol. IV, Chapter 11, pp. 266-300; Chapter 14, pp. 346-69; Review Chapters 6 & 7.

Connah, African civilizations, Chapter 6, pp. 121-49.

WEEK XII November 20 - Review, discussion of Sundiata epic, slides

There will be a question on the final exam on the epic.

WEEK XIII November 27 - Indian Ocean trade and Swahili Society

November 29 - Great Lakes kingdoms (TERM PAPERS DUE TODAY FOR 4-CREDIT STUDENTS)

READINGS: UNESCO General History of Africa-Vol. II, Chapter 22, pp. 306-12.

UNESCO General History of Africa-Vol. III, Chapter 21, pp. 586-615

UNESCO General History of Africa-Vol. IV, Chapters 18, pp. 455-80 and 20, pp. 498-524.

Connah, African civilizations, Chapter 7, pp. 150-82.

WEEK XIV December 4 - Central African societies: savanna and rainforest

December 6 - Zimbabwe and Botswana; MAP QUIZ, 75 points

READINGS: UNESCO General History of Africa-Vol. III, Chapter 23-24, pp. 643-680.

UNESCO General History of Africa-Vol. IV, Chapters 21-22, pp. 525-77.
Connah, African civilizations, Chapter 8, pp. 183-213.

WEEK XV December 11 - Southern African populations - Bantu and Khoisan exchange

December 13 - Review

READINGS: UNESCO General History of Africa-Vol. II, Chapters 26-27, pp. 351-72

UNESCO General History of Africa-Vol. IV, Chapter 23, pp. 578-96.

FINAL EXAM, Tuesday, December 18, 7:45-9:45am: 250 points