

HISTORY OF WEST AFRICA
HIS 443
Fall - 1991

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

Office hours: Tues. 10-11
Thurs. 2-3
and by appointment

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4 CREDITS or 3 CREDITS?

If you take the course for 4 credits you will write a 10-15 page term paper due December 5 - NO EXCEPTIONS. Any paper received after the due date will be significantly penalized in grade. The topic of the paper must be approved by the instructor. If you elect this option your topic must be set by October 3. On that day you will hand in a typed sheet with your paper topic and a one paragraph discussion of what you hope to do. Graduate students will submit a 20-25 page term paper of expected higher quality.

This course deals with the history of West Africa from the first millennium to the period of political independence in the 1960s. Some of the major topics covered in the course are: an introduction to West African peoples, social systems, and geography; archaeology and its findings; the influence of Islam; trans-Saharan and Atlantic trading systems; West African empires and the effects of these empires on the peoples outside of those polities; the West European impact on Africa prior to political partition; the Atlantic slave trade and its abolition; West African Islamic jihads; political partition by European powers; the colonial period; African organization toward independence; problems facing West Africa today.

Required texts

Adu Boahen with Jacob Ajayi and Michael Tidy. Topics in West African History. Second Edition. Longman, 1986.

J. B. Webster and Boahen with Michael Tidy. The Revolutionary Years. West Africa since 1800. New Edition. Longman, 1980.

Paul Edwards, editor. Equiano's Travels. Heinemann, 1967.

Sembene Ousmane. God's Bits of Wood. Heinemann, 1986. (Any edition of this work is acceptable.)

Outline map of Northern Africa.

On reserve: J. D. Fage. An Atlas of African History, 1978 edition. (G2446 S1 F3)

Course requirements: 1. Map Quiz, September 24: 50 points

2. 5-7 page typed paper on the effects of the environment on West African peoples and their history - due October 17: 100 points.

3. 5-7 page typed paper on the effects of and resistance to colonialism in French territories using God's Bits of Wood to illustrate some of your points - due December 3: 150 points.

4. Final Map Quiz, December 5: 75 points

5. Take-home final (two comprehensive essay questions), distributed December 12 - due December 21 by 9:00 a.m.: 200 points

6. In-class final (identifications and short answer only) 100 points

Total points for 3-credit students: 675

To receive a grade of A you must receive 628 total points

"	A/B	"	587 total points
"	B	"	560 total points
"	B/C	"	520 total points
"	C	"	472 total points
"	D	"	405 total points

Below 405 points receives a grade of F

Total points for 4-credit students: 875

To receive a grade of A you must receive 814 total points

"	A/B	"	761 total points
"	B	"	726 total points
"	B/C	"	674 total points
"	C	"	613 total points
"	D	"	525 total points

Below 525 points receives a grade of F

Map work: You are to study the following list, locating the ethnic groups, place names, and geographical features. Use the Atlas placed on reserve. For the map quiz on September 24 I will select 25 terms. You will place the corresponding number for each of the terms on a blank map purchased at the bookstore. The outline maps can be purchased in the supplies section of the bookstore at a kiosk located in the center of the store. It is suggested that you purchase an extra map to use as a study sheet. For the final map quiz on December 5 a second list will be passed out one to two weeks before for you to study. It will incorporate the following list and include other map terms taken from lectures.

Senegal River	Futa Jalon	Modern Countries
Niger River	Awdaghust	Mauritania
Volta River	Niani	Senegal
Gambia River	Begho	Gambia
Benue River	Bobo Dioulasso	Guinea-Bissau
Cross River	Wolof ethnic group	Guinea-Conakry
Bandama River	Bamana ethnic group	Sierra Leone
Bani River	Hausa ethnic group	Liberia
		Côte d'Ivoire

Sahara	Akan language group	Mali
Gulf of Guinea	Yoruba ethnic group	Burkina Faso
Cape Verde Islands	Ibo ethnic group	Ghana
Bambuk goldfields	Elmina	Togo
Boure goldfields	Benin (ancient kingdom)	Benin
Jenne	Segu	Niger
Timbuktu	Kong	Nigeria
Kano	Gao	
Katsina		

Paper assignments: The two paper assignments and the final exam are to be typed, double-spaced, proof-read, with 1" margins. You must fit your paper within the page length specified and must write at least as much as indicated by the page length specified. No exceptions. Those papers which are too long or too short will have points deducted automatically. These are not arbitrary page lengths, but fit the questions asked at the level of this class. You are to write the papers using class materials--lectures, novels, readings. No outside research is required for either of the papers or the exam. Think about the material and organize your essays.

Readings: Readings below are an integral part of the course. Readings not found in the required texts listed above are on reserve in the College Library Reserve reading room. The recent copyright decision by the Supreme Court has made it difficult to issue course packets through Kinko's. If you desire xerox copies of these materials you will have to make them yourselves. You might try to do this in the first two weeks of the course when class will not be meeting.

Lecture Topics & Reading Assignments

I. September 3 and 4

Introduction to the course. Environment and peoples of West Africa.

1. Selection from Chinua Achebe, Things Fall Apart in The Africans: A Reader, pp. 53-56. (DT14 A3745 1986)

2. Akin Mabogunje and Paul Richards, "Land people--models of spatial and ecological processes in West African history," pp. 5-47 in History of West Africa, vol. 1, edited by Ajayi and Crowder. Third edition only. (DT475 A77 1985)

3. Robin Horton, "Stateless societies in the history of West Africa," pp. 87-128 in History of West Africa, vol. 1. Third Edition. (The chapter is unchanged from the First and Second Editions.)

II. September 10

The Religion of Islam

Topics in West African History, pp. 11-16.

Mervyn Hiskett, The Development of Islam in West Africa, Chapter thirteen, pp. 202-26. (BP64 A4 W353 1984)

September 12

Trans-saharan trade

Topics in West African History, pp. 1-10

1. Ralph Austen, African Economic History, Chapter 2. Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann, 1987. (TC800 A97 1987)
2. General History of Africa, Vol. III, Chapter 11, "The role of the Sahara ...", pp. 276-31. (DT20 G15)

III. September 17 and 19
Ancient Ghana and Mali

Topics in West African History, pp. 17-31

1. Said Hamdun and Noel King, Ibn Battuta in Black Africa, pp. 1-11, 22-62, 68-81. Pages 68-81 are the notes for pages 22-62. They are important, so read them as you go along. (DT351 I3513)
2. Nehemia Levtzion, Ancient Ghana and Mali, chapters XII-XV (pp. 124-82). (DT532.15 L48 1973)

IV. September 24 and 26

Early peoples of Senegambia, Benin, Sierra Leone and Hausaland. Map Quiz, September 24.

Topics in West African History, pp. 74-82, 95-101

1. Murray Last, "The early kingdoms of the Nigerian savanna," pp. 167-224 in History of West Africa, Vol. 1. Edited by Ajayi and Crowder. Third Edition only. (DT475 A77 1985)
2. Jean Boulegue and Jean Suret-Canale, "The western Atlantic coast," pp. 503-530 in History of West Africa, Vol. 1. Edited by Ajayi and Crowder. Third Edition only. (DT475 A77 1985)

V. October 1 and 3

Mande diaspora. Songhay.

Topics in West African History pp. 33-43.

1. Harold Courlander, The Heart of the Ngoni, pp. 1-43. (GR350.32 B3 H47)
2. David Dalby, "Distribution and Nomenclature of the Manding People and their Language," pp. 1-13 in Papers on the Manding. (DT474.5 P36)
3. Nehemia Levtzion, "Malinke Expansion and Political Fragmentation," pp. 94-102 in Ancient Ghana and Mali. (DT532.15 L48 1973)

VI. October 8 and 10

European arrival and impact on forest and coastal states.

Topics in West African History, pp. 54-top of 60; 88-94; and 102-106.

1. John Vogt, Portuguese Rule on the Gold Coast 1469-1682, chapters 1 and 2 (pp. 1-58). (DP511 V6.)

VII. October 15 and 17

Atlantic slave trade and its effects. First paper due October 17.

Topics in West African History, pp. 107-110.

Equiano's Travels, edited by Paul Edwards.

1. Eric R. Wolf, "The Slave Trade," pp. 195-220 in Europe and the People Without History. (D208 W64)

VIII. October 22

Islamic society in Sudanic West Africa

1. Jack Goody, "Restricted Literacy in Northern Ghana," pp. 99-241 in Literacy in Traditional Societies. (LC149 G6)

2. Kathryn L. Green, "Dyula and Sonongui Roles in the Islamization of the Region of Kong," pp. 97-117 in Rural and Urban Islam in West Africa, edited by Nehemia Levtzion and Humphrey J. Fisher, 1987. (BP64 A4 W366) (Also available in Asian and African Studies 20, 1 (1986):103-24.)

3. Mervyn Hiskett, The Development of Islam in West Africa, Chapter three, pp. 44-58. (BP64 A4 W353 1984)

October 24

Euroafrican society in Coastal West Africa.

1. George Brooks, "The Signares of Saint-Louis and Gorée: Women Entrepreneurs in Eighteenth-Century Senegal." In Women in Africa: Studies in Social and Economic Change, ed. N. J. Hafkin and E. C. Bay. Stanford, 1976, pp. 19-44. (HQ1788 W58)

2. F. Mahoney, "Notes on Mulattoes of the Cambia Before the Mid-Nineteenth Century," Transactions of the Historical Society of Ghana 8 (1965):120-29. (AP H6766 G311)

IX. October 29

Fulbe people of West Africa and early jihads.

1. Mervyn Hiskett, The Development of Islam in West Africa, Chapter eight, pp. 138-47. (BP64 A4 W353 1984)

October 31 - Mid-term Exam.

X. November 5 and 7.

Western Sudan in the 19th century: jihads and slave trade

West Africa since 1800, Webster and Boehen, Chapters 1-5.

1. Murray Last, "Reform in West Africa: the jihads movements of the nineteenth century," pp. 1-47 in History of West Africa, Vol. 2, edited by Ajayi and Crowder. Second Edition.

XI. November 12 and 14

Coastal states in the 19th century. Abolition of the slave trade.

West Africa since 1800, Chapters 6-12.

Topics in West African History, pp. 111-16.

XII. November 19 and 21

European advance; conquest and partition.

Topics in West African History, pp. 117-22.

West Africa since 1800, Chapter 13-16.

Begin reading Sembene Ousmane, God's Bits of Wood. Start with the following article by Suret-Canale for background.

1. J. Suret-Canale, "The French West African Railway Workers' Strike, 1947-48," in African Labor History ed. by Outkind et al., pp. 129-54 (HD8774 A36)

2. Anthony Hopkins, An Economic History of West Africa, chapter 4. (HC517 W5 H66)

3. General History of Africa, Vol. VII, chapter 6. (DT20 G45)

4. E. A. Ayandele, "Traditional Rulers and Missionaries in Pre-colonial West Africa," Tarikh Vol. 3, 1 pp. 23-37.

XIII. November 26

Colonial government.

1. Obaro Ikime, "The Establishment of Indirect Rule in Northern Nigeria," pp. 1-15 in Tarikh vol. 3, no. 3 (1970). (AP T186)

2. A. I. Asiwaju, "Migrations as an Expression of Revolt: the Example of French West Africa up to 1945," pp. 31-43 in Tarikh vol. 5, no. 3 (1977). (AP T186)

3. J. Suret-Canale, "Strike Movements as Part of the Anticolonial Struggle in French West Africa," pp. 44-56 in Tarikh vol. 5, no. 3 (1977). (AP T186)

XIV. December 3 and 5

Colonial economy.

Webster and Boahen, Chapters 17-21.

1. Anthony Hopkins, An Economic History of West Africa, Chapters 5 and 6. (HC517 W5 H66)

XV. December 10 and 12

Independence movements and decolonization. Take-home final distributed December 10

Webster and Boahen, Chapters 22-25.

1. General History of Africa, Vol VII, Chapter 29.

2. General History of Africa, Vol. VII, Chapter 30.