

HISTORY OF WEST AFRICA
HISTORY 443
Fall - 1993

Tues/Thurs. 8:00-9:15
2101 Humanities

Office hours: Thurs. 9:30-11:30
and by appointment

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263-1800

4 CREDITS or 3 CREDITS?

If you take the course for 4 credits you will write a 10-15 page term paper due December 7 - 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 5. 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 with it. Graduate students will submit a 15-20 page term paper of expected higher quality. On November 23 a bibliography for your paper including books and journal articles is due. Individual meetings with the instructor will be arranged to discuss the paper in more detail for those students who elect this option.

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. It is a course that emphasizes writing rather than exam-taking.

Required texts

J. F. Ade Ajayi and Michael Crowder. History of West Africa, Volume One. 3rd edition. Longman, 1985. (DT475 A77 1985)

J. F. Ade Ajayi and Michael Crowder. History of West Africa, Volume Two. 2nd edition. Longman, 1987. (DT 475 A77 1976b)

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

Outline map of Northern Africa--there may be a shortage of this map at the beginning of the semester. Please purchase only one **study map** and one blank map in the first few weeks to make sure that all students have what they need.

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

Course requirements: 1. Map Quiz, September 23: 50 points. No make-ups.

2. 5-7 page (1125 - 1575 words) typed paper on the effects of the environment on West African peoples and their history - due in class October 19: 100 points. (Late papers will be penalized.)

3. 5-7 page (1125 - 1575 words) 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 in class December 2: 150 points. (Late papers will be penalized.)

4. Final Map Quiz, December 2: 75 points.
No make-ups.

5. Take-home Final (two comprehensive essay questions), distributed December 9 - due Friday, December 17 by 12:00 noon: 200 points

Total points for 3-credit students: 575
Total points for 4-credit students: 775

Grade distribution: 93-100% = A
87-92% = AB
82-86% = B
77-81% = BC
70-76% = C
60-69% = D
below 60% = 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 23 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 2 a second study list will be distributed one to two weeks before. It will incorporate the following list and include other map terms taken from lectures. Take care that these terms are placed in the correct contemporary nation on your map.

Senegal River	Futa Jalon	<u>Modern Countries</u>
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
		Sierra Leone

Bandama River	Bamana ethnic group	Liberia
Bani River	Hausa ethnic group	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	Taghaza
Katsina	Taodeni	

Paper assignments: The two paper assignments and the final exam are to be typed, double-spaced, proof-read, with 1" margins. Each page is approximately 225 words. You must fit your paper within the page/word length specified and must write at least as much as indicated by these specifications. 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. Use direct quotes, if any, sparingly.

Attendance: Attendance is required at all lectures and will be taken each day. Poor attendance will be reflected in your final grade.

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.

Lecture Topics & Reading Assignments

I. September 2 and 7

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. Chapters 1, 3 and 16 in History of West Africa, vol. 1, edited by Ajayi and Crowder. Third edition only. (DT475 A77 1985) (Chapter 3 is unchanged from the Second and Third Editions.)

II. September 9

The Religion of Islam

Recommended: H. A. R. Gibb, Mohammedanism. [sic] Oxford, 1962,

1964. (BP50 G5)

III. September 14

The archaeology of West Africa

1. Chapter 2 in History of West Africa, vol. 1, edited by Ajayi and Crowder. Third edition only. (DT475 A77 1985)

IV. September 19 and 21

Trans-saharan trade; Ancient Ghana and Mali

1. Review chapter 16 in History of West Africa, vol. 1, edited by Ajayi and Crowder. Third edition only. (DT475 A77 1985); Chapter 4 and pages 624-627.

2.) 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)

IV. September 23 and 28

Early peoples of Senegambia, Benin, Sierra Leone and Hausaland. Map Quiz, September 23.

1. Chapters 5 and 12 in History of West Africa, Vol. 1. Edited by Ajayi and Crowder. Third Edition only. (DT475 A77 1985)

V. September 30 and October 5

Mande diaspora. Songhay.

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. Review Chapter 4; pages 335-68 (passim) in History of West Africa, Vol. 1. Edited by Ajayi and Crowder. Third Edition only. (DT475 A77 1985)

VI. October 7 and 12

European arrival and impact on forest and coastal states.

1. Review Chapter 12 and pages 627-33, 478-80, 487 (bottom) -488 in History of West Africa, Vol. 1. Edited by Ajayi and Crowder. Third Edition only. (DT475 A77 1985)Pages 627-33

2. 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. G. Bay. Stanford, 1976, pp. 19-44. (HQ1788 W58)

VII. October 14 and 19

Atlantic slave trade and its effects. First paper due October 19.

1. Pages 633-46, 428-429, 433-35, 383-86 in History of West Africa, Vol. 1. Edited by Ajayi and Crowder. Third Edition only. (DT475 A77 1985)

VIII. October 21

Islamic society in Sudanic West Africa: traders, "marabouts" and kings.

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 Humprehy 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)

IX. October 26

Fulbe people of West Africa and early jihads.

1. Pages 520-29 in History of West Africa, Vol. 1. Edited by Ajayi and Crowder. Third Edition only. (DT475 A77 1985)

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

X. October 28, November 2

Western Sudan in the 19th century: jihads; internal slave trade

1. Chapters 1 and 3 in History of West Africa, Vol. 2, edited by Ajayi and Crowder. Second Edition.

XI. November 4 and 9

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

1. Chapters 2, 5, 6, 8 and 10 in History of West Africa, Vol. 2, edited by Ajayi and Crowder. Second Edition.

XII. November 11 and 16.

European advance; conquest and partition.

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

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

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--not in College Library. Look in Memorial Library regular shelving under this call number. Please be courteous and reshelve when finished using so that other students will have access to it for the course.)

4. Chapters 9, 11, and 12 in History of West Africa, Vol. 2, edited by Ajayi and Crowder. Second Edition.
5. Anthony Hopkins, An Economic History of West Africa, chapter 4. (HC517 W5 H66)

XIII. November 18 and 23.
Colonial government.

1. Chapters 13 and 15 in History of West Africa, Vol. 2, edited by Ajayi and Crowder. Second Edition.

XIV. November 30.
Colonial economy.

1. Review pertinent sections of Chapters 13 and 15 in History of West Africa, Vol. 2, edited by Ajayi and Crowder. Second Edition.

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

XV. December 2, 7, and 9
Independence movements and decolonization. Take-home final distributed December 9.

1. Chapters 16-20 in History of West Africa, Vol. 2, edited by Ajayi and Crowder. Second Edition.

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--not in College Library. Look in Memorial Library regular shelving under this call number. Please be courteous and reshelve when finished using so that other students will have access to it for the course.)

XVI. December 14-Discussion on West Africa since political independence

1. Chapter 21 in History of West Africa, Vol. 2, edited by Ajayi and Crowder. Second Edition.