2013

HIST 123-02 African History to 1400

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African History I—African History to 1400
History 123
Xavier University
Christian Strother
Fall 2013

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Course Description: Few regions of the world can match the cultural diversity of the African continent. Yet, Africa is often spoken of as if it is a monolithic entity. The goal of this class is to allow students to engage with African history from five million years ago until the 15th century. I hope that each student leaves the course with a greater understanding of this often misunderstood region of the world.

Books:
Jonathon Reynolds and Erik Gilbert, *Africa in World History*
Sudiata: An Epic of Old Mali
Ross E. Dunn, *The Adventures of Ibn Battutah: A Muslim Traveller of the 14th Century*
Additional readings on Blackboard

Requirements:

Quizzes (10%): There will be a short quiz every Thursday covering the reading and the lectures for that week. Quizzes will focus on key concepts and themes discussed in the reading and during the lectures, so it is essential to do all of the class readings each week (there will be at least one question each week that comes from the readings and is not included in the lecture) and attend the lectures.

Short Essays (15%): You will be responsible for two 5 page papers (Chicago Style and 1.5 spaced). These should be based on the course readings and the two novels during the course. These two papers will be due October 15th and November 12th. Students should e-mail their papers to me at strotherc@xavier.edu and cc to chrstrother@gmail.com no later than 11:59 p.m. on the due date. Rubrics for the essays will be posted on Blackboard along with a style guide for Chicago Style.

Study Guide (10%): You will be expected to turn in weekly study guides after the completion of your weekly quiz. The question will be available for you to use while you take the quizzes so it is essential that try your best to answer each question. These are for your personal aid, so they will be graded only on whether they are completed or not. Study guides can be either submitted via e-mail or handed in at the end of the test and will be accepted as turned in on time as long as they are submitted by 11:59 p.m. on each quiz day.
Group Work (15%): Groups will be assigned at the beginning of the term. Group work will usually be conducted during the last thirty minutes of class every Tuesday. Students will be given individual assignments to be completed before class on Tuesday. These assignments will comprise one half of your group work grade. The second half of your group work grade will be two peer reviews from your other group mates that will be completed week 7 and week 14.

Journal Article 10%: Students are expected to write a 3 page response to a journal article of their choosing on any subject of African history, literature, or culture prior to 1500. The student’s response should summarize the author’s argument, explain what type of sources the author uses, and state whether the article is attempting to take existing research in a new direction or is researching a topic that had previously been ignored. **Students have to use library resources to complete this project.**

Final Project (15%): The final project will consist of a ten minute group presentation based on a chosen area of African culture or history prior to 1500 or a concerning a tradition that started during the period of study for this course. Students are encouraged to use their creativity here and create a presentation using any medium of their choosing. All topics will have to be approved by me by the end of week 12.

Final exam (25%) This cumulative final will be a combination of multiple choice and essay questions.

Extra Credit: Extra credit is available for students wishing to improve their grade. Students are encouraged to take the initiative to seek out cultural events that can further their understanding of African History and Culture. Students will receive a 100 quiz grade if they submit a 1-2 page response to the event that they attended. Students will need approval from me before submission of extra credit to ensure that the event is relevant to this course. Extra Credit will also be given in the form of an optional third essay. This essay will be due the final week of class and will be on one of four topics that will be posted on Blackboard in Week 8.

Attendance Policy: Class participation in an integral part to succeeding in this class. Because of this regular attendance is expected for all students. **Students will be deducted 3 points from their final grade for each absence after their 5th unexcused one.**

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism: Properly citing sources is an essential part in being a historian. Plagiarism and/or failure to properly cite will not be tolerated. If you have any questions on whether you need to cite or not, please feel free to ask me.

The University has a policy on academic honesty as stated on page 26-27 of the 2010-2011 Catalog.

‘The pursuit of truth demands high standards of personal honesty. Academic and professional life requires a trust based upon integrity of the written and spoken word. Accordingly, violations
of certain standards of ethical behavior will not be tolerated at Xavier University. These include theft, cheating, plagiarism, unauthorized assistance in assignments and tests, unauthorized copying of computer software, the falsification of results and material submitted in reports or admission and registration documents, and the falsification of any academic record including letters of recommendation.

All work submitted for academic evaluation must be the student’s own. Certainly, the activities of other scholars will influence all students. However, the direct and unattributed use of another’s efforts is prohibited as is the use of any work untruthfully submitted as one’s own. Penalties for violations of this policy may include one or more of the following: a zero for that assignment or test, an “F” in the course, and expulsion from the University.

Grading:
A    94-100%
A-   91-93%
B+   88-90%
B    84-87%
B-   81-83%
C+   78-80%
C    74-77%
C-   71-73%
D    64-70%
F    63% and below

Course Outline

Part I: Introduction to African History

Week 1: Course Introduction

August 27: Introduction

Assignments: No Readings this Week

August 29: The African Continent: An Overview

Class Activity- Group Quiz

Assignments:

Gilbert and Reynolds, Ch. 1 (4-13)


Week 2: Early Man in Africa
September 3: Early Man in Africa

Class Activity- Class Debate

Assignments:

Gilbert and Reynolds Ch.2 (14-24)


September 5: Early Man in Africa Part 2

Quiz #1

Assignments:

Gilbert and Reynolds Ch. 3 (25-39)


Study Questions #1 due

Week 3: Agriculture Revolution and the Spread of Language in Africa

September 10: The Agriculture Revolution

Class Activity- Why did farming win?

Assignments:

Gilbert and Reynolds Ch.4 (40-66)

Brizeula-Garcia and Getz, Ch.1 (1-18)

September 12: Bantu Expansion and Early African Societies

Quiz # 2

Assignments:

Brizuela-Garcia and Gets, Ch. 3 (39-56)

Study Questions # 2 Due

September 17: Metals and Carthage

Tuesday: Metallurgy
Class Activity- Writing and Culture in Egypt

Assignments:

Gilbert and Reynolds Ch. 5 (67-84)


September 19: Ancient Carthage and Roman North Africa

Quiz # 3

Assignments:

Richard Miles, Carthage Must be Destroyed, Introduction (Available on Blackboard)

Study Questions # 3 due

Week 5 Christianity in Africa

September 24: Africa and Early Christians

Class Activity- North Africans Christian Thinkers

Assignments:

Gilbert and Reynolds Ch. 6 (85-97)

September 26: African Christianity Part II

Quiz # 4

Assignments:

Bengt Sundkler and Christopher Steed, A History of the Church in Africa, 7-41 (Available on Blackboard)

Study Question #4 due

Week 6 Islam in Africa

October 1: Islam in North Africa

Class Activity- Christianity’s Stand in Dongola

Assignments:

Kevin Shillington, History of Africa, 69-84 (Available on Blackboard)

October 3: Islam in West Africa
Quiz #5

Assignments:


Study Questions # 5

Week # 7 North Africa 300-1000

Oct 8: Fall Break (No Class)

Oct 10: The Trans-Saharan Trade

Group Quiz for Quiz # 6

Assignment:


Week # 8 Sundiata

Oct 15: Writing African History

This week will be used to discuss the key themes in *Sundiata: An Epic of Old Mali* and help students prepare for their first essay.

Assignment:

Essay #1 Sundiata: An Epic of Old Mali due Monday October, 15 at 11:59 p.m. (1 point will be deducted for each day the paper is late)

Oct 17: Food Day

Week 9 West Africa 300-1000

Oct 22: Kingdom of Nri

Assignment:


Class Activity- Gender roles of the Iron-Age Igbo

Oct 24: Kingdom of Ghana

Quiz #7
Assignment:


Study Questions #7

Week 10 East Africa 300-1000

Oct 29: East Africa’s Iron Age

Assignments:


Class Activity- Environmental Change as a Catalyst of Historical Change in East Africa

Oct 31: The Swahili Coast

Quiz # 8

Assignments:

Gilbert and Reynolds, Ch. 8 (120-138)

Study Questions # 8

Section 3 Africa 1000-1400

Week 11 North Africa

November 5: Moroccan Dynasties and Spain 1000-1400

Class Activity: The Reconquista

November 7: The Ayyubid Dynasty and the Mamluk Sultanate in Egypt

Assignment:

No readings for this week

Easy # 2 The Adventures of Ibn Battuta Due November 12 at 11:59 p.m. (Students will be deducted 1 point for each day the paper is later)

Week 12 West Africa

November 12: The Malian Empire

Assignment:
Gilbert and Reynolds, ch. 7 (98-119)

Quiz # 9

November 14: Empires and States of the West African Sahel

Assignment:


Study Questions # 9

Week 13 Southern Africa 1000-1400 and the Coming of the Europeans

November 19: Great Zimbabwe


Journal Article Paper due November 18th

November 21: How Europe Viewed Africa in 1400

Assignment:


Quiz # 10

Study Question # 10

Week 14 How Africa Viewed the World in 1400

Nov 26: How Africa Viewed the World in 1400

Assignment:


November 28: Thanksgiving (No Class)

Week 15 Final Project

Dec. 4: Presentations day 1

Dec. 6: Presentations day 2 (if needed) and Africa Jeopardy

Final Exam: