2014

124-02 African History from c. 1500

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African History from c.1500
History 124
Xavier University
Christian Strother
Spring 2014

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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 1500 to present and leave the course with a
greater understanding of this often misunderstood region of the world.

Books:
Jonathon Reynolds and Erik Gilbert, Africa in World History
African Pasts
Trevor Getz Abina and the Important Men
Frederick Cooper, Africa Since 1940
Donald Wright, The World and A Very Small Place in Africa
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 February 17th and March 28th. 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 since 1500. The student’s response should summarize the author’s argument, explain who the author is, 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 since 2000. 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 is an integral part to succeeding in this class. Because of this regular attendance is expected for all students. **Students will be deducted 1 points from their final grade for each absence after their 4th 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

Week 1 Course Introduction and The Transatlantic Slave Trade

January 13: Course Introduction

January 15: The Transatlantic Slave Trade

Assignments:

Tuesday:

No readings

Thursday:

Brizuela-Garcia and Getz, 81-110  
*The Diary of Antera Duke*, (Available on Blackboard)  
Group Quiz
Week 2 West Africa ca. 1500-1870

January 20: The Development of Cosmopolitan Culture on the West African Coast

January 22: Jihad and The Rise of new Islamic States in West Africa

Assignments:

Tuesday:

Brizuela and Getz, 139-153.
Class Activity- The Fante Federation

Thursday:

Gilbert and Reynolds, 175-198
John Hanson, *Migration, Jihad and Muslim Authority in West Africa*, 19-47 (Available on Blackboard)
Study Questions # 1
Quiz # 1

Week 3 East Africa 1500-1870

January 27: The Omani Empire

January 29: East African Kingdoms: Buganda and Rwanda

Assignments:

Tuesday:

Gilbert and Reynolds, 219-240
Class Activity- East African Kingdoms Teach Back

Thursday:

Jean-Pierre Chrétien, *The Great Lakes of Africa: Two Thousand Years of History*, 139-165 (Available on Blackboard)
Quiz #2
Study Questions # 2
Week 4 North Africa 1500-1870

February 3: North Africa under the Ottoman Empire

February 5: North Africa and Modernization

Assignments:

Tuesday:

Gilbert and Reynolds, 199-218
Class Activity-Cultural Memory and Muhammad Ali
Journal Article Assignment Due

Thursday:

Oliver and Atmore, *Africa Since 1800*, 53-61
Quiz # 3
Study Questions # 3

Week 5 South Africa 1500-1870

February 10: Early Dutch Settlement in South Africa

February 12: The Mfecane

Assignments:

Tuesday:

Gilbert and Reynolds, 241-262
Class Activity- The Frontier Wars Teach Back

Thursday:

Quiz #4
Study Questions #4

Week 6 Introduction to the Colonial Era:
February 17: The Colonization of Africa and the African Experience

February 19: Resistance to Colonial Rule

**Assignments:**

**Tuesday:**

Class Activity- Prelude to the Battle of Adwa
Essay # 1 *Abina and the Important Men*

**Thursday:**

Gilbert and Reynolds, 262-285

**Week 7 The Colonial State in Comparison**

February 24: The Colonial State in British Africa

February 26: The Colonial State in French and Portuguese Africa

**Readings:**

**Tuesday:**

Class Activity- The Igbo Women’s War of 1929

**Thursday:**

Quiz # 5
Study Questions # 5

**Week 8 Spring Break No Class**

March 5: No Class
March 7: No Class

**Week 9 Economic and Social Change during the Colonial Period**
March 12: The Colonial Economy

March 14: Social Change during the Colonial Period

**Assignments:**

Tuesday:

Gilbert and Reynolds, 286-313
Class Activity- *Speaking with Vampires*

Thursday:

Gilbert and Reynolds, 339-359
Brizuela and Getz, 155-180
Quiz # 6
Study Questions #6

**Week 9 Colonial Development Policy**

March 19: Economic Projects and The Expansion of the Colonial State

March 21: The Colonial Powers and African Depopulation

**Assignments:**

Tuesday:

Frederick Cooper, 38-65
Class Activity- The Office du Niger

Thursday:

Quiz # 7
Study Questions # 7

**Week 10 The Era of Decolonisation**

March 26: The Mau Mau Rebellion

March 28: Algeria and Guinea’s Road to Statehood
Readings:

Tuesday:


Class Activity-Deconstructing: *Imperial Reckoning* and *Histories of the Hanged*: popular history, academic history, and Mau Mau.

Thursday:


Essay # 2 *The World and A Very Small Place*

Week 11 Post-Colonial Africa: An era of optimism

April 1: The African State at Independence

April 3: African Economies at Independence

Assignments:

Tuesday:
Frederick Cooper, 66-84
Brizuela and Getz, 199-218
Class Activity- Independence Scenarios

Thursday:
Kevin Shillington, *History of Africa*, 433-446
Quiz #8
Study Questions # 8

Week 12 Post-Colonial Africa: An era of turmoil

April 8: The Era of One Party Rule in the Post-Colonial State

April 10: Structural Adjustment and Economic Collapse

Assignments:

Tuesday:

Frederick Cooper, 91-132
Class Activity- Class Debate on the One Party State
Thursday:


Quiz # 9
Study Question # 9

**Week 13 Food Day and Easter**

April 15: Diaspora Food Day (Students who make dishes will receive extra credit.)
April 17: Easter (No Class)

**Week 14 Post-Colonial Africa: What’s Next?**

April 22: China and Africa: An Unequal Partnership?
April 24: Political Transitions in Modern Africa

**Assignments:**

Tuesday:


Class Activity- Prepare for Presentations

Thursday:

Frederick Cooper, pg. 191-204


Quiz # 10

Study Question # 10

**Week 15 Class Presentations**

April 30: Presentations Part I

May 1: Presentations Part II (if Necessary) and Africa Jeopardy
Week 16 Final Exam

May 8: 10:30-12:20 Bring one Blue or Green Book.