

## HISTORY OF AFRICA I

21:510:263

Class Time/Location: T/R 10:00-11:20 am, Conklin 302

Fall 2018

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Office Hours T 12 pm-2 pm

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### Course Description

This course explores key developments in African history from human origin to 1850. This period has seen vast cultural changes in African societies, the rise of empires and kingdoms, and the incorporation of Africa into the modern world system. Through lectures, readings, and discussions we will look at the political, social, and cultural history of Africa, exploring some major historical processes and events that shaped and continue to reshape the continent and lend themselves to discussions and inquiry.

The course is divided into four broad part.

**I. Origins and Foundations of African Civilization.** This section deals with the general introduction of the land, geography and peoples of Africa, the history of man and his evolution, the emergence of food-producing communities. (2 Lectures)

**II. Ancient and Classical African Civilizations.** This section discusses some of Africa's very old and great civilizations and societies which flourished in the Nile valley. First we will consider the Egyptian civilization then review the vigorous debate regarding the identity of Pharaonic Egyptians and the relation between ancient Egypt and African and European civilizations and cultures. Then we will look at Kush and its Meroitic and Christian Nubian successors and the Empire of Aksum. (2 lectures)

**III. Medieval African Civilizations.** This section covers medieval African societies and kingdoms including the succession of empires which flourished in the middle sections of the Niger River in West Africa, the forests states in west Africa and the states of southern and central Africa. Special emphasis will be given to the Empire of Mali and to oral tradition of its founder and greatest king Sundiata. (3 lectures)

**IV. Early Modern Africa.** This section deals with the history of early modern Africa and its engagement with the larger world. We will explore in-depth how world religions and the trans-oceanic and inland trade networks and allied economic activities and political institutions have developed, changed and affected African societies from circa 1000 to 1850. The last part of this section of the course then takes up the commercial and religious revolutions of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and the encounter between Europeans and Africans in southern Africa and the accompanying significant social and political reordering across Africa. (9 lectures)

## Course goals

- encourage the development of critical thinking and of writing skills.
- introduce students to basic concepts in the study of south African history
- provide them with a basic historical outline of African history to 1850
- developed a basic understanding of the historical forces—both external and internal—that contributed to the diversity of Africa’s cultural, political and social terrains as well as the common historical experiences and roots that tie together African peoples and societies.

## Course Requirements and Evaluation

Grading in the course will be based on an evaluation of student performance in the term paper, class attendance, participation in discussion, midterm and final exams. Points will be available as follows:

Final Exam:	30%
Midterm Exam:	25%
Term paper	20%
Participation in discussion:	20%
Class Attendance	5%

## Grading Scale

In the final determination of the letter grades, I will use “+”. Grading for the course will be as follows:

- A grades (90-100);
- B grades (80-89);
- C grades (70-79);
- D grades (60-69); and
- F grade (below 60).

<b>EVALUATION DETAILS</b>
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### Attendance (5%)

**ATTENDANCE IS REQUIRED – and rewarded**, since active engagement in class will contribute significantly to your final grade. University policy requires me to take attendance. Your attendance record can potentially affect your scholarship grants and other benefits. I will take attendance every week. If you miss class more than once for reasons such as illness and family emergency, you need to produce a document explaining your absence. You will lose 1% of your attendance and participation grade every time you miss class without a valid reason. Five [5] consecutive, unexcused, absences will result in failure in this course. Take note also that a total of eight [8] excused and unexcused absences will result in failure in this course.

## **Participation (20%)**

The Thursday class meetings will be devoted primarily to discussions of each week's assigned readings. It is very important to come to class having read the required materials to be able to engage in discussions. Take notes as you read the textbooks and other assigned materials. You have to convince me that you have read the assigned materials for each week to earn the participation grade by actively participating in discussions. Good participation is displayed by comments, reflections and questions that are relevant to and informed by the assigned readings. Discussion questions will be posted to the course website well in advance of the Thursday discussion. The questions will guide your reading and our class discussion on Thursdays. **Also, during discussion bring to class the reading materials for each week.** The discussion, along with the lecture, will provide you with the opportunities to analyze, synthesize and evaluate the material and engage with your classmates.

### Quizzes

Starting in week three, unannounced quizzes will be administered at the beginning of class or towards the end, as the case may be. Students who miss a quiz due to absence will not be given another opportunity to write the quiz. The quiz will test students' knowledge of assigned readings and topics and issues discussed within the class during that week and/or from the week(s) prior. Quizzes contribute towards your participation grade. Another objective of quizzes is to prepare students for mid-term/final exam and other assignments. Quizzes reward students who are diligent in class participation and attendance and note taking abilities during class time.

## **Paper (20%)**

There is one assigned paper for this course which is worth 20 % of your course grade. The writing guideline and the topics will be given in the course of the semester. You have to turn in your papers to your instructor on the due date. Late papers will not be accepted for full credit without any documented valid excuse. Your paper is due on October 06. Turn your paper on blackboard. In addition, please note, submission of a term paper and of a final exam are course requirements. Failure to submit them, regardless of total points accrued for other assignments, will result in an "I" grade for the course.

### **Late Policy**

Turn your paper according to the official (syllabus stated) due date. Five points will be deducted for each day your assignment, including the term paper, is late. You may only ask for an extension at least 48 hours before the due date and only if you have a valid reason and valid documentation. None will be accepted after the end of the semester. Doctor's notes that are dated either more than 24 hours after the onset of illness or after the due date will not be accepted. Even if you have obtained a doctor's note, you will be penalized until the day I receive your doctor's note.

### **Exams**

The midterm exam will be held on **Thursday, October 18**. The final exam will be held on Thursday, December 20. You are expected to take the exams based on the schedule indicated in the course syllabus.

Students are required to take the exams based on the schedule indicated in the course syllabus. The term paper and the exams are course requirements. Despite the total points you earned, failure to submit the assignments or unexcused absence from any of the exams will result in overall failure in the course. The final exam must be taken based on the university official final exam schedule. You may only ask for taking the midterm exam on a date different from the official (syllabus-stated) day at least 36 hours before the due date and only if you have a valid reason and valid documentation.

#### Exam and Paper

Due Dates:

**Term Paper:**

**Thursday, 04 October**

Midterm Exam:

Thursday, 18 October

Final Exam:

**Thursday, 20 December**

#### **COURSE WEBSITE**

Blackboard is our best means of communication. You will need access to the website in order to complete some of the readings, to get paper topics, exams, announcements, and other information of interest and importance. By now everyone who is enrolled to this course should have access to the course site. You will need to be able to access the website at least three times a week; on the evenings before TR and on Saturdays in order to download the weekly assignments, lectures, PowerPoints, and other relevant files.

#### Copyright

Lecture notes, slides, handout materials, examinations and assignments developed for this course are the intellectual property of the course instructor. These materials have been developed for student use only and they are not intended for wider dissemination outside of the course. Posting, selling and providing course material to third-party websites violates an instructor's intellectual property rights, and the American Copyright Law. Failure to follow these instructions violates the university's Code of Student Conduct, and will result in disciplinary measures.

#### Decorum

I value and welcome all kinds of comments and opinions in discussion and lecture sessions. Feel free to express your opinion in a way which is professional and does not offend anyone. My important and simple course rule is that we respect each other. Avoid any rude, or inappropriate comments and disruptive activity. Arrive promptly and remain in classroom for the ENTIRE lecture or discussion. Turn off all noisy devices including cell phones during class sessions.

#### Disruptive Activities

You have the right to be in class, but take note also that you have the obligation to respect the right of others to be in class and refrain from any disruptive activity. A disruptive activity as stated in the Student Code of Conduct include “[e]ngaging in classroom conduct prohibited by the faculty member or in violation of the law or University policy.” Texting and walking in to classroom late and leaving classroom during discussion and lecture is unacceptable and very disruptive. You need to respect the course rules stated in the syllabus and conduct yourself within the bounds of the University Student Code of Conduct. Here is the link to the code: <http://studentconduct.rutgers.edu/disciplinary-processes/university-code-of-student-conduct/>.

### Accommodation

Rutgers adheres to the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. The university will provide academic accommodations to students with documented disabilities. If you have a disability that affects your academic performance be sure to register with the Office of Disability Services and contact me early in the semester. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must contact the appropriate disability services office at the campus where you are officially enrolled, participate in an intake interview, and provide documentation: <<https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentation-guidelines>> <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentation-guidelines>. If the documentation supports your request for reasonable accommodations, your campus's disability services office will provide you with a Letter of Accommodations. Please share this letter with your instructors and discuss the accommodations with them as early in your courses as possible. To begin this process, please complete the Registration form on the ODS web site at: <<https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form>> <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form>. For more information please contact Kate Torres at (973)353-5375 <tel:(973)353-5375> or in the Office of Disability Services in the Paul Robeson Campus Center, in suite 219 or by contacting [odsnewark@rutgers.edu](mailto:odsnewark@rutgers.edu) <<mailto:odsnewark@rutgers.edu>>.

### Plagiarism

You are expected to follow the student guideline concerning academic honesty and conduct. All work must be your own. If you have questions about plagiarism, you can see me. Plagiarism is a serious offence and is punishable, under the university code of conduct. Any instance of plagiarism will result in failure in this course. There is a very good statement on plagiarism on the American Historical Association's webpage. The American Historical Association's definition of plagiarism can be found at:

[http://historians.org/governance/pd/Curriculum/plagiarism\\_defining.htm](http://historians.org/governance/pd/Curriculum/plagiarism_defining.htm). Be sure to read it carefully and closely. For a full discussion of Rutgers University's policies regarding academic integrity consult the following website: <http://www.ncas.rutgers.edu/oas/ai>. According to the RU Academic integrity policy:

‘Plagiarism is the use of another person’s words, ideas, or results without giving that person appropriate credit. To avoid plagiarism, every direct quotation must be identified by quotation marks or appropriate indentation and both direct quotation and paraphrasing must be cited properly according to the accepted format for the particular discipline or as required by the instructor in a course.’

As stated in the academic integrity policy, some common instances of plagiarism are:

- Copying word for word (i.e. quoting directly) from an oral, printed, or electronic source without proper attribution.
- Paraphrasing without proper attribution, i.e., presenting in one's own words another person's written words or ideas as if they were one's own.
- Submitting a purchased or downloaded term paper or other materials to satisfy a course requirement.
- Incorporating into one's work graphs, drawings, photographs, diagrams, tables, spreadsheets, computer programs, or other non-textual material from other sources without proper attribution.

## Required texts

Robert Harms, *Africa in Global History with Sources* (2018)  
 D.T. Niane, *Sundiata: An Epic of Old Mali* (1982).

Any additional primary sources listed below under the schedule are freely available online. All of the required reading for the course is contained in the two books, the online sources, and the class notes.

## SCHEDULE

Below is the course schedule that we will follow in the course of the semester. The schedule is subject to revision. We might drop, add, or exchange readings according to our specific interests.

### Part I: Origins/Foundations of African Civilizations/Cultures

**Week 1 (T/R, September 04/06):** Introduction to the Study of Africa and African History  
 Why study African history, Visual Images of and from Africa; Common Preconceptions of the African Past; Notions of Africa

**Reading:**

**THIS SYLLABUS IN ITS ENTIRETY**

**Week 2 (T/R, September 11/13):** Geography, Human Habitation, History & Concepts  
 African environment & human origins; lifestyles (foraging, farming, and pastoralism); Peoples and languages of Africa

**Reading:**

Harms, *Africa in Global History*, 10-39.

Mark Stoneking, "Genetic evidence for our recent African ancestry."

### **Part II: Ancient and Classical African Civilizations (c. 2700 BCE – 700 CE)**

**Week 3 (T/R, September 18/20):** Ancient Kingdoms and Classical African Civilizations

Egypt in African history; Empire of Kush; the kingdoms Meroe-Nubia; Aksumite Ethiopia (c. 1,000 B.C.—800 A.D.)

Video: The Black Kingdoms

**Reading:**

Harms, *Africa in Global History*, 41-85.

**[Online]:**

Accounts of Meröe, Kush, and Aksum, c. 430 BCE – 550 CE  
<http://legacy.fordham.edu/Halsall/ancient/nubia1.asp>

### **On Afrocentric view of African History**

Ann Macy Roth: Building Bridges to Afrocentrism:  
Ibrahim Sundiata: Afrocentrism: The Argument We're Really Having  
[http://www.africa.upenn.edu/Articles\\_Gen/afrocent\\_roth.html](http://www.africa.upenn.edu/Articles_Gen/afrocent_roth.html)

### **The Black Athena Debate**

Summary of the debate: <http://academic.reed.edu/humanities/110tech/BlackAthena.html>  
Bernal on Lefkowitz, 'Review of Lefkowitz', ed. *Not Out of Africa*  
<http://bmcr.brynmawr.edu/1996/96.04.05.html>  
Lefkowitz on Bernal:  
<http://bmcr.brynmawr.edu/1996/96.04.19.html>  
Dr. Charles S. Finch III, M.D., 'Response to Mary Lefkowitz's Not Out of Africa'  
[http://www.melanet.com/clegg\\_series/maat0497.html](http://www.melanet.com/clegg_series/maat0497.html)  
A Conspiracy Theory: [http://www.melanet.com/clegg\\_series/june4.html](http://www.melanet.com/clegg_series/june4.html)

## **PART III: THE MIDDLE AGE OF AFRICAN HISTORY**

**Week 4 (T/R, September 25/27):** Trading Kingdoms of the Western Sudan, to 1600  
The Trans-Saharan Trade & the Sudanic Kingdoms (700-1450); Literacy, Orality, State  
& Society in West Africa  
FILMS, Dani Kouyaté, "Keïta: Heritage of the Griot"/"The Road to Timbuktu"  
**Reading:**  
Harms, *Africa in Global History*, 125-146.  
Niane, *Sundiata: An Epic of Old Mali*.  
**Glimpses of the Kingdom of Ghana in 1067 CE:**  
<http://web.archive.org/web/20010210035839/http://www.humanities.cuny.cuny.edu/history/reader/ghana.htm>

**Week 5 (T/R, October 02/04):** The Varieties of States and Societies in West African Forest;  
The Guinea Coast and the Rise of the Forest Kingdoms.  
Readings:  
**Term paper due October 04.**

**Week 6, (T/R, October 9/11):** State and Power in East, Central, and South Africa  
The Dispersion of the Bantu-speaking People; the Empire of Great Zimbabwe; Central  
African Kingdoms; the Kingdom of the Congo.  
**Readings:**  
Harms, *Africa in Global History*, 149-151, 187-202, 231-235.

### **Part IV: Africa and the World Systems (c. 1000–1800 CE)**

**Week 7, (T/R, October 16/18)** Africa and Religious Worlds  
Early Christianity in Africa (Egypt, Nubia and Ethiopia); Africa and the Islamic World.  
**Readings:**  
Harms, *Africa in Global History*, 96-123.

**[Online"**

*Islam and Indigenous African Culture:*

<http://web.archive.org/web/20010605222535/http://web-dubois.fas.harvard.edu/DuBois/Baobab/narratives/islam/islam.html>  
John Hunwick, “Africa and Islamic Revival”: <http://islam.uga.edu/hunwick.html>

Midterm Exam, Thursday, October 18

**Week 8 (T/R, October 23/25):** “Trading Worlds—Africa and the Indian Ocean System”  
The Indian Ocean Trade Network; the East African World; Swahili Society; Great Zimbabwe; Somali Society; Polynesia and Africa

Readings:

Harms, *Africa in Global History*, 147-156, 163, 251-259, 277, 280-281

*The Periplus* (Anonymous):

<http://web.archive.org/web/20010225123754/http://134.74.216.129/history/reader/periplus.htm>

**Week 9 (T/R, October 30/November 1):** Trading Worlds—the Mediterranean and Sahara  
Africa and the Mediterranean and Trans-Sahara World Systems

Film: *Caravans of Gold*

**Readings:**

Harms, *Africa in Global History*, 159-162, 246-249.

**Week 10 (T/R, November 6/8):** Africa and the Atlantic World (c. 1440-1820 CE)

The Origins and operation of the Atlantic commerce; Demography and geography of the slave trade; Abolition

**Readings:**

Harms, *Africa in Global History*, 169-192, 203-206, 235-245

Anika Francis: “The Economics of the African Slave Trade” :

<http://web.archive.org/web/20000302084332/http://dolphin.upenn.edu/~vision/vis/Mar-95/5284.html>

Ayubah Suleiman Diallo, “Recalls his capture and enslavement”

<http://www.vgskole.net/prosjekt/slavrute/2.htm>

A. Falconbridge, “The treatment of newly arrived slaves in the West Indies”:

<http://www.vgskole.net/prosjekt/slavrute/9.htm>

Pope Paul III: Sublimus Dei [On Slavery], 1537

[http://www.newadvent.org/library/docs\\_pa03sd.htm](http://www.newadvent.org/library/docs_pa03sd.htm)

Pope Leo XIII: *Catholicae Ecclesiae* (On Slavery in The Missions), 1890.

[http://w2.vatican.va/content/leo-xiii/en/encyclicals/documents/hf\\_l-xiii\\_enc\\_20111890\\_catholicae-ecclesiae.html](http://w2.vatican.va/content/leo-xiii/en/encyclicals/documents/hf_l-xiii_enc_20111890_catholicae-ecclesiae.html)

**Week 11 (T/R, November 13/15): Impact of the Atlantic and Asian Slave Trade**

Economic and Political Impact; Africans in the new World; The Atlantic Slave Trade in Memory and Tradition

Video: Slave Kingdoms

**Readings:**

Harms, *Africa in Global History*, 210-230

**Week 12 (T/R, November 20/22): Mercantile and Industrial Capitalism and Africa (c. 1652 – 1850 CE)**

From Slaves to Oilseeds in West Africa; the Industrial Revolution and Africa; Development and Underdevelopment

**Readings:**

Harms, *Africa in Global History*, 283-295, 303-310, 368

**November 22, Thanks Giving, no class.**

**Week 13 (T/R, November 27/29):** Political and Religious Revolutions in West Africa  
The Sudan and Sahel: Jihad and Mass Islam; legacies of the jihad.

**Reading:**

Harms, *Africa in Global History*, 331-356, 369

**Week 14 (T/R, December 04/06):** Settlers and Africans in Southern Africa

Encounter between Khoi-San and Europeans; European Expansion; The Conquest of the Xhosa' and The Zulu-British Encounter

**Reading:**

Harms, *Africa in Global History*, 259-265, 277, 314-317, 324, 329, 356-367, 369-370.

**Week 15 (Tuesday, December 11):** Slaves and Ivory and Omani domination in the Swahili;

Review session, evaluation and valediction

**Reading:**

Harms, *Africa in Global History*, 295-303, 326-327

**Final Exam 20 December 8:30 AM-11: 30AM.**