Welcome to History 377. The course provides a survey of the cultural and social history of Africa south of the Sahara from approximately 1500-1870. Because there is so much to learn about Africa and Africans during this period, we cannot strive for exhaustive coverage. However, we will visit almost every major historical region of Africa at least once during the semester and will focus on several important themes in the history of the continent. The first part of the course focuses on the historical development of African societies prior to the rise of the Atlantic slave trade. We will then explore the origins of the slave trade and its impact on Africa. Finally, we will complete the course by examining the expansion of European influence in the period leading up to the formal establishment of colonial rule.

Required Readings:
The following books are available for purchase at the University Bookstore and are also on reserve at Helen C. White:

Robert O. Collins and James M. Burns, *A History of Sub-Saharan Africa*
D.T. Niane, *Sundiata: An Epic of Old Mali*
Randy Sparks, *The Two Princes of Calabar*
John Thornton, *The Kongolese Saint Anthony*
David Northrup, *The Atlantic Slave Trade*

I have also collected a set of readings for you to purchase from the copy center in the Humanities building (room 1650) and placed readings on reserve at Helen C. White. The designation (cp) next to a reading indicates course packet.

ASSIGNMENTS and EVALUATION:

1) Take-home midterm I: 25%
2) Take-home midterm II: 25%
3) Take-home final: 25%
4) Participation in discussion sections and map quiz: 25%
SCHEDULE OF CLASS MEETINGS

Week 1 (Sep. 3-7)

  9/5  Introduction to Course

  9/7  Knowing Africa: Preconception and Misconceptions

    Binyavanga Wainaina, “How to Write About Africa” (cp)

Week 2 (Sep. 10-14)

  9/10 Mapping Africa: Geography, Language, and Environment

    Collins and Burns, chapter 1

  9/12 Ideals of Social Organization

    Collins and Burns, chapter 3

  9/14 Trans-Saharan Trade and the Spread of Islam in West Africa

    Collins and Burns, pp.78-83
    Donald Robinson, “The Islamization of Africa” and “The Africanization of Islam” (cp)

Week 3 (Sep. 17-21)

  9/17 Empire and Oral Traditions: Ancient Mali

    Collins and Burns, pp.83-87
    Niane, Sundiata: An Epic of Old Mali, vii-47

  9/19 The Road to Timbuktu: Songhay

    Collins and Burns, pp.87-89
    Niane, Sundiata, 47-84
9/21 Complex Societies without Political Centralization: The Arts of Wealth in People in the Inner Congo Basin

Jan Vansina, “The Peoples of the Forest” (cp)

Week 4 (Sep. 24-28)

9/24 Ideology, and Empire: The Luba Kingdom

Collins and Burns, pp.142-150
http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/luba/hd_luba.htm
(make sure to view images of artwork and to read the descriptions)

9/26 Early Great Lakes History and the Chwezi Kubandwa Revolution

Collins and Burns, chapter 8

9/28 Hutu, Tutsi, and Twa in Precolonial Rwanda

Jan Vansina, “Central Rwanda on the Eve of the Emergence of the Kingdom” (cp)

Week 5 (Oct. 1-5)

10/1 Land and Power in Buganda

Holly Hanson, “Creating Relationships with Gifs of Land: Lineages, Chiefs, and Royals Interact to Make the State, ca.900-ca. 1700” (cp)

10/3 The Rise of Swahili Culture and the Classical Age of Swahili City-States

Collins and Burns, chapter 7

10/5 Film: “The Swahili Coast”
Week 6 (Oct. 8-12)

10/8  Southeastern Africa and the Zimbabwe Plateau

    Collins and Burns, chapter 11

10/10 Current Events I

    TBA

Hand out exam

10/12  No class: work on exams

Week 7 (Oct. 15-19)

10/15  The Origins of the Atlantic Slave Trade

    Northrup, Part I: Why Were Africans Enslaved?
    Collins and Burns, 213-223 (recommended)

Exam due in class

10/17  What is Slavery?: Inequality and Dependency in Africa

    Collins and Burns, chapter 14

10/19  No class: African Studies Association Conference

Week 8 (Oct. 22-26)

10/22  Transformations in Slavery During the Era of the Transatlantic Slave Trade

    Paul Lovejoy, “Africa and Slavery” (cp)
    Northrup, pp.52-63

10/24  Oyo, Benin, and Dahomey

    Sparks, Prologue and chapters 1-2
10/26  The Niger Delta: Ijo and Igbo
        Sparks, chapters 3-4

Week 9 (Oct. 29-Nov. 2)

10/29  Asante
        Sparks, chapters 5-6

11/31  Jihads of West Africa
        No reading

11/2   The Kingdom of Kongo in Historical Perspective
        Collins and Burns, chapter 12
        Thornton, Introduction and chapters 1-2

Week 10 (Nov. 5-9)

11/5   The Slave Trade in West-Central Africa
        Thornton, chapters 3-4

11/7   Anna Njinga and the Colony of Angola
        Thornton, chapters 5-6

11/9   Kongolese Legacies in the New World
        Thornton, chapters 7-9

Week 11 (Nov. 12-16)

11/12  Abolition, the Slow Death of Slavery, and Legitimate Trade in the 19th Century
        Northrup, Part VI: Abolition
11/14  The Atlantic Slave Trade and African History

          Northrup, pp.103-131, 134-149

**Hand out exam**

11/16  No Class: work on exams

**Week 12 (Nov. 19-23)**

11/19  The Indian Ocean Slave Trade

          Collins and Burns, pp.243-246

**Exam due in class**

11/21  Film: The Slave Kingdoms

          Lansiné Kaba, “The Atlantic Slave Trade Was Not a "Black on-Black Holocaust" (cp)

11/23  Thanksgiving

**Week 13 (Nov.26-30)**

11/25  The Emergence of Plantation Economies

          No reading (review Kaba article)

11/28  South Africa: The Arrival of the Dutch

          Collins and Burns, chapter 19

11/30  The Zulu and the Mfecane

          Collins and Burns, review 285-87
          Carolyn Hamilton, “Painted Chests, Academic Body Servants, and Visions of Modern Airlines: Shaka in Contemporary Discourse” (cp)
Week 14 (Dec. 3-7)

12/3 European Expansion in South Africa
Herman Giliomee, “The Eastern Frontier Cauldron” (cp)

12/5 Film: Shaka Zulu
Carolyn Hamilton, “Shaka as Metaphor, Memory, and History in Apartheid South Africa” (cp)

12/7 Prelude to Conquest
Collins and Burns, chapter 17

Week 15 (Dec. 10-14)

12/10 The Scramble for Africa
Collins and Burns, chapter 18

12/12 Current Events II
TBA

12/14 Review
Hand out final exam
Final due Tuesday, December 18 at 2 p.m.