

HISTORY OF AFRICA to 1800  
Spring - 1989

Tues/Thurs. 2:25-3:40  
1221 Humanities

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Office hours: T 11:00-12:00 and 1:00-2:00  
Th 1:00-2:00 and 4:00-5:00  
and by appointment

This course deals with the main themes of African history up to c. 1800. Because of the vastness and variety of the continent, it cannot attempt to give you a comprehensive survey of its history. That is, certain areas or themes may be treated lightly or even left out entirely. In addition, there is still much work to be done on this early period of African history so that some areas are better understood than others. Some of the major topics covered in the course are: an introduction to African prehistory; early population movements into North Africa; the influence of Islam and Christianity on various areas of the continent; trans-Saharan, Indian Ocean, and Atlantic trading systems; the Ghana, Mali, and Songhay empires of West Africa; Bantu migrations; formation of Central African state systems; Swahili city-states; the West European impact on Africa up to c. 1800; West African Islamic jihads before 1800; Southern African population movements and European settlement before 1800.

**Required texts:** Roland Oliver and Anthony Atmore. **The African Middle Ages 1400-1800.** Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1981.  
D. T. Niane. **Sundiata: An Epic of Old Mali.** Longman Drumbeat edition, 1979. Any edition of this work is acceptable.

Outline maps of Africa

**Recommended:** J. D. Fage. **An Atlas of African History.** Second Edition. New York: Africana Publishing Co., 1978.

**Course requirements:** Map quiz, February 7: 50 points  
Exam One, March 9: 200 points  
Exam Two, April 18: 200 points  
Map Quiz, April 27: 50 points  
Final Exam May 17, 10:05 a.m.: 250 points

Attendance at three African Studies Center movies or lectures, or films on Africa shown on Public T.V., typing up a two-page description and discussion of each: 50 points each = 150 points

**Map work:** You are to study the following list, locating the ethnic groups, place names, and geographical features. Use your text book maps as well as the Atlas recommended above. A copy is also placed on reserve for this class. For the map quiz on February 4 I will select 25 terms. You will place the corresponding number for each of the terms on a blank map purchased at the bookstore. It is suggested that you purchase an extra map to use as a study sheet. For the final map quiz on May 2 I will choose terms from the following list and include other map terms taken from lectures.

Senegal River	Tripoli	Nubia
Niger River	Fezzan	Kanem
Volta River	Napata	Meroe
Gambia River	Cairo	Kong
Nile River	Begho	Bambuk
Blue Nile	Boure	Rif Mountains
White Nile	High Atlas Mtns.	Anti Atlas Mountains
Lake Tana	Middle Atlas Mtns.	Gao
Futa Jalon	Timbuktu	Taodeni
Futa Toro	Taghaza	Mossi ethnic group
Lake Chad	Wolof ethnic group	Hausa ethnic group
Lake Victoria	Mombasa	Nyika
Lake Tanganyika	Zanzibar	Pemba
Cape of Good Hope	Ovimbundu ethnic grp.	Luanda
Red Sea	Benguela	Imbangala ethnic group
Zambezi River	Lozi ethnic group	Sena
Orange River	Tete	Kilwa
Drakensberg Mountains	Elmina	Gold Coast
Alexandria	Ivory Coast	Slave Coast
Thebes	Grain Coast	Mogadishu
Carthage	Kru ethnic group	Asante ethnic group

**Lecture assignments:** The African Studies Center at the University of Wisconsin offers weekly lectures Wednesdays at noon and occasional films on Africa. Numerous other lectures are also offered through the year as scholars pass through the area. Some African subject video tapes are available for viewing on site in 274 Van Hise Hall. The room is open M-R, 8:30 a.m.-8:30 p.m. and F 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. There are also films shown on Africa on public t.v. from time to time. To encourage you to become acquainted with these offerings I am asking you to attend three during the semester, writing up a two-page report on each. As lectures and films come to my attention I will try to announce them in class, but keep your eyes open. I will not accept wildlife films on Africa to fulfill this assignment! With very few exceptions, feature films are not appropriate for this assignment. If you're unsure of the appropriateness of a lecture or

film for this assignment, ask me before you write it up.

NOTE: You are not assured full credit on this assignment. Your papers must be neat, thoughtful, and grammatically correct.

Readings: Numbered readings below are an integral part of the course.

These readings are available in xerox form from Kinko's Copies at 620 University Avenue. They are also available on Reserve in White Hall.

### Lecture Topics & Reading Assignments

#### I. January 24, 26 and 31

Introduction to the course. Introduction to the African Continent, its Peoples, and African history.

1. M. Posnansky, "Anatomy of a Continent," pp. 31-59 in The Africans: A Reader, edited by Ali A. Mazrui. New York: Praeger, 1986.

2. Jolayemi Solanke, "Traditional social and political institutions," pp. 27-36 in African History and Culture, edited by Richard Olaniyan. Lagos: Longman Nigeria, 1982.

3. John Lamphear, "Aspects of Early African History," pp. 64-86 in Africa, edited by Phyllis M. Martin & Patrick O'Meara (2nd edition). Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1986.

#### II. February 2

African Prehistory: quick overview of earliest humans; hunters and gatherers in late paleolithic society; neolithic agricultural revolution; spread of food production; diffusion of iron; Bantu expansion

1. Patrick J. Munson, "Africa's Prehistoric Past," pp. 43-63 in Africa, edited by Phyllis M. Martin & Patrick O'Meara (2nd edition). Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1986.

2. Merrick Posnansky, "Introduction to the Later Prehistory of Sub-Saharan Africa," pp. 533-550 in Vol. II, UNESCO General History of Africa, edited by G. Mokhtar. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1981.

3. Francis Van Noten and Jan Raymaekers, "Early Iron Smelting in Central Africa" in Scientific American (June, 1986):104-11.

4. S. Lwanga-Lunyiigo and J. Vansina, "The Bantu-speaking peoples and their expansion," pp. 140-162 in Vol. III, UNESCO General History of Africa, edited by M. El-Fasi. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1988.

#### III. February 7, 9, and 14

Northern Africa to the time of the Arabs: Ancient Egypt and Kush, Berbers, Phoenicians, Greeks, Romans, Vandals, Byzantines. Map Quiz - February 7.

1. E. W. Bovill, The Golden Trade of the Moors, Chapters 2-3

(pp. 13-44), Second Edition. London: Oxford University Press, 1970.

2. Jamil M. Abun-Nasr, A History of the Maghrib, Second Edition, Chapters 2-3 (pp. 13-66). London: Cambridge University Press, 1975 (This is a detailed account--do not try to memorize all the details.)

3. J. Leclant, "The Empire of Kush: Napata and Meroe," pp. 278-295 in Vol. II, UNESCO General History of Africa, edited by G. Mokhtar. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1981.

#### IV. February 16, 21, and 23

Northern Africa to c. 1400: Christian Ethiopia and Nubia; penetration of Arabs and Islam; oasis settlements and the trans-Saharan trade

1. K. Michalowski, "The spreading of Christianity in Nubia," pp. 326-338 in Vol. II, UNESCO General History of Africa, edited by G. Mokhtar. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1981.

2. Tekle Tsadik Mekouria, "Christian Aksum," pp. 401-420 in Vol. II, UNESCO General History of Africa, edited by G. Mokhtar. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1981.

3. M. El Fasi and I. Hrbek, "The Coming of Islam and the expansion of the Muslim empire," pp. 31-55 in Vol. III, UNESCO General History of Africa, edited by M. El Fasi. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1988.

4. M. El Fasi and I. Hrbek, "Stages in the development of Islam and its dissemination in Africa," pp. 56-91 in Vol. III, UNESCO General History of Africa, edited by M. El Fasi. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1988.

#### V. February 28, March 2, and 7

West Africa to c. 1400: trans-Saharan trade, Almoravid movement, Ghana and Mali empires, Yoruba states; Fulbe and Kanuri peoples.

D. T. Niane. Sundiata: An Epic of Old Mali. Longman Drumbeat edition, 1979. Any edition of this work is acceptable.

1. A. Hampate Ba, "The Living Tradition," pp. 166-203 in Vol. I, UNESCO General History of Africa, edited by J. Ki-Zerbo. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1981.

2. Nehemia Levtzion, Ancient Ghana and Mali, pp. 43-52. London: Methuen & Co. Ltd., 1973.

3. Ralph Austen, African Economic History, Chapter 2. Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann, 1987.

#### VI. March 9 - Exam One

#### VII. March 14 and 16

Central and East Africa to c. 1400: Interior population movements, Indian Ocean Trade, and Swahili Society before the Portuguese

1. David Birmingham, "Society and economy before A.D.

1400," pp. 1-29 in History of Central Africa, Vol. One. Edited by David Birmingham and Phyllis M. Martin. London and New York: Longman, 1983.

2. F. T. Masao and H. W. Mutoro, "The East African coast and the Comoro Islands," pp. 586-615 in Vol. III, UNESCO General History of Africa edited by M. El Fasi. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1988.

VIII. March 16, 28, and 30,

Northern Africa c. 1400 to 1800: Mamluk Egypt, Funj sultanate, the Ottomans, Galla (Oromo) "invasions," Ethiopian expansion, N. African trade with the Mediterranean and the Sudan

Roland Oliver and Anthony Atmore. The African Middle Ages 1400-1800. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1981.

IX. April 4, 6, 11, and 13,

West Africa c. 1400 to 1800: arrival of the Portuguese, Songhay empire, Moroccan conquest of Songhay, Atlantic slave trade, early Fulbe jihads, Nigerian coastal states

Oliver and Atmore, The African Middle Ages, Chapters 6 and 7

1. Walter Rodney, "Jihad and Social Revolution in Futa Djallon in the Eighteenth Century," Journal of the Historical Society of Nigeria, IV, 2 (1968):269-84.

2. J. E. Inikori, "Introduction," in Forced Migration: the Impact of the export slave trade on African societies, pp. 13-60, edited by J. E. Inikori. New York: Africana Publishing Co., 1982.

3. Mayer, Captain Canot, an African Slaver, pp. 85-106.

4. Sidney W. Mintz, "Production," Chapter 2 in Sweetness and Power: the Place of Sugar in Modern History, pp. 19-73. New York: Viking Penguin, 1985.

X. April 18 - Exam Two

XI. April 20, 25, 27, and May 2

East and Central Africa to 1800: migrations and their impact, Central African states, Luba/Lunda state systems, impact of the Portuguese, Kongo kingdom, "Jaga," Zimbabwe-Mutapa-Butwa states, fall of Portuguese control of East African coast. Map Quiz - April 27

Oliver and Atmore, The African Middle Ages, Chapters 8-12

1. Alan K. Smith, "The Indian Ocean zone," pp. 205-234 (top) in History of Central Africa, Vol. One. Edited by David Birmingham and Phyllis M. Martin. London and New York: Longman, 1983.

2. D. N. Beach, "The Zimbabwe plateau and its peoples," pp. 245-268 (top) in History of Central Africa, Vol. One. Edited by David Birmingham and Phyllis M. Martin. London and New York: Longman, 1983.

XI. May 4 and 9

Southern Africa c. 1400 to 1800: Khoisan and Bantu settlement,  
Dutch settlement at the Cape.

Oliver and Atmore, *The African Middle Ages*, Chapter 13

1. Richard Elphick, Khoikhoi and the founding of White South  
Africa. Johannesburg: Ravan Press, 1985. pp. xv-xix, 3-42, and 175-  
239.

XII. May 11

Final review, if necessary

XIII. Final Exam - May 17, 10:05 a.m.

## Requirements for 4-credit course

Those of you taking the course for 4-credits may choose one of the following two ways to fulfill the requirement for the extra hour of credit.

## OPTION I

**Newspaper Project:** You will keep a notebook in which you cut out one newspaper or magazine article (or xerox them if you use library copies!) pertaining to Africa for each week of the course. With the copy of each article you must include the heading giving the source and date (e.g. Time February 15, 1988). Vary the geographical region discussed in the articles and no more than three articles on one country (e.g. South Africa) will be accepted. For each article you will type a one or two paragraph summary following it, relating the article, if possible, to class lectures, discussions, or reading materials. Each project will be judged on its variety of regions of the continent covered, the thoughtfulness of the summary and discussion that follows, clarity of writing, and neatness. I prefer that you use U.S. media for your articles. You should have one article for your notebook for each of the following dating periods:

January 23 - January 29  
 January 30 - February 5  
 February 6 - February 12  
 February 13 - February 19  
 February 20 - February 26  
 February 27 - March 5  
 March 6 - March 12  
 March 13 - March 19  
 SPRING BREAK - no article required  
 March 27 - April 2  
 April 3 - April 9  
 April 10 - April 16  
 April 17 - April 23  
 April 24 - April 30  
 May 1 - May 7  
 May 8 - May 14

NOTE: If you use a journal or magazine that is monthly, only one article may be taken from a single issue.

## OPTION II

**Book Report:** You will write a four to five page, typewritten book report on an African novel. A list of novels is attached. Many others have been published since this list was written. So find where the novels are shelved (many will be under the LC call number heading PR) and browse. If you decide to take this option, don't leave it to the last minute--your selection will be

greatly reduced! In addition, as discussed in class, you are responsible for placing the novel in its correct historical context. If you do not understand it as you read you had better choose a different novel or the other option. In writing the report you use the same analytical tools you would in a literature class. You analyze the characters, the setting, and the plot, drawing together your perceptions about these elements into a coherent statement on what the novel's major themes and messages are. The difference between writing for a history or a literature class, is that for this class you must think about the society which the particular novel discusses. In a history class you focus upon events, ideas, and problems in society that are reflected in the novel. The main thing is, ask questions of the material and try to answer them, using class materials you have read and lectures if relevant. That means you have to take some notes on the novel as you read it, so that when you wish to cite examples you have references at your command. Do not, however, fill your book report with quotations. I want to read your words, not the author's.

The following is a list of books from which you may wish to choose for your book report assignment. If you choose a book not on this list, please discuss it with the Instructor before you get started.

Abrahams, Peter. Return to Goli.  
Abrahams, Peter. Tell Freedom.  
Abrahams, Peter. Wild Conquest.  
Achebe, Chinua. Things Fall Apart  
" A Man of the People  
" No Longer at Ease.  
Beti, Mongo. Perpetua and the Habit of Unhappiness.  
" The Poor Christ of Bomba.  
Bohannan, Laura. Return to Laughter.  
Chraibi, Driss. Heirs to the Past.  
Conton, William. The African.  
Dadie, Bernard B. Climbie.  
Dinesen, Isak. Out of Africa.  
Elechi, Amadi. The Great Ponds.  
" The Slave.  
Gordimer, Nadine. The Conservationist.  
" July's People.  
Greene, Graham. The Heart of the Matter.  
Head, Bessie. A Question of Power.  
Huxley, Elspeth. The Flame Trees of Thika.  
" The Mottled Lizard.  
" Out in the Midday Sun.  
Kane, Cheikh Hamidou. The Ambiguous Adventure.  
Kariuki, Josiah Mwangi. 'Mau Mau' Detainee.  
Kayira, Legson. The Detainee.  
La Guma, Alex. A Walk in the Night.  
" In the Fog of the Season's End.  
" Time of the Butcherbird.  
Lessing, Doris. African Stories 1951-1965. (short stories)



Modikwe Dikobe. The Marabi Dance.  
Mphaphalele, Ezekiel. Down Second Avenue.  
Mulaisho, Dominic. The Tongue of the Dumb.  
Ngugi Wa Thiong'o. Devil on the Cross.  
" Weep not, child.  
Nzekwu, Onuora. Blade Among the Boys.  
" Wand of Noble Wood.  
Ouologuem, Yambo. Bound to Violence.  
Oyono, Ferdinand. Houseboy.  
" The Old Man and the Medal.  
Paton, Alan. Cry the Beloved Country.  
Rive, Richard. Emergency.  
Sankange, Stanlake. The Mourned One.  
" On Trial for My Country.  
Sembene, Ousmane. God's Bits of Wood.  
Thomas, Elizabeth. The Harmless People.  
Tlali, Mirian. Muriel at Metropolitan.  
Vieira, Jose Luaandino. The Real Life of Domingos Xavier.  
  
Worku, Daniachew. The Thirteenth Sun.