

University of Wisconsin-Madison  
Department of History  
Semester II, 1991-1992

History 377      History of Africa 1500-1870      C. Skidmore-Hess

Office Hours: I expect to see each student a minimum of 2 times during the semester. Please come during the first 3 weeks of class to discuss book and paper topics. Please come anytime during the semester to discuss your journals. Please come after I have returned your first draft of your paper or book report to discuss it.

Grades:

3 discussion papers 20pts each = 20%  
Journal 1st=10pts 2cd=30pts = 64%  
Final is the 3rd journal grade 60pts=36%  
For 3 credit student: Book report title=10pts draft=30pts  
final=70pts. =20%  
or  
For 4 credit students: Paper (4 cr) topic=5pts  
bibliography=10pts outline=5pts draft= 30pts final=50pts  
= 20%

Discussion papers will be 2-3 typed pages. They should answer the questions listed in the syllabus. This can be done in any of the following ways. a) discuss historical documents listed in the readings, b) discuss the GOOD and bad points of a reading. These discussion papers should illustrate the author's understanding of the important changes occurring during the historical period under examination. The author should be prepared to defend the viewpoint stated.

There are 5 chances to do discussion papers. You must do 3 of the 5. DO NOT FORGET. These discussion papers must be handed in on the due date or I will not accept them.

Journals: Journals should be typed if possible. You should try to write at least two journal entries a week (about one page long), preferably after class on Tuesdays and Thursdays when the material is still fresh in your mind. Journal entries should incorporate both reading and lecture notes. They should be written in clear and precise English.

This is your chance to develop your own arguments and my chance to see how well you understand the material. Identify and discuss main points. Think critically about the material. Develop arguments (ARGUMENTS ARE NOT TO BE CONFUSED WITH OPINIONS. Opinions are unsupported statements. Arguments use facts to support a viewpoint or interpretation).

Special Readings: These readings are meant to supplement the assigned readings. Generally they are intended for graduate students. Those undergraduates who take a particular interest in a topic might also wish to examine them.

BOOK REPORTS: Book reports should be around 8 pages. They should include an evaluation and summary of the book. They should also be well written.

Papers: Papers should be around 12 pages. Pick a manageable topic. Think about a period and place that interests you. Think about what you would like to discover about that place. When you are taking notes for your paper focus on your theory about your topic. In what way will this point support or detract from your theory? How will it fit into the organization of your argument?

When you write, start with a thesis statement and then back it up. Also remember that clear and precise language is important.

DUE DATES:

DISCUSSION PAPERS: Week II, Week V, Week VIII,  
Week XI, Week XIII

Journals: Week V, Week X, Week XV

Book Report: Title Week IV, Draft Week XII, Final XIV

Paper: Topic Week III, Outline Week IX, Draft  
Week XII, Final Week XIV

Handouts should be picked up on the front desk at the end of class and brought to class the following week.

Reserve Readings can be found in Helen C. White.

Readings should be done before class.

If there are problems obtaining the readings, I should be notified immediately.

History of Africa 1500-1870  
Spring- 1992

Week I January 21- Introduction to course -

January 23- Geography of Africa with slides

Readings: Afigbo The Making of Modern Africa, pp. 1-4, 13-31

Adjayi, Map 1, 2, 3, 4

Handouts

Watch Ali Mazruri "The Africans" Episode 1 Rm \_\_\_\_

Week II. January 28- What is history? What are "sources"? Does the historian create history? What is culture? We explore the role of linguistics religion and political systems in defining African history.

January 30- Sources in the library with Dave Henige  
African Studies Outreach- Patty Kuntz

Readings: Basil Davidson A History of West Africa 1000-1800, pp. 3-4, 292-294

Zamani "The Historian in East Africa" by J: A. Kieran. pp. 1-22

Watch Basil Davidson's "The Africans" Episode 3, "Caravans of Gold" Van Hise Rm

Start H.A.R. Gibb's Mohammedanism

DUE: Discussion paper, Critique and Compare Ali Mazrui and Basil Davidson's "The Africans," 2-3 typed pages

Week III. The Sahel- West Africa

Tuesday- Islam, the religion, Islam the social system

Thursday- Songhay

Readings: H.A.R. Gibb's Mohammedanism, finish

Boahen, Topics in West African History, 11- 18, 33- 43

Collin's Western African History, 9-13, 27- 42, 50-56

A History of West African in Maps and Diagrams, pp. 1-4, 13-17, 22, 23

Adjayi, Historical Atlas of Africa, 29, 33, 32, 35

Skim: Davidson, History of West Africa, 28-34, 136-207, 261-280

Special Readings: African Economic History by Ralph Austin, 31-55  
The African Poor by John Iliffe, 30-47

DUE: PAPER TOPICS FOR 4 CREDIT STUDENTS

Week IV. European Contact and the Atlantic Slave trade

T- Prince Henry, Gold, God, and the search for Prester John

Th- The inner workings of the Atlantic slave trade; dealing in death

Readings:

Mintz, Sweetness and Power, 19-73  
 Davidson's History; 194-204, 208-215  
 Collins, Western African History, 171-175  
 Catchpole, 27, 28, 40-45  
 Adjayi, 33, 42

Special Reading: Austen, African Economic History, 81-108  
 John Vogt, Portuguese Rule on the Gold Coast 1482-1682.

DUE: TITLE BOOK REPORT FOR 3 CREDIT STUDENTS

Week V. The West African Coast

T. Gold Coast

Th. Benin

175- Readings: Davidson's History, 208-260  
 Collins, Western African History, 144-152, 207  
 Boahen, Topics in West African History, 74-82  
 Catchpole, 27-45  
 Adjayi, 29, 33, 35

If you have time I suggest a quick look at the pictures in Ben-Amos's The Art of Benin

Start John Thornton, Kingdom of Kongo

Special Readings: Settlements, Trade, and Politics in the Seventeenth Century Gold Coast, Baltimore, 1982.

Paula Ben-Amos, The Art of Benin, London: Thames & Hudson, 1980

DUE: DISCUSSION PAPER - Compare and contrast the societies of the Gold Coast and Benin. Then Look at the impact which the slave trade and cultural contact had upon these societies. How was it different and how was it similar?

\*\*\*\*\*JOURNALS DUE\*\*\*\*\*

Week VI- Central Africa- Kongo & Angola

T- the Kongo, an experiment in acculturation  
Th- Ndongo

Readings: John Thornton, Kingdom of the Kongo. From Iron Age to Independence, pp. 45-56  
Collins, Central and Southern African History, 2-6, pp. 33-59  
Adjayi, 37, 33

Special readings: Miller, History in Central Africa, 118-151.

Week VII. Central Africa- Big men, Sacred Blood, and Slaves

T- Big men, and traders  
Th- Luba, Lunda, and Lozi

Miller, Way of Death, 3-39  
From Iron Age to Independence 20-34  
Collins, 2-6, 11

Start An Instant in the Wind

Special Reading: Thomas Reefe, History in Central Africa, 175-194

DUE: BIBLIOGRAPHY FOR 4(or) STUDENTS

VIII. Southern Africa,

T. Foragers, Pastoralists, and Others  
Th. Farmers & Others

Readings: Leonard Thompson, A History of South Africa, 1990, xvii-xviii, 1-52  
Collins, Central and Southern African History.

126-130, 152-169

Finish an Instant in the Wind  
Adjayi, 41

Special Reading: Readers Digest Illustrated  
History of South Africa, 20-25, 39-59  
Peires, The House of Phalo  
Elphick and Malherbe, "The Khoisan to 1828" in The  
Shaping of South African Society, 3-65

DUE: DISCUSSION PAPER- Compare the different ways  
in which Africans in Central and Southern Africa  
have organized their societies; how did these  
societies deal with problems of succession and  
react to changes in their economic and cultural  
environment? or How did they deal with the  
arrival of Europeans in their region? Was this an  
important event to their societies or were the  
Europeans simply one more ethnic group in the  
area?

If you are feeling daring you might try to  
combine both questions.

#### IX. East Africa

T-Coast: Swahili  
Th- Kalonga & Undi: Maravi & Malawi Kingdoms

Readings: From Iron Age to Independence, 35-38  
de Vere Allen and T. H. Wilson, Swahili Houses  
and Towns, 1-32  
Al-Inkishafi by Sayyid Abdalla Bin Ali Bin  
Nasir, 51-73  
Collins, East African History, 2-5  
Adjayi, 38

DUE: OUTLINE OF PAPER 4(oo)

#### X. Indian Ocean Area- Trade & Princes

T- Mwene Mutapa and Chingemire  
Th- The Princes and Kazembe

Readings: From Iron Age to Independence, 39-44, 57-65  
Collins, Central and Southern African History, reading  
#11  
D.N. Beach, the Shona & Zimbabwe 800-1850. London:  
Heinemann, 1980. 87-144

Africa, 205-244

DUE: \*\*\*\*\*JOURNALS \*\*\*\*\*

PART II. The 19th Century: Prophets, Missionaries &  
Legitimate Trade

XI. Jihad

- T. Background
- Th. Hausa & Jihad

Readings: Catchpole, 24-28, 45, 48  
Davidson, 274- 279  
Collins, Western African History, 13-18, 62-72  
Hiskett, Sword of Truth or  
Jean Boyd, The Caliph's Sister

DUE: Discussion paper: Compare and Contrast the role of Islam and trade on the East African Coast and the Hausa states. Also discuss the role which Islam plays in shaping these two societies. How is it different and how is it the same? How are these two societies distinct?

XII.- West Africa

- T- Asante
- Th- Igbo

Readings: Meleod, Asante, 1-71 (Skim, Note the Pictures)  
Collins, Western African History, 199-203  
"Early Travels of Ouidah Equiano" in Africa  
Remembered, 80-88.  
Boschen, Topics in West African History, 54-62

Start The Dead Will Arise

Special Readings:  
Ivor Wilks "She who Blamed a Devil" in Life  
Historians of Africa Year 119 189

DUE: \*\*\*\*\*PART OF BOOK REPORT\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*PART OF PAPER\*\*\*\*\*

XIII- Southern Africa

## XIII- Southern Africa

T- The Dead will Arise  
 Th- The Shaking of Peoples

## Readings:

Leonard Thompson, A History of South Africa,  
 52-98.

From Iron Age to Independence, 66-80  
 Feires, The Dead Will Arise,

Special: Leonard Thompson, Moshoeshoe,

DUE: DISCUSSION PAPER- Write a short review of  
 the Dead will Arise- discuss the events that  
 led to "Great Xhosa Cattle Killing," What  
 other options were open to the Xhosa at this  
 time? Could this event have ended differently?  
 What would have changed its tragic  
 consequences?

## XIV. East Africa, Slaves, Ivory, &amp; Omani

T. Plantations & Commerce, the Coast outward  
 Th. Routes & Raids, the trade inward: Nyamwazi

Readings: E. Alpers "Swema" in Women and Slavery, 185-  
 218.

From Iron Age to Independence, 81-88

A. Roberts, Tanzania before 1900, 117-140, 145  
 Adjayi, 49, 52

Special Reading: E. Alpers, Ivory and Slaves  
 in East and Central Africa, Berkeley: UCLA  
 Press, 1975.

DUE: FINAL DRAFT OF BOOK REPORT OR PAPER

## XV. Central Africa:

I. High stakes on the river- gambling with your  
 life and other aspects of commerce in the Delta

## Readings:

Robert Karme, "Sustaining the System" in  
Women and Slavery in Africa.