

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
Department of History
Semester I, 1992-93

History 861

ANCIENT AFRICA

Mr. Brown

AIMS

This semester the African History Seminar joins the growing trend in the Diaspora toward re-examination of Africa's ancient past. Our studies are informed by recent developments in the philosophy of history, particularly the fresh perspectives on discourse theory narrative strategies and constructed identities. Our goal is to assess prevailing theories of the remote past in the light of the evolving newly formulated images of Africans and Africa.

FORMAT

It will be the responsibility of Seminar members to prepare and present two short papers treating regional aspects of the themes cited below. These papers are discussion openers and should not exceed 5-8 pages. Distributed in advance of the weekly meetings, they will serve as common bases for the hour-long discussions. In addition, each member is encouraged to assign a background reading selection of not more than 50 pages each -- at the Tuesday meeting preceding a member's presentation. Papers will be distributed by placing 7 copies in Professor Brown's mailbox on the fifth floor of Humanities by 3:00 pm. on the Friday preceding a Tuesday presentation. Late papers will provoke deep hostility from the instructor. Reading assignments are made a week in advance either by distributing copies of the selection at a Tuesday meeting or by directing members to the shelf in a library where the selection is to be found, read, and returned to the shelf -- or copied.

EVALUATION

All necessary evaluations will be based on members participation in our discussions as well as the individual presentations. Unexcused absences and lateness are unacceptable.

SCHEDULE

Sept. 8	Informational Meeting	- Vansina
Sept. 15	Organizational Meeting	- Brown
Sept. 22	Origins and Dispersal of Modern Humans	- Brown
<u>assign:</u>	Michael H. Brown <u>The Search for Eve.</u>	

I. Ancient Egypt & Nubia:

Sept. 29	Origins of Egyptian Civilization	- Brown
<u>assign:</u>	Michael Hoffman, <u>Egypt before the Pharaohs</u>	
Oct. 6	Egyptian State/Religion	- Brown
<u>assign:</u>	Henri Frankfort, <u>Ancient Egyptian Religion</u>	
	Egyptian State/Kingship	- Brown
<u>assign:</u>	Christiane Desroches-Noblecourt, <u>Tut Ankh Amun, the Life and Death of a King (Coronation and Funeral)</u>	
Oct. 13	Egypt and Nubia	- Brown
<u>assign:</u>	B.G. Trigger, et al. <u>Ancient Egypt: A Social History</u> pp. 79-171	

II. Origins of African Humanity and Community

Oct. 20	The Dry World East Africa	- Kathy - Walter Robertson
Oct. 27	West Africa North East Africa	- Sue O'Brien - Eric Higgins
Nov. 3	North Africa Central Africa	- Erik Mann - Wendy Higgins
Nov. 10	Southern Africa	- H. Shaw

III. Origins of State/Ideology/Identity

Nov. 17	The Dry World East Africa	- Kathy - W. Robertson
Nov. 24	West Africa North East Africa	- Sue O'Brien - H. Shaw
Dec. 1	North Africa Southern Africa	- Erik Mann - Wendy Higgins
Dec. 8	Central Africa	- Eric Higgins
Dec. 15	Final Discussion	- Brown