

University of Wisconsin-Madison
Department of History
Spring 1999-2000

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History 377: History of Africa, 1500-1870

The course is an introduction to the history of Africa south of the Sahara during the era of the slave trade. Since it is not possible to undertake a systematic survey of the period -- the continent is too vast and our data too sparse -- we will focus on a number of common themes in the cultural and historical development of African societies. We will start with an introduction to African cultures and the problems in studying them. We will then explore three interrelated themes: trade, state formation, and the spread of Islam in the 16th-18th centuries. We will then turn to the slave trade and its impact on Africa and the Americas. Finally, we will close with a study of the impact of European settlement on South Africa.

This is also a course in historical reconstruction and analysis. There are few documentary sources for this period and much of the data we have is fragmentary. The resulting history consists largely of long-term social changes rather than detailed narrative. We must thus learn to reconstruct history from what evidence is available, using general principles of African social, economic, and political organization that we will develop in class. This is a challenging task, and it will take some time for it to make sense to you.

Course Requirements: (1) Attendance at lectures and active participation in discussion sections (25%), (2) a map quiz, (3) two mid-terms and a final exam (25% each). Undergraduate students taking the course for honors and graduate students will also be expected to write three short discussion papers (one in weeks 1-5, one 6-10, and one 11-15), each on a particular reading assignment. You may choose the assignment you wish to write on, but *you must hand in your paper in the section discussing that assignment*. Graduate students are also encouraged to read the recommended reading (denoted by an *) in lieu of the required reading.

Reading: Lectures and discussion sections will presume knowledge of the readings. They should thus be completed before the class for which they are assigned. Much of the material will be unfamiliar to you and some of the readings are quite difficult. Use the questions in the syllabus to guide your reading and prepare for the discussions of it. All required and recommended readings are available on Reserve in the Helen C. White library. The following books are also available at the University Book Store:

K. Shillington, <u>History of Africa</u> (rev. ed., 1995)	DT20/S47/1995
E.S. Bowen, <u>Return to Laughter</u>	DT500/B6/1964
D.T. Niane, <u>Sundiata: An Epic of Old Mali</u>	DT532.2/N513
P. Lovejoy, <u>Transformations in Slavery</u>	HT1321/L68/1983
T. Mofolo, <u>Chaka</u>	PL8689.9/M57/C513/1981
P. Garlake, <u>The Kingdoms of Africa</u>	DT14/G38/1990
* J.F.A. Ajayi & M. Crowder, <u>History of West Africa</u> , Vol I (3rd ed.). (recommended only)	DT475/A77/1985

African Studies Events: The African Studies Program sponsors a weekly seminar on Wednesdays at noon (206 Ingraham) and other activities throughout the semester. Contact Eileen McNamara (emcnamar@facstaff.wisc.edu) to be put on the mailing list.

Africa and Africans

Week 1

1/24 Introduction

1/26 Geography of Africa

What are the main ecological zones of Africa and how have they influenced African societies living in them? What are the social implications of hunting-gathering, fishing, herding, or farming as ways of life?

Shillington, History of Africa, 1-48.

Garlake, Kingdoms of Africa, 9-26, 47-68.

1/28 Africa in Western Thought

How have foreign images of Africa changed over the past 500 years? Why? What are some of the popular images today? Where do they come from, how accurate are they, and why do we continue to hold them?

Garlake, Kingdoms of Africa, 27-40.

Week 2

1/31 Social Structure

How is Tiv society organized? How are leaders chosen?

Bowen, Return to Laughter, 1-155.

2/2 World View

How do Tiv explain misfortune? What does it mean to be a witch? Was Yabo one?

Bowen, Return to Laughter, 156-297.

2/4 On Understanding Africa

Trade and State Formation, 16-18th c

Week 3

MAP EXERCISE: DUE IN SECTIONS THIS WEEK.

2/7 Trade, States & Islam: West Africa in 1500

What were the economic and political bases of power in the 15th c. western Sudan?

Shillington, History of Africa, 78-101.

* J.F.A. Ajayi & M. Crowder, History of West Africa, I (3rd ed.):129-166 (esp. 153-164).

2/9 Western Sudan: Songhai

What was the role of trade in the formation of African states? of kings, nobles and appointed officials? of slaves? of Islam?

Shillington, History of Africa, 101-106.

* J.F.A. Ajayi & M. Crowder, History of West Africa, I (3rd ed.):323-356 (esp. 347-352), 577-623.

2/11 Kanem-Borno and the Hausa States*see questions above*Shillington, History of Africa, 181-188.* J.F.A. Ajayi & M. Crowder, History of West Africa, I (3rd ed.):225-254, 577-623 (esp. 615-623).Week 42/14 Economy & Society in Eastern Africa*What was the impact of the Bantu migrations on Eastern Africa? of the Luo?*Shillington, History of Africa, 49-61, 107-121.2/16 East African Kingdoms*What were the main similarities and differences between stateless peoples and states in East Africa? How did the later develop from the former?*Shillington, History of Africa, 206-211.2/18 The Swahili Coast*How did the Swahili city states differ from inland kingdoms?*Shillington, History of Africa, 122-137.Garlake, Kingdoms of Africa, 93-107.Week 5

PAPER #1: LAST WEEK TO HAND IN.

2/21 Central African States: Zimbabwe and the Luba/Lunda Empires*What were the roles of agriculture, of industry and trade, of cattle, and of religion in the rise (and fall) of the Shona states? Of ecology and ideology in the Luba/Lunda states?*Shillington, History of Africa, 138-156.Garlake, Kingdoms of Africa, 69-92.* Birmingham & Martin, History of Central Africa, I:160-204, 245-277.
(DT352.5/H58/1983)2/23 States in African History

MID-TERM EXAM: QUESTIONS HANDED OUT IN CLASS

2/25 NO LECTURE: CONTINUE TO WORK ON MID-TERM EXAM

The Spread of Islam, 16-19th cWeek 62/28 Conversion to Islam: A Religious Economy?*What was the role of Islam in the growth of trade? Of trade in the growth of Islam?*Shillington, History of Africa, 81-87, 90-106, 122-137 (review).MID-TERM EXAM: DUE AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS. LATE PAPERS WILL
RECEIVE A GRADE PENALTY.

- 3/1 Islam and the Growth of States: A Political Religion?
In what ways were Sudanic states Muslim? How did Islam promote their growth?
 D.T. Niane, Sundiata.
- 3/3 The Jihads: A Religious Revolution?
What was the role of religion in the jihads? of ethnicity? of class?
 Shillington, History of Africa, 226-232.
 * Ajayi & Crowder, History of West Africa, II (2nd ed):1-47. (DT475/A77/1987)

Week 7

- 3/6 After the Jihads: The Sokoto Caliphate
What was the impact of the jihads on West Africa?
 * Ajayi & Crowder, History of West Africa, II (2nd ed):86-131.
- 3/8 The Role of Islam in African History
- 3/10 Film: The Atlantic Slave Trade

Spring Break

Slavery and the Slave Trade in Africa, 17-19th c

Week 8

- 3/20 Inequality & Dependency in Africa
*What were the main features of African 'domestic slavery'? Of 'Islamic slavery'?
 How did they differ?*
 Lovejoy, Transformations in Slavery, 1-43.
- 3/22 The Atlantic Slave Trade in the 16-18th c
*How was the slave trade organized in different regions? What was its impact on
 African societies? How did this differ in different regions?*
 Shillington, History of Africa, 170-180.
 Lovejoy, Transformations in Slavery, 44-87, 108-134..
- 3/24 Abolition of the Slave Trade, Slavery & 'Legitimate Trade' in the 19th c
*What was the impact of the abolition of the slave trade on trade, politics, & slavery
 within Africa?*
 Shillington, History of Africa, 232-241.
 Lovejoy, Transformations in Slavery, 135-183.

Week 9

- 3/27 Slavery in Africa Transformed
 Lovejoy, Transformations in Slavery, 184-245.
- 3/29 Slow Death of Slavery
 Lovejoy, Transformations in Slavery, 246-282.
- MID-TERM EXAM: QUESTIONS HANDED OUT IN CLASS
- 3/31 NO LECTURE: CONTINUE TO WORK ON MID-TERM EXAM

Week 12

- 4/17 Africans in the Americas
What were the main economic and social conditions influencing African cultural life in the Americas?
 A. Rabotcau, Slave Religion, 3-92. (BR563/N4/R25)
- 4/19 Film: 'Daughters of the Dust', part I
- 4/21 Film: 'Daughters of the Dust', part II

European Settlement in Southern Africa, 17-19th cWeek 13

- 4/24 The Dutch at the Cape
What was the social and economic basis of Dutch life at the Cape? What was the nature of Dutch relations with Khoi? How did these each change over time?
 Shillington, History of Africa, 212-218.
- 4/26 The Zulu and the 'Mfecane'
How and why did the Zulu state develop? How did it affect the peoples of the area?
 Shillington, History of Africa, 258-266.
 T. Mofolo, Chaka.
- 4/28 The British and the Afrikaner Republics
What were the main issues between British and Afrikaners? How were these resolved?
 Shillington, History of Africa, 266-274.

Week 14

- 5/1 Conquest & Resistance in the Eastern Cape
What were the causes of conflict between Europeans and Africans on the eastern frontier? How were these resolved?
 Shillington, History of Africa, 218-225.
- 5/3 Diamonds and Gold
What was the impact of diamond and gold mining on British-Afrikaner relations? on Euro-African ones?
 Shillington, History of Africa, 317-331.
- 5/5 Unification & the Making of Modern South Africa

On the Eve of Colonial ConquestWeek 15

PAPER #3: LAST WEEK TO HAND IN.

- 5/8 Prelude to Conquest: The Expansion of Europe & Changing Relations with Africa
 Shillington, History of Africa, 289-300.

* recommended reading

1/17/0

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