

HIS 203-01/INS 233A-02 (WI): History of Africa to 1870  
Fall 2005 - M/W, 3:30 - 4:45 PM — McIver Building, Room 229

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Office hours: 1 to 2 PM, M & W  
and by appointment  
Telephone: 334-4068 (office); 334-5992 (History Dept.)

**Course Objectives:** Through the study of Africa from ancient times to the eve of the colonial period, we will identify and dispel colonial myths about the societies of Africa relative to Europe and the rest of the world. Our better understanding of Africa's rich history will allow us to make more informed judgements about events that have taken place there during the 20th century as well as about current conditions in different parts of the continent.

This course will focus on the following major topics: the rise of early African societies and states; the spread of Islam; oral traditions as history; Africa and international trade; the development of the Atlantic slave trade and its effects on Africa. Since this is a history course, we will be concerned especially with change over time -- how and why particular changes occurred and how peoples' lives were affected as a consequence. The three main temporal periods in our survey provide separate units for the course: Early African Civilization (3000 BCE - 800 CE); Africa and the Islamic World (ca. 800-1500); and The Atlantic World -- Africa, Europe, and the Guinea Trade (ca. 1450- 1850).

**Student Learning Goals** – At the completion of this course, the student should be able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the major civilizations that arose in Africa prior to the mid-19th century;
- Demonstrate an understanding of how complex societies developed in Africa out of varying types of subsistence production and external trade;
- Appreciate the importance of contexts and chronologies of historical trends and events.

Course requirements include an analytical paper that will be written and revised, based on course readings (6 pp., worth 25% of final grade); unit tests (15% each, for a total of 45% of final grade); and general class participation, attendance, and short writing assignments (worth 30% of final grade). **NO MAKE-UP TESTS ARE ALLOWED; LATE PAPERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED; SHORT WRITING ASSIGNMENTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AFTER THE CLASS PERIOD DURING WHICH THEY ARE DUE.**

\*\*\*\*\* Attendance policy: Prompt attendance at all lectures and discussions is mandatory; students with more than three unexcused absences will be dropped from the course; excused absences such as a family emergency must be documented. Cell phones and pagers must be turned off. Note: This is not a distance learning class. E-mail messages and attachments over e-mail will not be accepted.

**Required readings:** Kevin Shillington, *History of Africa* (St. Martin's Press, 1995 Edition)  
J.W. Johnson (transl.), *The Epic of Son-Jara* (Indiana University Press, 1992).  
Articles on measuring the Atlantic Slave Trade, on reserve in Jackson Library (see list) and various class handouts.