

HIS 203-01/IGS 233A-03: History of Africa to 1870  
Fall 2008 - M/W, 3:30 - 4:45 PM — MHRA Room 1215

Dr. Colleen Kriger  
MHRA Room 2107

Office hours: 11 AM to 12 noon, T & W, and by appointment  
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\* Be aware that messages via cell phones are often unintelligible. Replies are not guaranteed. \*

**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:

- Identify and compare major civilizations that arose in Africa prior to the mid-19th C.;
- Describe how complex societies developed in Africa out of varying systems of subsistence production and external trade;
- Discuss the importance of contexts and chronologies of historical trends and events.

Course requirements include an analytical paper that will be written based on course reading (6 pp., worth 30% of final grade); three unit tests and one final essay (10% each for a total of 40% of final grade); and general class participation, attendance, and short writing assignments (worth 30% of final grade). Short writing assignments will be graded as < - , < , and < + (2 pts., 4 pts., and 6 pts., respectively). **NO MAKE-UP TESTS ALLOWED; LATE PAPERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED; SHORT WRITING ASSIGNMENTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AFTER THE CLASS PERIOD DURING WHICH THEY ARE DUE.**

\*\*\*\*\* Classroom policies and etiquette: Prompt attendance at all lectures and discussions is mandatory; points will be taken off for unexcused absences; students with more than three unexcused absences may be dropped from the course; excused absences such as illness or a family emergency must be documented. Cell phones, etc. must be turned off; laptop computers are not allowed. 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* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2005 rev. ed.)  
David Conrad (transl), *Sunjata* (Hackett, 2004)  
Articles on measuring the Atlantic Slave Trade, on Blackboard e-reserves (see list).