

History 209-03

Africa and Globalization

MWF 9:00-9:50 MHRA 1214

Instructor: Ian Michie
immichie@uncg.edu
(336) 745 1888
Office: 2102 MHRA

Introduction:

This class will explore aspects of African history from a global perspective. The vastness of Africa's diverse territory and cultures will make it impossible to cover every aspect of African history in a single semester, nonetheless this class will attempt to investigate and inform in such a way that students will come away with an increased understanding and appreciation of its rich presence in world history. From caravans carrying precious goods between Northern Africa and the Middle East to the sale of a South African diamond in a Fifth Avenue jewelry store, Africa has participated in global exchanges of goods, culture, and ideas for millennia. These relationships have often culminated in deeply tragic circumstances for Africa and its peoples in the form of the trans-Atlantic slave trade, European colonialism, Apartheid, and post-colonial famine, epidemic, and war. While this class will be examining all of these elements at some level, it is also our objective to reflect on the rich civilizations and cultures that have made an impact on the world in the forms of art, music, philosophy, and political action.

Class Objectives:

The UNCG department of history has composed a list of 4 key learning goals for history majors. While some of you (possibly all of you) are not history majors, these goals are still important in establishing guidelines for how we approach the subjects. The department guidelines are as follows:

- 1. Analyze historical duration, succession, and change in terms of human agency and larger systems or structures in a wide variety of places and periods. [Historical Comprehension]**
- 2. Use historical thinking to contextualize and analyze primary and secondary sources representing different points of view. [Historical Analysis]**
- 3. Conduct original research by investigating and interpreting primary and secondary sources. [Historical Research]**
- 4. Use evidence-based reasoning to interpret the past coherently while developing and presenting an original argument, orally and in writing. [Historical Interpretation]**

Class Policies:

As your instructor I hope to effectively guide you through this material, but a few rules are necessary to ensure that this process is as enriching and productive as possible.

Attendance: To be successful in this class it is mandatory that you attend every class session. However, I understand that things come up and that excused absences are necessary from time to time. If you have an event that will keep you from coming to class please let me know as far in advance as possible. Also remind me in person or by email the week of your absence. In the case of sudden illness or family emergency please email me as soon as it is possible.

Attendance will be taken before every class session. Excessive absences will affect your overall grade. Any more than three will cost you 1/3 of a letter grade. After eight unexcused absences you will not be able to pass the class.

Habitual lateness will also reflect in your final grade. Be prompt in getting to class.

Cell phones must be turned off at all times. If I **SEE** a cell phone it will result in an unexcused absence for the day.

All course requirements must be completed to receive a grade for the class. Students should keep copies of all graded assignments until the end of the semester.

Assignments are expected to be handed in on their assigned due date; if legitimate circumstances arise (such as an illness) it is your responsibility to contact me. Unexcused late work will be penalized accordingly.

Academic Integrity:

The student must not misrepresent work that is not their own. This is called plagiarism. It is a serious offense and will be reported to the Department of Student Affairs. This class does not require extensive writing and research assignments. It is very important to me to hear **your own** interpretation of the material **in your own words**. If you strive toward this goal, consistently attend class, and participate thoughtfully in discussion you will do well in the course. For more information on academic integrity see: <http://academicintegrity.uncg.edu/complete>

Blackboard:

We will be using Blackboard for assignments, announcements, and email communication. I will do a short demonstration the first week of class but it will help to become familiar with it as soon as possible. I will post an active syllabus on Blackboard that may change through the course of the semester.

Course Requirements:

2 Film Reviews: Each student will pick two films with an African theme, evaluate them, and write a three page review for both films. A list of films will be provided in class and on Blackboard, but the student may pick an alternative with permission from me.

Reading Assignments: Throughout the semester I will be handing out (and posting on Blackboard) documents related to Africa and globalization. The student will be required to read the document carefully and write a one page response explaining the main points and themes. Approximately six of these will occur during the semester. The documents will be posted no later than the Monday before the assignment is due that following Friday.

Presentation/Original Research: Each student will create a five page research paper that uses primary and secondary sources to explore the history and culture of a specific modern country in Africa. They will also create a 5-10 minute group presentation (I will explain how the groups will work as we approach the presentations) using Power Point or Prezi to present their research to the class. A list of countries will be handed out in class. **Have fun** with this presentation, think of it as a mix between entertainment and education. We will have the presentations the week after Thanksgiving break.

Required Reading and Discussions: All students are required to read the three works listed below. Fridays, usually, will be devoted to discussing these texts. It is important that you read carefully in order to have a productive discussion session. Please participate enthusiastically in these discussions, not only will it reflect on your grade it will help develop important public speaking and debating skills you will need later in your careers/lives.

Required Texts:

Mistaking Africa: Curiosities and Inventions of the American Mind, Curtis Keim

The World and a Very Small Place in Africa: The History of Globalization in Niimi, the Gambia, Donald R. Wright

The Heart of Redness, Zakes Mda

Grade Breakdown:

Attendance	20%
Film Reviews	20%
Reading Response	20%
Presentation/Research Paper	20%
Discussion/Participation	20%

Schedule:

Week 1: **Read:** Intro and Chapter 1 in *Mistaking Africa* (M.A.)

Mon 8/20: Introduction/Syllabus

Wednesday 8/22: Blackboard/Kony Video

Friday 8/23: Discussion

Week 2: **Read:** Chapters 2&3 M. A.

Mon 8/27: Prehistory, Evolution of Mankind, Pastoralism

Wednesday 8/29: Egypt, Trans-Saharan Trade
Friday 8/31: Discussion

Week 3: **Read:** Chapters 5&6 M.A.

Mon 9/3: **Labor Day—No Class**

Wednesday 9/5: Africa in the Greco-Roman Period/Spread of Christianity

Friday 9/7: Discussion

Week 4: **Read:** Chapters 8&9 M.A.

Mon 9/10: The Kingdom of Ghana/Islam and the Sudanic States

Wednesday 9/12: Ethiopia and Christianity

Friday 9/14: Discussion

Week 5: **Read:** Chapter 10 M.A.

Mon 9/17: East African Trading Coast

Wednesday 9/19: West Africa

Friday 9/21: Discussion

Week 6: **Read:** T.B.A.

Mon 9/24: The Atlantic Slave Trade

Wednesday 9/26: The Atlantic Slave Trade/How to do a film review

Friday 9/28: Discussion

Week 7: **Read:** Chapters 1-3 *The World and a Very Small Place*

Mon 10/1: South Africa to 1800

Wednesday 10/3: Film: *Amandla*

Friday 10/5: Film: *Amandla*

Week 8: **Read:** Chapters 4-6 *The World*

Mon 10/8: Slave and Ivory Trade in East Africa

Wednesday 10/10: Presentations and Research Papers

Friday 10/12: Discussion, **first film review due in class**

Week 9: **Read:** Chapters 7&8 *The World*

Mon 10/15: **No Class—Spring Break**

Wednesday 10/17: The French in North Africa/Presentations and Research Papers

Friday 10/19: Discussion

Week 10: **Read:** Chapters 9&10 *The World*

Mon 10/22: The “Scramble” for Africa

Wednesday 10/24: Colonial Rule

Friday 10/26: Discussion

Week 11: **Read:** chapters 1-3 *The Heart of Redness*

Mon 10/29: Independence

Wednesday 10/31: Post Colonialism

Friday 11/2: Discussion

Week 12: **Read:** chapters 4&5 *The Heart of Redness*

Mon 11/5: Apartheid

Wednesday 11/7: Modern Relief Efforts

Friday 11/9: Discussion, **second film review due in class**

Week 13: **Read: Chapters** 6-8 *The Heart of Redness*

Mon 11/12: Africa in a Global Economy

Wednesday 11/14: Film: *Tsotsi*

Friday 11/16: Film: *Tsotsi*

Week 14: **Read:** finish *The Heart of Redness*

Mon 11/19: Discussion

Wednesday 11/21: **No Class—Thanksgiving**

Friday 11/23: **No Class—Thanksgiving**

Week 15: **Read:** finish *The Heart of Redness*

Mon: 11/26: Presentations

Wednesday 11/28: Presentations

Friday 11/30: Discussion

Week 16:

Mon 12/3: Presentations/rap up/evaluations

Research Paper is **due December 10th no later than 5:00pm in my box or by email.**