

History 209-03

Africa and Globalization

Fall 2013

MW 3:30-4:45 MHRA 1214

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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 the continent 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. These goals include student learning outcomes for the General Education Program regarding Historical Perspectives. While some 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 ahead 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. Try to be prompt in getting to class. If there is a problem getting to class on time please let me know what the situation is.

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. Please check for changes and announcements regularly. Most announcements will be in the form of a group email, so check the inbox of your UNCG email account often.

Course Requirements:

Reading Responses: Apart from text readings you will be assigned three works to read this semester. I suggest you get the books as soon as possible and familiarize yourselves with them. When we are finished reading a work you will be assigned a 500-1000 page essay focusing on a specific aspect of the book.

Weekly Quizzes: Short quizzes will be handed out at the beginning of class on Monday. They will cover the readings and lecture from the previous week unless otherwise stated.

Required Reading and Discussions: All students are required to read the three works listed below as listed on the reading schedule. There will also be weekly text readings posted on Blackboard to supplement lectures. On Mondays we will take a portion of the class time to discuss themes related to our class. It is important that you are prepared for these discussions; your participation grade is dependent on contributing thoughtfully to a collective analysis of the readings.

Mid-term and Final Exam: The class will complete two exams that will include identifications (IDs), short answers, and an essay. I will post a study guide on Blackboard a week before the exam. Time permitting, we will schedule an in class review before each exam.

Required Texts:

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

Things Fall Apart, Chinua Achebe

Long Walk to Freedom, Nelson Mandela

Grade Breakdown:

Attendance/Participation	25%
Reading Responses	30%
Mid-term/Final Exam	30%
Quizzes	15%

Schedule:

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

Mon 8/19: Introduction/Syllabus/Globalization

Wednesday 8/21: Blackboard/Kony Video

Week 2: Chapter 2, M.A.

Mon 8/26: Prehistory, Evolution of Mankind, Pastoralism
Wednesday 8/28: Egypt, Trans-Saharan Trade

Week 3: **Read:** Chapter 4, M.A.
Mon 9/2: **Labor Day—No Class**
Wednesday 9/4: Africa in the Greco-Roman Period/Spread of Christianity

Week 4: **Read:** Chapter 10, M.A.
Mon 9/9: **Quiz**/Discussion
Wednesday 9/11: Aksum—*The Periplus of the Erythraean Sea*

Week 5: **Read:** Chapters 1-7, *Things Fall Apart*
Mon 9/16: **Quiz**/Discussion—**1st Reading Response due**
Wednesday 9/18: West Africa

Week 6: **Read:** Chapter 8-13, *Things Fall Apart*
Mon 9/23: **Quiz**/Discussion/The Atlantic Slave Trade
Wednesday 9/25: The Atlantic Slave Trade

Week 7: **Read:** Part 2, *Things Fall Apart*
Mon 9/30: **Quiz**/Discussion/South Africa to 1800
Wednesday 10/2: South Africa to 1800

Week 8: **Read:** Part Three, *Things Fall Apart*
Mon 10/7: Discussion/Review
Wednesday 10/9: **Mid-term**

Week 9: **Read:** Part 1-2, *Long Walk to Freedom*
Mon 10/14: **No Class—Fall Break**
Wednesday 10/16: The “Scramble” for Africa—**2nd Reading response due**

Week 10: **Read:** Part 3-4, *Long Walk to Freedom*
Mon 10/21: **Quiz:** Discussion
Wednesday 10/23: Colonial Rule

Week 11: **Read:** Part 5, *Long Walk to Freedom*

Mon 10/28: **Quiz:** Discussion
Wednesday 10/30: Post Colonialism

Week 12: **Read:** Part 7, *Long Walk to Freedom*
Mon 11/4: **Quiz**/Discussion/Apartheid
Wednesday 11/6: Apartheid

Week 13: **Read: Chapters** Part 8, *Long Walk to Freedom*
Mon 11/11: Film: TBD
Wednesday 11/13: Film: TBD

Week 14: **Read:** Part 9, *Long Walk to Freedom*
Mon 11/18: **Quiz**/Discussion
Wednesday 11/20: Modern Conflicts

Week 15: **Read:** finish *The Heart of Redness*
Mon: 11/25: **Quiz**/Discussion
Wednesday 11/27: **No Class—Thanksgiving**

Week 16:
Mon 12/2: Review/wrap up.—**3rd reading response due**

Final Exam: December 9th.