

HIS 203-01: History of Africa to 1870
Fall 2015 - T/R, 9:30 - 10:45 am — Moore 130

Dr. Colleen Kriger
MHRA Room 2107

Office Hours: 11 AM to 12 noon, T & W, and by appointment
Telephone: 334-5205 (office); 334-5992 (History Dept.)

* 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 then 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 civilizations; 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 Civilizations (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.;
- Explain how complex societies developed in Africa out of varying systems of subsistence production and external trade;
- Analyze and discuss the importance of particular contexts and chronologies of historical trends and events.

General College Historical Perspective (GHP) Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Use a historical approach to analyze and contextualize primary and secondary sources representing divergent perspectives;
2. Use evidence to interpret the past coherently, orally and/or in writing.

[Based primarily on short writing assignments (10 total) and formal analytical paper on *Sunjata*.]

General College Global Non-Western (GN) Student Learning Outcomes:

3. Find, interpret, and evaluate information on diverse cultures;
4. Describe interconnections among regions of the world (Africa);
5. Use diverse cultural frames of reference and alternative perspectives to analyze issues.

[Based primarily on three unit tests and a final essay.]

Course requirements as percentage of final grade:

- 30% Attendance, class participation, and (10) short writing assignments
- 30% Analytical paper on *Sunjata*
- 40% 3 unit tests and final essay (10% each)

Course work is graded according to the following criteria:

1. Level of success in identifying the question, problem, or issue at hand.
2. Level of success in presenting sufficient evidence, analysis, or information to address the particular assignment.
3. Level of success in clearly explaining insights, thoughts, and ideas to the reader.

Short writing assignments are graded on a scale of 6, 4, 2, or 0 points each. The unit exams will each have a sum total of 100 possible points. The analytical paper and final essay will be each given a letter grade (with the possible addition of + or -) of A (excellent), B (very good), C (average), D (below average), or F (failure to minimally meet the criteria). Late assignments are not accepted unless an absence is excused. Final grades will be calculated on a 10-point scale.

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 and will be regularly recorded; two points will be taken off your final course grade for each unexcused absence; **excused absences must be documented**. Students engaging in electronic messaging or online activity will be asked to leave the class and will receive an unexcused absence for that day.

Note: This is not a distance learning class. E-mails and attachments over e-mail will not be accepted.

All assignments must be your own work, in your own words. Plagiarism is a serious academic offense and may be reported to the UNCG administration. Any information that you borrow from another source, even if you do not use a direct quotation, must be cited in a footnote or endnote giving credit to that source. You must make sure that you comply with the UNCG Academic Integrity Policy. It is online at <http://academicintegrity.uncg.edu/>

Required readings: Kevin Shillington, *History of Africa* (Palgrave Macmillan, **Revised second edition, 2005**) – Bring this text to class and do not use other editions of it !!!!!

David Conrad (transl. and ed.), *Sunjata* (Hackett, 2004)

Articles on measuring the Atlantic Slave Trade, in Canvas eReserves listed under the module for course HIS 203 (also listed below in the course calendar).

Lectures and assignments:

(** reading and *short writing assignments are listed for the day on which they are due)

Aug. 18 Introduction to the course: syllabus, structure of the course, and course requirements. History: Why history? Why Africa?

Required (ungraded) in-class writing assignment.