

HIS 203-01: History of Africa to 1870  
Fall 2019 - T/R, 9:30 - 10:45 am — 1215 MHRA Bldg.

Dr. Colleen Kriger  
MHRA Room 2107

Office Hours: Tue. 11-12 and Wed. 10-11, or by appointment  
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\* Messages left over 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 judgments about events that have taken place there during the 20th century, as well as about current conditions in different parts of the continent.

This in-class, face-to-face 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 (11 total) and close reading/writing 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 quizzes and a final essay.]

Course requirements as percentage of final grade:

- 30% Attendance, class participation, and (11) short writing assignments
- 15% In-class close reading/writing assignment on *Sunjata*
- 45% 3 unit quizzes (15% each)
- 10% Final essay