

HIS 203-01: History of Africa to 1870
Fall 2020 - Asynchronous Online Guided Learning

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Messages via cell phones are often unintelligible. Speak slowly and repeat message.

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. Understanding Africa's rich history will then allow us to make more informed judgments about events that took place there in the 20th century and 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 time periods in our survey provide separate units for the course: Unit I, Early African Civilizations (3000 BCE - 800 CE); Unit II, Africa and the Islamic World (ca. 800-1500); and Unit III, The Atlantic World -- Africa, Europe, and the Guinea Trade (ca. 1450- 1850). There will be an ending overview with three films on the “Black Atlantic” African diaspora.

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 **differing perspectives**;
2. Use **evidence** to interpret the past coherently, orally and/or in writing.

[Based primarily on short writing assignments (10 total) and short Essay on *Sundiata/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 end-of Unit Essays and a Final Essay.]

Course requirements as percentage of final grade:

- 30% Attention to Announcements and Readings, and (10) short writing assignments
- 15% Short comparative reading/writing Essay assignment on *Sunjata* and *Sundiata*
- 45% 3 end-of-Unit Essays (15% each)
- 10% Final Essay