

HIS 203-01: History of Africa to 1870 (80450)
Fall 2021 - Asynchronous Online Guided Learning

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Course Objectives: Through the study of the continent of Africa from ancient times to the eve of the colonial period, we will identify and dispel colonial myths about African people and their societies. Understanding Africa's rich history will then allow us to make more informed judgments about European colonization and related events that took place in the 20th century and also 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; and the development of the Atlantic slave trade. 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. The course is divided into three main time periods: 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 is an ending overview with two 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.

Minerva Academic Curriculum Competency 9, Global Engagement and Intercultural Learning:

1. Describe **dynamic elements of different cultures**, e.g. history; politics; economics; physical environments; religious principles; gender norms; geography; social beliefs.
2. Explain how **similarities, differences, and connections among different groups of people** or environmental systems affect one another **over time and place**.

[Based primarily on short writing assignments (10 total).]

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 on short writing assignments (10 total) and Comparative 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/Instructions and (10) short writing assignments

15% Comparative reading/writing Essay assignment on *Sunjata* and *Sundiata*

45% 3 end-of-Unit Essays (15% each)

10% Final Essay

Course work is graded according to the level of success in academic performance. See the **UNCG Critical Thinking Rubric** included in this syllabus.

Grading will not be done through Canvas. Short writing assignments will be assessed as check minus, check, or check plus (fair, good, very good). The end-of-Unit Essays will each have a sum total of 100 possible points. The comparative Essay on *Sunjata* and *Sundiata* and the final Essay will each be 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 there is a documented excuse.

NO MAKE-UP ESSAYS ALLOWED; SHORT WRITING ASSIGNMENTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AFTER THE CANVAS DUE DATE/TIME UNLESS YOU PROVIDE ME WITH A DOCUMENTED EXCUSE. ALWAYS WRITE IN YOUR OWN WORDS AND IN COMPLETE SENTENCES.

****** Course policies and etiquette:** Consistent and prompt completion of the readings and assignments is mandatory and will be regularly monitored; a point will be taken off your final course grade for each unexcused late assignment; **excused assignments must be documented.**

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 or wording that you borrow from a source that is not in the assigned readings and viewings is not relevant to this course and will result in an ‘F’ on the assignment.**

When you refer directly to course readings or viewings, place a reference to the page number or digital time frame in parentheses. You are required to comply with the **UNCG Academic Integrity Policy**. It is online at <http://academicintegrity.uncg.edu/>

Academic Achievement Center (AAC): UNCG offers academic assistance through the AAC. You may join regular virtual chat sessions or arrange for special meetings offered online via Zoom for Fall 2021. You may access assistance at <https://studentsuccess.uncg.edu/tasp/> All academic assistance services are free.

Health and well-being impact learning and academic success. During your time at UNCG, you may experience a range of concerns that can cause barriers to your academic success. These might include illnesses, strained relationships, anxiety, high levels of stress, alcohol or drug problems, feeling down, or loss of motivation. Student Health Services and The Counseling Center can help with these or other issues. You can learn about the free, confidential mental health services on campus by phone 336-334-5874, website <https://shs.uncg.edu/> or visiting The Anna M. Gove Student Health Center, 107 Gray Drive. For help with recovery from alcohol and other drug addiction, The Spartan Recovery Program offers information and services. You can learn more by: contacting recovery@uncg.edu or visiting <https://shs.uncg.edu/srp>