

**Topics in History:
History of Africa
HIST 4364-125
Summer 2018
Online**

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Course Description and Objectives:

This is a topics course in the history of Africa from ancient times through European colonization and African independence. Students will be able to recognize and engage issues emanating from the research and historiography of Africa, analyze and critically review works of scholarship in the history of Africa, and further develop their reading and writing skills. Topics and themes under consideration will include, but are not limited to: the culture, religion and histories of broad African geographic regions-North, West, Central, East, and Southern- of the African continent, Africa and its relationship to the wider world, European contact and colonization of Africa, Africa in World War II and the Cold War, and African independence movements.

Learning Outcomes:

1. Demonstrate factual knowledge and an understanding of fundamental theories: Students will examine and evaluate the major issues related to African history up through the decades of the independence movements
2. Analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view: Students will analyze and critically evaluate the conclusions of different historians concerning African history.
3. Apply course material to improve thinking, problem solving, and decision making: Students will apply course material to improve thinking and decision making by constructing and analyzing historical arguments, and drawing conclusions from studied work
4. Demonstrate specific skills, competencies, and points of view needed by professionals in the field most closely related to this course: As future professional historians and teachers, students will evaluate and write formal critical reviews of the work of other scholars as well as acquire factual and theoretical knowledge necessary to the field.
5. Demonstrate skill in expressing themselves orally and in writing: Students will develop skills in written and/or oral communication including book and article reviews, and in-class presentations.

6. Use required resources and find additional scholarly resources for answering questions or solving problems: Students will utilize the learning management system Canvas, online library databases, books, journal articles, and other materials in the completion of their course work.

Students will demonstrate their ability, skills, and understanding through critical book and article reviews, written examinations, classroom discussions, and a presentation.

Required Readings:

Achebe, Chinua. *Things Fall Apart*. New York: Penguin Books, 1994.

Iliffe, John. *Africans: The History of a Continent*. 3rd Ed. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2017.

Niane, D.T. *Sundiata: An Epic of Old Mali*. 2nd Ed. New York: Pearson, 2007.

Sparks, Randy J. *Where the Negroes are Masters: An African Port in the Era of the Slave Trade*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2014.

Recommended Readings:

McEvedy, Colin. *The Penguin Atlas of African History: Revised Edition*. New York: Penguin, 1996.

Course Requirements and Grading Policy

The final average will be calculated based on the number of points received out of a total of 700. The following point ranges correspond to the final grade for the course: 630 and above = A; 560-629 = B; 490-559 = C; 420-489 = D; below 420 = F. (On the percentage scale: A = 90-100%; B = 80-89%; C = 70-79%; D = 60-69%; F = 0-59%). Students will be graded and earn points for:

MID-TERM AND FINAL EXAMINATIONS: Students will take two online exams—a mid-term and a final. The exams will be written and will contain a mixture of essay, short answer, multiple choice, and identification terms. Each exam will be worth 100 points.

FILM REVIEW: Students will write 6 short (1-2 pages) reviews summarizing and reacting to the content of assigned films on African topics. Each film review is worth 50 points. Film reviews will be submitted on Canvas. Instructions and guidelines for preparing the film reviews are located in a Canvas page entitled “Assignment Instructions.”

BOOK REVIEWS: Students will turn in reviews of two of our three assigned readers (Niane, Sparks, and Achebe) during this course. Students may choose which two books to review. Each book review is worth 100 points. Further information about the book reviews is posted in Canvas on the “Assignment Instructions” page. Book reviews will be submitted through Canvas.

LATE WORK: Late work will be accepted at a penalty of 10% of the assignment grade for each day past the due date. Please note, however, that late work will not be accepted past the semester end date of Friday, July 27. Make-ups for missed assignments will be given on a case-by-case basis and only for documented reasons such as hospitalization/illness, incarceration, military service etc. Students are responsible for securing all necessary documentation for consideration when asking for a makeup.

INCOMPLETES: Incomplete grades are reserved for extraordinary circumstances such as Hospitalization, Incarceration, Deployment etc. that arise after the university drop date and which prevent the student from completing any outstanding course work. Inability to complete assigned work for whatever reason before the drop date should be handled via dropping the course. Decisions to allow an incomplete are made at the sole discretion of the professor.

PLEASE NOTE: All written electronic assignments must be submitted in one of the following formats: Microsoft, Open Office, or Libre Office . All other formats, such as Apple .pages or .wps will not be accepted

Withdrawals/Drop Date:

It is the responsibility of the student to initiate a drop through the Records Office if they discover the need to do so. Professors cannot drop students. The last day to drop this course with a “Q” or withdraw with a “W” is Friday, June 29.

Technology

As students registered for a course that utilizes online components, you and you alone are responsible for ensuring that you have reliable and regular internet access as well as a reliable computer or comparable device. It is not my responsibility to accommodate online students who lack access to computers or the internet. No exceptions to course policies will be made for students who lose their ability to access the internet or complete the required coursework on a computer during the semester. Also, while it is possible to access the course materials using a dial-up internet connection, you should be aware that Canvas (as with most other programs and platforms) functions best with high speed internet access. Course policies apply equally to all students regardless of the quality of their internet access.

For technology issues, students should contact Help Desk Central. 24 hours a day, 7 days a week:

Email: helpdesk@tamu.edu
Phone: (254) 519-5466
Web Chat: <http://hdc.tamu.edu>

For issues related to course content and requirements, contact your instructor.

The University Writing Center

The UWC is continuing with synchronous online writing tutoring this summer. Students can schedule online appointments via WOnline at <https://tamuct.mywconline.com/> with any tutor who has “Face-to-face or online” underneath their name. Using WOnline, they will be able to video conference with a UWC tutor from the comfort of their own home!

Tutors are prepared to help writers of all levels and abilities at any stage of the writing process. Sessions typically last between 20-30 minutes. While tutors will not write, edit, or grade papers, they will help students develop more effective invention and revision strategies.

Please see: <http://www.kaltura.com/tiny/kf5zv> for a short video about the writing center’s online tutoring services.

Academic Integrity:

Texas A&M University -Central Texas values the integrity of the academic enterprise and strives for the highest standards of academic conduct. A&M-Central Texas expects its students, faculty, and staff to adhere to high standards of personal and scholarly conduct to preserve the honor and integrity of the creative community. Academic integrity is defined as a commitment to honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. Any deviation by students from this expectation may result in a failing grade for the assignment and potentially a failing grade for the course. Academic misconduct is any act that improperly affects a true and honest evaluation of a student’s academic performance and includes, but is not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work, plagiarism and improper citation of sources, using another student’s work, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials. All academic misconduct concerns will be reported to the university’s Office of Student Conduct. Ignorance of the university’s standards and expectations is never an excuse to act with a lack of integrity. When in doubt on collaboration, citation, or any issue, please contact your instructor before taking a course of action.

NOTE: At the very minimum, students who violate the academic integrity policy will receive an “F” for this course, and the professor reserves the right to initiate further sanctions.

Access & Inclusion

At Texas A&M University – Central Texas, we value an inclusive learning environment where every student has an equal chance to succeed and has the right to an education that is barrier-free. The Office of Access & Inclusion is responsible for ensuring that students with a disability enjoy equal access to the University's programs, services and activities. Some aspects of this course or the way the course is taught may present barriers to learning due to a disability. If you feel this is the case, please contact Access & Inclusion at (254) 501-5831 in Warrior Hall, Suite 212. For more information, please visit their website at: <https://www.tamuct.edu/departments/access-inclusion/>
Any information you provide is private and confidential and will be treated as such.

Library Services

INFORMATION LITERACY focuses on research skills which prepare individuals to live and work in an information-centered society. Librarians will work with students in the development of critical reasoning, ethical use of information, and the appropriate use of secondary research techniques. Help may include, yet is not limited to: exploration of information resources such as library collections and services, identification of subject databases and scholarly journals, and execution of effective search strategies. Library Resources are outlined and accessed at:

<http://www.tamuct.edu/departments/library/deservices.php>

Other Policies

OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS POLICY: Official communication is via your official Texas A&M University–Central Texas e-mail address, online via Canvas, and in-person in-class. Please check these places frequently for updates and information. It is the policy of the instructor to communicate sensitive information with students via e-mail only through an official TAMUCT e-mail address.

TECHNOLOGY POLICY: This course will use the TAMUCT Canvas Learn learning management system for class communications, content distribution, and assignments. If you have not yet activated the Canvas system, please do so, as this is critical for completing this course. The Canvas homepage for TAMUCT is: <https://tamuct.instructure.com/login/ldap>. Technology issues are not an excuse for missing a course requirement, so please make sure your computer is configured correctly and address issues well in advance of deadlines.

ELECTRONIC DEVICE AND COPYRIGHT POLICY: You may download course recordings, but recordings may *only* be used for personal, private, research and study purposes only, and *must not be disseminated publicly in any way*.

Copyright Notice: The electronic content and materials in this course are for the sole purpose of instruction as part of this course offered by Texas A&M University–Central

Texas, and are solely for university students registered in this course, and are subject to copyright protection law. Students who disregard United States copyright policy and institution policy do so at their own risk and assume all liability.

911 Cellular:

Emergency Warning System for Texas A&M University – Central Texas

911Cellular is an emergency notification service that gives Texas A&M University-Central Texas the ability to communicate health and safety emergency information quickly via email, text message, and social media. All students are automatically enrolled in 911 Cellular through their myCT email account.

Connect at [911Cellular](https://portal.publicsafetycloud.net/Texas-AM-Central/alert-management) [https://portal.publicsafetycloud.net/Texas-AM-Central/alert-management] to change where you receive your alerts or to opt out. By staying enrolled in 911Cellular, university officials can quickly pass on safety-related information, regardless of your location.

Course Outline:

Please Note: This outline is intended a general guide only. As the professor, I reserve the right to adjust this syllabus or the class schedule in any way that serves the educational needs of the students enrolled in this course.

Week 1 6/4 Introduction to the course; African Geography, Early Africa; Reading: Iliff Chapters 1 and 2, begin Niane; Watch Film #1; **Film Review 1 due Sun. 6/10 at 11:59 p.m.**

Week 2 6/11 Ancient North and Northwest Africa; Islam in Africa; Reading: Iliff Chapters 3 and 4, finish Niane; Watch Film #2; **Film Review 2 due Sun. 6/17 at 11:59 p.m.; Book Review 1 (Niane) due Sun. 6/17 at 11:59 p.m.**

Week 3 6/18 East, Central, and Southern Africa prior to European contact; Reading: Iliff Chapters 5 and 6, begin Sparks. Watch Film # 3; **Film Review 3 due Sun. 6/24 at 11:59 p.m.**

Week 4 6/25 The rise of the Atlantic Slave trade; West African societies and states; Southern, Central, and East Africa; Reading: Iliff chapter 7, continue Sparks. **Mid-Term Exam due Sun. 7/1 @ 11:59 p.m.**

Week 5 7/2 West, East, and Central Africa and the end of the Atlantic slave trade; Europeans in North and South Africa; Reading: Iliff Chapter 8, finish Sparks. **Film Review 4 due Sun. 7/8 at 11:59 p.m.; Book Review 2 (Sparks) due Sun. 7/8 at 11:59 p.m.**

Week 6 7/9 European colonization of Africa, African resistance, the “scramble”; The Boer War; Reading: Iliff Chapters 9 and 10, begin Achebe. **Film Review 5 due Sun. 7/15 at 11:59 p.m.**

Week 7 7/16 European colonial rule in Africa through WW2, African Independence Movements; Reading: Iliff chapters 11 and 12a, finish Achebe. **Film Review 6 due Sun. 7/21 at 11:59 p.m.; Book Review 3 (Achebe) due Sun. 7/21 at 11:59 p.m.**

Week 8 7/23; Africa in the late 20th century, Africa in the new millennium; Reading: Iliff chapters 12b and 13. **Final Exam Thurs. 7/26 @ 11:00 a.m.**