

**Topics in History:
History of Africa
HIST 4364-110
Fall 2023
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.

Mode of Instruction and Course Access

This is a fully online course with no scheduled face-to-face meetings.

This course uses the A&M-Central Texas Canvas Learning Management System
<https://tamuct.instructure.com>.

Contacting the Professor

All communications in this course between students and the professor should take place using the Canvas message system. You can expect to receive a reply to any message in about 24 hours, except on weekends (Fri. evening through Sunday evening) when the turnaround time may be a bit longer. In most cases, however, replies will be made much sooner than that. If for some reason you are unable to access Canvas, you may contact me via email. If you desire a face-to-face meeting, Webex, Telephone, or Skype meetings can be arranged. Please message me if you would like to schedule a meeting and we will work out a time on a case-by-case basis.

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.

Greaves, Adrian. *The Zulus at War*. New York: Ingram, 2014.

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:

McEvedy, Colin. *Penguin Atlas of African History*. 2nd Ed. New York: Penguin, 1995.

Course Requirements and Grading Policy

The final average will be calculated based on the number of points received out of a total of 1000. The following point ranges correspond to the final grade for the course: 900 and above = A; 800-899 = B; 700-799 = C; 600-699 = D; below 600 = 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:

UNIT EXAMINATIONS: Students will take four online exams—one per each unit. The exams will be written and will contain a mixture of essay questions and objective items. Each exam will be worth 100 points.

FILM REACTIONS: Students will write 8 short (2-3 pages) papers summarizing and reacting to the content of assigned films on African topics. Each film reaction is worth 50 points. These will be submitted on Canvas.

RESEARCH PAPER: Students will create a 6-8 page (not including title page, notes, or bibliography) research paper on a topic related to African History. The paper will be formatted in Turabian style and is worth 200 points.

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 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. Students requesting an incomplete need to have been active in the course throughout the semester and maintaining a passing grade. Decisions to allow an incomplete are made at the sole discretion of the professor.

FEEDBACK: As all written assignments will be submitted electronically, feedback on papers will also be delivered electronically and will generally be available within 7-10 days of the due date. Often, grades will be posted much more quickly, and occasionally they will take a bit longer.

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

Drop Policy

If you discover that you need to drop this class, you must complete the [Drop Request](#) Dynamic Form through Warrior Web.

Faculty cannot drop students; this is always the responsibility of the student. The Registrar's Office will provide a deadline on the Academic Calendar for which the form must be completed. Once you submit the completed form to the Registrar's Office, you must go into Warrior Web and confirm that you are no longer enrolled. If you still show as enrolled, FOLLOW-UP with the Registrar's Office immediately. You are to attend class until the procedure is complete to avoid penalty for absence. Should you miss the drop deadline or fail to follow the procedure, you will receive an F in the course, which may affect your financial aid and/or VA educational benefits.

The last day to drop this course with a "Q" or withdraw with a "W" is Friday, July 29.

Technology

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.

Technology Requirements

This course will use the A&M-Central Texas Instructure Canvas learning management system. **We strongly recommend the latest versions of Chrome or Firefox browsers. Canvas no longer supports any version of Internet Explorer.**

Logon to A&M-Central Texas Canvas. You will log in through our Microsoft portal.

Username: Your MyCT email address. Password: Your MyCT password

Technology Support

For log-in and other TAMUCT system support needs, 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 Canvas help, use the Canvas Help link, located at the bottom of the left-hand menu, for issues with Canvas. You can select “Chat with Canvas Support,” submit a support request through “Report a Problem,” or call the Canvas support line: 1-844-757-0953.

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

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The University Writing Center

The University Writing Center at Texas A&M University-Central Texas is a free workspace open to all TAMUCT students. The University Writing Center is located in 416 Warrior Hall. The center is open 10 am-4pm Monday through Thursday and also at the Library from 6 pm-9 pm Monday through Thursday. Online appointments are available on Saturdays from noon till three pm . Students may work independently in the University Writing Center by checking out a laptop that runs Microsoft Office suite and connects to WIFI, or by consulting our resources on writing, including all of the relevant style guides. Students may also arrange a one-on-one session with a trained and experienced writing tutor. Tutorials can be arranged by visiting the University Writing Center. 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. The Writing Center also offers synchronous online tutoring for distance education students!

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 support the adherence to high standards of personal and scholarly conduct to preserve the honor and integrity of the creative community. Any deviation by students from this expectation may result in a failing grade for the assignment and potentially a failing grade for the course. All academic misconduct concerns will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. When in doubt on collaboration, citation, or any issue, please contact your instructor before taking a course of action.

For more [information regarding the Student Conduct process](#),

If you know of potential honor violations by other students, you may [submit a report](#),

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.

For more information, please visit our [Access & Inclusion](#) Canvas page (log-in required)

Important information for Pregnant and/or Parenting Students

Texas A&M University-Central Texas supports students who are pregnant and/or parenting. In accordance with requirements of Title IX and related guidance from US Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights, the Dean of Student Affairs' Office can assist students who are pregnant and/or parenting in seeking accommodations related to pregnancy and/or parenting. Students should seek out assistance as early in the pregnancy as possible. For more information, please visit [Student Affairs](#). Students may also contact the institution's Title IX Coordinator. If you would like to read more about these [requirements and guidelines](#) online, please visit the website.

Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972 prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex and gender—including pregnancy, parenting, and all related conditions. A&M-Central Texas is able to provide flexible and individualized reasonable accommodation to pregnant and parenting students. All pregnant and parenting students should contact the Associate Dean in the Division of Student Affairs at (254) 501-5909 to seek out assistance. Students may also contact the University's Title IX Coordinator.

Title IX Rights and Reporting Responsibilities

A&M-Central Texas is committed to creating a safe and open learning environment for all students. If you or another student has experienced any form of gender discrimination or sexual misconduct, including sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating/domestic violence, and/or sex-based stalking, help and support are available. Our university strongly encourages all members of our campus community to report incidents and seek support for gender discrimination and sexual misconduct through the Title IX Office. You may contact

the Title IX Office at 254.519.5716, titleix@tamuct.edu, Founders Hall 317B, or learn more by visiting the [Title IX webpage](https://www.tamuct.edu/compliance/titleix.html) [https://www.tamuct.edu/compliance/titleix.html].

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>

Classroom Decorum and Other Policies

Students in an online course are expected to behave professionally and courteously with the professor and their peers. Although personal interactions in this course are limited, in the event that online discussion or meeting formats are utilized, please be respectful in your posting and comments.

A Note about Sexual Violence at A&M-Central Texas

Sexual violence is a serious safety, social justice, and public health issue. The university offers support for anyone struggling with these issues. University faculty are mandated reporters, so if someone discloses that they were sexually assaulted (or a victim of Domestic/Dating Violence or Stalking) while a student at TAMUCT, faculty members are required to inform the Title IX Office. If you want to discuss any of these issues confidentially, you can do so through Student Wellness and Counseling (254-501-5955) located on the second floor of Warrior Hall (207L).

Sexual violence can occur on our campus because predators often feel emboldened, and victims often feel silenced or shamed. It is incumbent on ALL of us to find ways to actively create environments that tell predators we don't agree with their behaviors and tell survivors we will support them. Your actions matter. Don't be a bystander; be an agent of change. For additional information on campus policy and resources visit the [Title IX webpage](https://www.tamuct.edu/compliance/titleix.html) [https://www.tamuct.edu/compliance/titleix.html].

Behavioral Intervention

Texas A&M University-Central Texas cares about the safety, health, and well-being of its students, faculty, staff, and community. If you are aware of individuals for whom you have a

concern, please make a referral to the Behavioral Intervention Team. Referring your concern shows you care. You can complete the [referral](#) online [<https://cm.maxient.com/reporting.php?TAMUCentralTexas>].

Anonymous referrals are accepted. Please see the [Behavioral Intervention Team](#) website for more information [<https://www.tamuct.edu/bit>]. If a person's behavior poses an imminent threat to you or another, contact 911 or A&M-Central Texas University Police at 254-501-5805.

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.

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

SAFEZONE. SafeZone provides a public safety application that gives you the ability to call for help with the push of a button. It also provides Texas A&M University-Central Texas the ability to communicate emergency information quickly via push notifications, email, and text messages. All students automatically receive email and text messages via their myCT accounts.

Downloading SafeZone allows access to push notifications and enables you to connect directly for help through the app.

You can download SafeZone from the app store and use your myCT credentials to log in. If you would like more information, you can visit the [SafeZone](#) website [www.safezoneapp.com].

To register SafeZone on your phone, please follow these 3 easy steps:

1. Download the SafeZone App from your phone store using the link below:
 - [iPhone/iPad](https://apps.apple.com/app/safezone/id533054756): [https://apps.apple.com/app/safezone/id533054756]
 - [Android Phone / Tablet](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.criticalarc.safezoneapp)
[https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.criticalarc.safezoneapp]
2. Launch the app and enter your myCT email address (e.g. {name}@tamuct.edu)
3. Complete your profile and accept the terms of service

Course Outline:

UNIT 1-Africa in Antiquity

Week 1 (8/28) Introduction to the course. Begin reading *Sundiata*.

Week 2 (9/4) ; African Geography, Early Africa; Watch Film #1; **Film Reaction 1 due Tues. 9/12 @ 11:59 p.m.**

Week 3 (9/11) Ancient North and Northwest Africa **Film Reaction 2 Due Tues. 9/19 @ 11:59 p.m.**

Week 4 (9/18) Islam in Africa; Reading: finish Niane **Unit 1 Exam Due Tues. 9/26@ 11:59 p.m.**

UNIT 2- Africa and Europe

Week 5 (9/25) Sub-Saharan Africa prior to European Contact part 1. Begin reading Sparks. **Film Reaction 3 Due Tues. 10/3 @ 11:59 p.m.**

Week 6 (10/2) Sub-Saharan Africa prior to European Contact part 2 **Film Reaction 4 Due Tues. 10/10 @ 11:59 p.m.**

Week 7 (10/9) The rise of the Atlantic Slave trade; West African societies and states. No assignments due this week.

Week 8 (10/16) Southern, Central, and East Africa “Atlantic” era. **Unit 2 Exam Due Tues. 10/24 @ 11:59 p.m.**

UNIT 3- Colonial Africa

Week 9 (10/23) West, East, and Central Africa and the end of the Atlantic slave trade. Begin reading Achebe. **Film Reaction 5 Due Tues. 10/31 @ 11:59 p.m.**

Week 10 (10/30) Europeans in North and South Africa. **Film Reaction 6 Due Tues. 11/7 @ 11:59 p.m.**

Week 11 (11/6) European colonization in Africa, African resistance. No assignments due this week.

Week 12 (11/13) The “scramble” for Africa; The Boer War. **Unit 3 Exam Due Tues. 11/21 @ 11:59 p.m.**

Unit 4- African in the Modern Era

Week 13 (11/20) European colonial rule in Africa through WW2; Begin reading Greaves. **Film Reaction 7 Due Tues. 11/28 @ 11:59 p.m.**

Week 14 (11/27) African Independence Movements and the Cold War. **Film Reaction 8 Due Tues. 12/5 @ 11:59 p.m.**

Week 15 (12/4) Africa in the late 20th century and new millennium; Work on final assignments.

Week 16 (12/11) FINALS WEEK- Unit 4 Exam and Research Papers Due Thursday, Dec 14 @ 11:59 p.m.