

History 342: Africa and the West

Time: Tues/Thurs: 9:00-10:15 am.

119 Univ. Hall

Fall Semester 2010**Professor Ray E. Dumett**

Office: 026 U. Hall: T/Th:10:30 to.

11:00 am.; & Fri. 3:00-5:30 pm.

COURSE DESIGN

Course Description: This course examines Africa's recent past and its relations with the Atlantic world from approximately 1500 to the present. Focusing on the themes of differing economic and cultural systems, religions, the lure of wealth, national rivalries and conflict, lectures will analyze traditional African civilizations and interactions with internal and external forces of change, including exploration, military conquest, slavery and the Atlantic commercial revolution. Countries of West Africa and the West Indies are a particular focus of attention because they were crucibles for a synthesis of African, European and American cultural elements. The pros and cons of early anthropological studies and the impact of colonial rule and early Christian missionary influences also receive attention. The course culminates with a discussion of African nationalism and the independence revolution of the 20th century.

Goals: Two goals of the course will be to develop an appreciation for the richness of the varied cultures and peoples of the African continent and to sharpen awareness of the complexities of their modern history. The course endeavors to acquaint students with several of the great religious traditions in Africa. On a regional basis West Africa and Central Africa receive the closest attention. Lectures and readings will emphasize the continuities between past and present and the ongoing challenges facing modern Africa.

Assignments and Methods: The data base for this course derives from twice weekly lectures. In addition, textbook assignments and a number of supplementary readings from a course packet augment the framework of lectures. There will be three examinations of equal weight. Essay questions comprise the major portion of exams; but short answer (identification and possible T/F multiple choice) questions plus map tests will also be included. To assist students with preparation for exams there will be two short quizzes. There is no term paper for the course. Instead, students will submit short 1^{1/2} to 2 page summaries of a number of the assigned Xeroxed readings (see Syllabus below). Attendance and participation in class discussions is important. Consultation with the professor and teaching assistant is very much encouraged.

Grading: Letter grades will be awarded according to a point system:--1st exam—100 pts.; 2nd mid-term exam—100. Third exam—100 pts.; Two 20 point Quizzes - 40 points. Three reviews of assigned Readings @ 30 pts. Each—90 points. Good Attendance and participation in review discussions is worth up to —20 points. Total possible points for the course—450.

Textbooks.Bohannon, Paul and Curtin, Phillip: *Africa and Africans* (Waveland, 4th edn. 1995). Refer to as B&C.**Plus Xeroxed Packet of Supplemental Readings, From Boiler Copymaker. (See assignments below.)****SYLLABUS****(Lecture Topics and Readings Assignments)****I Course Introduction:** (First Week - Aug. 24nd through Aug. 26th)

(Read Course Packet, Bohannon & Curtin, Chapter 1: 6-15.)

1. The Revolution in African Historical Studies since 1960 (Bohannon & Curtin, Ch. 10, 130-37. 2. Misconceptions & stereotypes regarding Africa.
- 3 The Geography of Africa. (Read Course Packet, pp. 2-15.)

II. The Culture Areas of Africa: (Aug. 31st through Sept. 14th)

1. Traditional and modern methods for classifying African peoples.
2. Two Major Culture Areas: (1) East African Cattle Area; (2) West African Forest Zone.
3. The political Kingdom of Asante. **Film:** 'A Great Tree has Fallen'.

(Read selection by M. J. Herskovits, Course Pact, 16-39. Also Bohanan & Curtin, Ch. 2, 18-26; and Ch. 3, 34-45; and Ch. 4, 64-75.

4. **Brief (20 min.) QUIZ.** Thursday, Sept. 16th. Students should also be prepared for class discussion on review of the readings & points in the Quiz.

III. African Religions: Are African religion Monotheistic or Polytheistic?

(Sept 21 through Sept. 30th.)

- 1..The Study of African **Religions** and African Art **Slide Lecture.**

(Read selection by Benjamin Ray:in Packet, , 2-74, 116-24, 140-52.

Also (B & Curtin. Ch.9, 116-125.)

3. The Influence of **Islam** on Africa. (Read selection by Trimmingham in Packet, pp. 57-68) Has the Islamic impact been different in Africa?
4. **Sept 30th . Written Assignment and Class Discussion of readings.** (Write a one and one-half page summary of questions and possible answers raised in the readings by Benjamin Ray on African traditional religions and by J. S. Trimmingham on Islam. (See Reading Packet).

1ST MID-TERM EXAMINATION – Tuesday October 5th

IV. Portuguese Expansion and the Atlantic Slave Trade.

(One and one-half weeks. **Oct 7th through Oct. 19^h.**)

(Read Packet: Balandier, 82-98; Equiano's Travels, 99-122; Miller "Way of Death 123-152; \ plus Bohannan & Curtin, C. 14: 180-190.)

1. Causes of Portuguese Voyages of Discovery and World Hegemony (1)
2. Early relations with African kingdoms and peoples.
3. Internal African slavery and the slave trade.; high mortality.
4. The Rise of the Sugar and Firearms trades..
- 5 The Dimensions & Quantification of the Atlantic Slave Trade.
- 6 What was the life of a slave like?

Oct. 12th: OCTOBER BREAK—No Class.

Oct. 14th– Oct. 19th: Written Assignment and Class Discussion of readings. Write a summary of the selections from Equiano's "Travels" and Jos. Miller, "Way of Death" from the Reading packet of Xeroxed selections. (above).

V. Slavery and plantation systems in the West Indies (Oct. 21st - Oct. 28th)

(Read in Packet: **H.S. Klein**, Slavery in the Carribean;153-175; R. Price, *Maroon Societies*, 176-185.)

1. Origins of European Colonization in the Caribbean
2. The Expanding sugar-growing 'frontier': English, Dutch & French islands.
3. The Work of Slaves: Plantation societies in the West Indies (1) **Film; "The Sugar Slaves"**
4. Plantation Slavery in the West Indies (Part 2) "the Creole Culture"
5. African Resistance: **Maroon** (Escaped Slaves) **Societies**,
6. Vodun ('Voodoo') in Dahomey and Haiti.

Thurs. OCT. 28TH: SECOND QUIZ AND MAP TEST.

SECOND MID-TERM EXAMINATION—Thurs. November . 4th.

VI The Impact of Christian Missionary Activity and Westernization in West Africa. (Tues. Nov. 9th through Tues. November 16th).

The Christian evangelical movement in England: -T. Clarkson, Wilberforce

2. 1807--The Abolition of the Slave Trade and its Results.
3. Creation of Sierra Leone and the Parliamentary Statute of 1807
4. 1833- Abolition of Slavery in the British Empire—Causes and Results
5. Samuel Ajayi Crowther: missions and the rise of ‘Legitimate Trade’ in West Africa.
6. The response of Africans (incl. kings & chiefs) to missionary activity.
7. Response of the educated coastal Africans to missionary education..

Nov. 16th : Written Assignment and class Discussion. (Read the article by E. A. Ayendele, “Traditional Rulers and Missionaries in Pre-colonial West Africa: pp. 190-204 of **Reading Packet**. Also part of article on “African Merchants of the Gold Coast”, 205-210 of Packet.)

THANKSGIVING BREAK --Wed. Nov. 24, Thurs. 25th.

VIII. Impact and Contradictions of European Colonial Rule in West Africa. (Thursday, Nov. 18th through Tuesday Nov. 23rd.

(Read articles in Course Packet by J. Forbes Munro and Mary E. Townsend, Townshend, pp. 232-249, and 250-263. Also Bohanan and Curtin, **Ch.17, 218-27; Ch.18, 23-38.**)

1. The Political and administrative Impact of British and French colonial rule in West Africa.
2. The Economic Impact of Colonialism- the pros and cons of Capitalism in Africa.
3. **Student should be prepared for in class discussion of the positive and negative aspects of colonial rule in West Africa, based on the readings.**

IX. Tuesday, Nov. 30th. NATIONALISM AND THE INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT IN WEST AFRICA IN THE 20th CENTURY. (Lecture only.)

THIRD EXAMINATION—Thurs. Dec. 2nd 2010.

(This will be held the second to the last week of the regular class sessions semester)

X. Tues. December 7th. Course Wrap-Up. There will be one lecture class only during this week. No class on Thursday Dec. 9th.

TERE WILL BE NO FINAL EXAM NOR CLASSES HELD DURING FINALS WEEK – Dec. 13th-18th)

WINTER VACATION BEGINS – Sat. Dec. 18th