History 341: Survey of the History of Africa

Spring Semester 2012.
Location: Univ. Hall- 201.
Class meets Tues/Th. 4:30 to 5:45 pm.

Prof. Ray E. Dumett
Office: University Hall 026.
Off. Hrs. T/Th. 2:30-3:45 & by appointment.

SYLLABUS
A SURVEY OF THE HISTORY OF AFRICA SOUTH OF THE SAHARA


Course Design. The study of African history has achieved high recognition in university curricula over the last fifty years. This introductory course surveys major movements and historical problems in the development of the civilizations of Africa from prehistoric times to the twentieth century. Common myths and misconceptions about Africa held in Europe and North America will be criticized and exposed. The story of African kingdoms and empires in Antiquity will be emphasized. And the impact of Islam will receive attention. Although changes since 1500 are viewed against the backdrop of challenges from abroad—including European colonialism, westernization, and above all, the Atlantic slave trade—it is the initiatives and responses of Africans and the evolution of African institutions which occupy center stage in the course.

Goals and Purpose. To broaden our understanding of African peoples and the African continent, and from this to inculcate an appreciation for the richness of African history and cultures are major goals. The course also attempts to relate recent and current events in Africa, particularly those affecting economic development and the environment, to the historical past and also to underscore important problems facing Africa and the world in the twenty-first century.

Course Requirements: There will be three essay-type examinations during the semester. There will be two (20 point) quizzes to help students prepare for exams. And there will be one book review based on the purchased book, Black Livingstone (2002). In addition students will be expected to know important features of the map of Africa and should be prepared for several brief map tests in conjunction with quizzes & examinations. Xeroxes of detailed maps will be provided.

Grading will be based on the apportionment of points for each assignment. First examination-100 pts.; 2nd examination-100 pts. Third examination-100 pts.; The two short quizzes coupled with a map test—20 pts. each. The three page book review will be worth 80 points each. Regular attendance and participation in class discussions may receive up to 20 pts. Possible Total for the semester--440 points.

SCHEDULE OF LECTURES AND READING ASSIGNMENTS:

PART I: COURSE INTRODUCTION


2. Second Week (Jan 17th & 19th). The Geography of Africa: Students will be expected to learn the major physical features of the continent of Africa in preparation for a short map test.
   Read C & B., Text, 7-23.

PART II: ANCIENT AFRICAN KINGDOMS

1. 4TH Week (Jan.24th through Jan. 26th). The Ancient Sudanic Civilization of Kush (Meroe) in the Sudan (c.1600 B.C.-300 A.D.)
   (1) The connections between Kush and ancient Egypt; (2) Kushite kings; (3) Main Achievements of Kushite civilization; (4) the Spread of Iron Working.
   (Slides and/or Film: “The Forgotten Kingdom”)

THURS. February 3rd. FIRST QUIZ, (including 1st MAP TEST)

2. Fifth Week (Tues. Feb. – Tues. Feb. 7th) Ancient Ethiopia & Nubia, (c. 1,000 B.C.—800 A.D.): (1) the Kingdom of Axum; (2) the Coming of Christianity; (3) Lasta & the Ethiopian Dark Age; (4) Epilogue: The Portuguese Impact. (Power point slide lecture.)
   Read: C & B, Ch. 5: 64-77.

FIRST MID-TERM EXAMINATION—Thursday, Feb. 9th

PART III: THE MIDDLE AGE OF AFRICAN HISTORY (West and East Africa)

1. From Feb. 14th through 23rd (two weeks). The Trans-Saharan Trade & the Sudanic Kingdoms (770 to 1070 A.D.) A Slide Lecture: Kingdoms of the western Western Sudan
   Read C & B, Chapter 16: 231-240 and Ch. 6: 78-95.

2 Feb. 23rd. The Kingdom and Empire of Mali. (c. 1200 to 1400)
   Collins and Barrow Text: Same pages as above.

3. March 6th. The East African Coast and the Empire of Zanj (c. 900—1500 A.D.)
4. March 8th. The Central and Southern African Interior: (1) The Dispersion of the Bantu-speaking People; (2) the Empire of Great Zimbabwe. **Slide show.**

Read C & B, Ch. 8: 114-122 plus Ch. 11: 159-171.

* Supplementary article by Lamphear in Martin and O’Meara, *Africa*, 78-86.

SPRING VACATION: Mon. March 12th through Sat. March 17th

Tuesday March 20th. Second Mid-Term Examination.

PART IV: THE ATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE and EUROPEAN COLONIALISM.


1. Tues. April 3rd and April 5th. The anti-slavery Movement, European Exploration, and the Anti-Slavery Movement in Africa. **R. Collins & Barrow, 251-253.**


**Tuesday April 17th. Book review will be due. Class discussion.**


4. April 26th. Course Conclusion: Economic and Social Problems in Contemporary Africa. (Read: C & B. Ch. 377-389.)


**FINAL EXAMINATION WEEK (Apr. 30th-May 6th: Date of Third Exam will be announced.**