

History 341: Survey of the History of Africa  
Spring Semester 2013:  
Location: University Hall- 219.  
Class meets Tues/Th. 4::30 to 5:45 pm.

Prof. Ray E. Dumett  
Office: University Hall 026. 2  
Off.Hrs.T/Th. 2:00-3:30 & by apptmt.

## SYLLABUS

### **A SURVEY OF THE HISTORY OF AFRICA SOUTH OF THE SAHARA**

**Textbook:** R. O. Collins and J.M. Barrows, *A History of Sub-Saharan Africa* (Cambridge U. Press, New York, 2007). **Listed in Syllabus as B.& C..** **Book for Review:** Niane, D.T. (ed.) *Sundiata: An Epic of Old Mali* (Pearson, 2006) \* Suggested supplementary readings are found in P. Martin and P. O'Meara (eds.), *Africa* (2<sup>nd</sup> edn. 1986) \* On Reserve in Under-Grad. Library.

**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 (25 point) quizzes to help students prepare for exams. And there will be one book review based on the required reading "*Sundiata- an Epic of Old Mali*"- 50 points. In addition students will be expected to know important features of the physical map of Africa and should be prepared for 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 map tests—25 pts. each. The 3-4 page book review will be worth 50 points each. Regular attendance and participation in class discussions may receive up to 20 pts. Possible Total-420 points.

## **SCHEDULE OF LECTURES AND READING ASSIGNMENTS:**

### **PART I: COURSE INTRODUCTION**

1. **First Week (Jan. 8<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>).** **Course Introduction:** "Why Study the History of Africa?" The 'Decolonization of African History' since 1955. Required continuing popular myths and misconceptions about Africa will be exposed.

**Read C. & B. Textbook, Intro., pp. 1-4.** \* Supplementary: P. J. Munson, "Africa's Historic Past" in Martin & O'Meara, *Africa*, 43 -63. On Reserve in Hicks Library.

2. Second Week (Jan 15th & 18th). 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 **Collins & Band Barrows**, Text, 7-23.  
 \* Suggested Supplementary Reading: M. McNulty. "The Contemporary map of Africa" in **Martin and O'Meara, Africa**, . 9-40. will be available on Reserve at Hicks Library.

## **PART II: ANCIENT AFRICAN KINGDOMS**

1. Third and 4<sup>th</sup> Weeks (Jan.22<sup>th</sup> through Jan. 31<sup>st</sup>) 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")  
 Read **C & B Ch. 2: pp. 23-39 and 59-63.** Recommended See also \* Margaret Shinnie, Ancient African Kingdoms, 27-55. Other optional sources: \* Stefan. Wenig, Africa in Antiquity: the Arts of Ancient Nubia and the Sudan (Brooklyn, N.Y., 1978), passim. S. Burnstein, \* Ancient African Civilizations: Kush and Axum (Princeton, N.J., 1998)

### **THURS. February 3rd. FIRST QUIZ, (including 1<sup>st</sup> MAP TEST)**

2. Fifth Week (Feb. 5th and 7<sup>th</sup>). 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. (Film: and 'Slides)  
**Read: C & B, Ch. 5: 64-77.**  
 \* Supplementary and Optional: D.W. Phillopson, Ancient Ethiopia: Aksum, Its Antecedents and Successors (London, Br. Museum Press, 1998)
2. Tuesday: February 12<sup>th</sup>. REVIEW SESSION PRIOR TO EXAM.

## **FIRST MID-TERM EXAMINATION—Thursday. Feb. 14th**

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

1. From Tues. Feb. 19<sup>th</sup> through Thurs. 21st . 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.**  
 \* Supplementary. J. Lamphear, "Aspects of Early African History" in Martin & O'Meara, Africa, 72-77. E.W. Bovill, The Golden Trade of the Moors (London, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition), passim.
- 2 Feb. 26– 28th. **Spread of Islam and the Kingdom and Empire of Mali.** (c. 1200 to 1400)  
 Collins and Barrow Text: Same pages as above.
- Optional Supplementary Readings: B.G. Martin, "The Spread of Islam" in Martin & O'Meara, 87-95. Also \* Nehemiah Levtzion, Ancient Ghana and Mali, (London, 1973), 53-87.

3. Tues. March 5<sup>th</sup>. **Book Review & Discussion of the SUNDIATA EPIC will be due.**
4. Thurs. March 5<sup>th</sup>. The East African Coast and the Empire of Zanj (c. 900—1500 A.D.)  
Read: **C & B. Ch 7: 96-113.** \*Supplementary Martin, “The Spread of Islam” in Martin & O’Meara, 96-99. Also \* Also \* N. Chittick, Kilwa, An Islamic Trading City . (Nairobi, 1974), 2 volumes..
5. Tues. March 7<sup>th</sup> . 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.  
  
• Also optional: Margaret Shinnie, Ancient African Kingdoms. Ch. 8, 145-54. Also Peter Garlake,, Great Zimbabwe (New York, 1973, passim..

## **SPRING VACATION: Mon. March 11<sup>th</sup> through Sat. March 16<sup>th</sup>.**

### **PART IV: THE ATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE and the EUROPEAN CONNECTION**

1. Tues. March 19<sup>th</sup>. The Causes & Course of European Expansion. The Central African Kingdom of the Kongo. **Read Collins & Barrow, Ch. 10: 150-58; also Ch13: 213-216; Ch.14: 212-214.**
2. Thursday March 21<sup>st</sup>: The Kongo/Angola Region and the Origins of the Slave Trade.  
**Tuesday March 26<sup>th</sup>. Second Mid-Term Examination**
3. Thurs. March 28<sup>th</sup>. Dimensions & Statistics on the Atlantic Slave Trade. 1490-1870.  
**Read C & B. Ch. 13: 216-227.**  
Film: “The Sugar Slaves”

\*Supplementary Readings: Joseph Miller, Way of Death (Madison,1996). John t Thornton, Africa and Africans in the Making of the Atlantic World (London, CUP,1998). Phillip D. Curtin, The Atlantic Slave Trade: A Census (Madison,1969). .

### **PART V: THE MODERN ERA – 1800—1960.**

1. Tues. April 2<sup>nd</sup>: The Humanitarian Movement and Prohibition of the Slave Trade.
2. Thurs, April 4<sup>th</sup>: European Exploration, Missionaries & the Anti- Slavery Movement in 19<sup>th</sup> century Africa. **Read C & B, 251-253.**
3. Tuesday April 9<sup>th</sup>. European Imperialism and “The Scramble for Africa” .  
  
Read Collins & Barrow. **Ch. 17, 251-264 and Chapter 18. .**
4. Tuesday, April 16<sup>th</sup> and Thursday April 18<sup>th</sup>. The Impact of European Colonial Rule in West Africa; the Political and Economic Consequences.  
**Read C & B. Ch. 20: 296-327.**

\* Supplementary readings on colonial rule: Michael Crowder, West Africa under Colonial Rule. \_Also optional Francis Deng, “In the Eyes of the Ruled” in .R. Collins and F. Deng, (eds.), The British in the Sudan, 1898-1956 (Hoover inst., Stanford, 1984), 216-240.

5. Tues. April 23rd and Thurs April 25<sup>th</sup>. · From Colonialism to Freedom: **the Independence Revolution in Africa in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.**

**Film:** “The Setting of the Sun” (Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana)

**Read Collins & Barrow. Ch. 22: 331-343.**

\* Supplementary:: J. Hargreaves, Decolonization in Africa (Harlow, UK,1996); D. Birmingham, Kwame Nkrumah, Father of African Nationalism (Athens, 1998).

**April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2011. Classes End.**

**WEEK OF FINAL EXAMINATIONS—Monday, April 29th through Saturday, MAY 4<sup>TH</sup>. Date of 341 Third Exam will be announced.**

#### UNIVERSITY POLICIES

##### Cheating / Plagiarism

Plagiarism refers to the reproduction of another's words or ideas without proper attribution. University Regulations contains further information on dishonesty. Plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty are serious offenses, and will be treated as such in this class. You are expected to produce your own work and to accurately cite all necessary materials. Cheating, plagiarism, and other dishonest practices will be punished as harshly as Purdue University policies allow. Any instances of academic dishonesty will likely result in a grade of F for the course and notification of the Dean of Students Office.

##### Disclaimer

In the event of a major campus emergency, the above requirements, deadlines, and grading policies are subject to changes that may be required by a revised semester calendar. Any such changes in this course will be posted once the course resumes on Blackboard or can be obtained by contacting the professor via email or phone.

