

**AFH 2000 (section 001E):
Africa in World History
Spring 2015**

Meeting

LIT 0125

T: periods 8-9, R: period 9

Instructor

Associate Professor Susan M. O'Brien

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office hours: Wednesday 2-5, Friday 2-3, & by appt.

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Course Description

'Africa is not an historical continent; it shows neither change nor development. Whatever may have happened there belongs to the world of Asia and Europe.' – G.F.W. Hegel, German philosopher, 1834

'At present there is no African history: there is only the history of Europeans in Africa, the rest is darkness...and darkness is not a subject of history.' –Hugh Trevor Roper, British historian, 1961

As the above quotes by prominent European scholars suggest, the history of Africa has, until the very recent past, been dismissed as outside of or irrelevant to world history. In this course we challenge this assumption by examining the myriad ways in which Africa has been central to globally transformative developments and relationships, from the early spread of Christianity and Islam, to the trans-Saharan and Atlantic slave trades and European colonialism. We will explore local African histories in a global context, and the connections that link different African regions to other parts of the globe through trade, migration, and colonial conquest. We will also focus on key zones of interaction (Atlantic, trans-Saharan), such as the Indian Ocean world, that has linked the Swahili coast of East Africa to Arab and Asian worlds through intensive trade, and cultural and religious exchange for millennia.

Requirements

Your grade in this class will be based on the following:

1) attendance and participation (20%). Attendance and participation in class discussions are considered mandatory, and it will be difficult to do well on the exam and papers if you do not regularly attend class lectures. Attendance will be taken at each class.

If you miss class for any reason, it is your responsibility to find out from your classmates what you have missed. Do *NOT* ask the professor for a synopsis of the class periods that you have missed or for materials handed out in previous classes!

2) first response paper (10%): due in class **Tuesday, January 20th, (3 double-spaced pages):** this paper will react to and analyze the previous weeks' readings. Further instructions on composing a successful response paper will be posted to the E-Learning course web-site.

3) in-class mid-term exam (25%): Thursday, February 26 This exam will consist of paired identifications, short answers, and/or an essay question based on material covered in readings and lectures. A review sheet for the exam will be posted to the E-learning course website a week before the exam. ****No make-up exams will be given for late or absent students.**** Excused absences require prompt documentation by a doctor or university administrator.

4) second response paper (15%): due in class **Thursday, March 26 (3 double-spaced pages):** this paper will react to and analyze the previous weeks' readings. Further instructions on composing a successful response paper will be posted to the E-Learning course web-site.

5) take-home final essay exam due Monday, April 27th at noon (30%): On this exam you will be asked to choose one out of two essay options, and compose a **5-6 page** essay response. The questions will be based on material covered in readings and lectures. The essay questions will be posted by **April 21st** to the E-Learning course website.

There are no opportunities for extra credit in this class.

Readings

The following books are required and should be available from online vendors:

* Erik Gilbert & Jonathan Reynolds, *Africa in World History: from Prehistory to the Present* (third edition), Pearson/Prentice Hall, 2012. Available as an e-book at:
http://www.coursesmart.com/IR/3850823/9780205054084?_hdv=6.8

* Peter Alegi, *African Soccerescapes: How a Continent Changed the World's Game*, Ohio Africa in World History, 2010.

Additional readings in the form of selected book chapters, academic and news articles will be posted on our course page on the Sakai web-site: <http://lss.at.ufl.edu>

Overall letter grades for the course will be assigned according to the following scale:

Letter Grade	Numerical Equivalent	GPA Equivalent
A	Above 92	4.0
A-	90-92	3.67
B+	87-89	3.33
B	83-86	3.0
B-	80-82	2.67
C+	77-79	2.33

C	73-76	2.0
C-	70-72	1.67
D+	67-69	1.33
D	63-66	1.0
D-	60-62	0.67
E	Below 60	0.0

Classroom Policies and Ethics

Students are expected to arrive to class **on time**, be attentive and remain until class is over. Being consistently late is a disruption to the class and is not acceptable. Students who disrupt class will be asked to leave. **Cell phones** and laptops must be turned off at the beginning of the class.

All students should observe the University of Florida's standards of academic honesty. In the event that a student is found **cheating or plagiarizing**, s/he will automatically fail the course and will be reported to Student Judicial Affairs. Acts of plagiarism include:

- Turning in a paper that was written by someone else (i.e., papers written by another student, a research service, or downloaded off the Internet).
- Copying, verbatim, a paragraph or significant portion of text from the work of another author without properly acknowledging the source through a commonly accepted citation style and using quotation marks.
- Paraphrasing (i.e., restating in your own words) text written by another author without citing that author.
- Using a unique idea or concept, which you discovered in a specific reading, without citing that author.

Students with **disabilities** requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation. Anyone with a disability should feel free to see the professor during office hours to make the necessary arrangements.

Course Schedule (subject to change)

Week 1

T 1/6 Intro to class & instructor

R 1/8 What is 'world history'? How does African history fit within world history? How and why has the relationship between world history and African history been contentious?

* Janny de Jong, 'World History: A Brief Introduction,' 1-8.

* Erik Gilbert, 'Putting Africa in World History and Vice Versa,' *World History Connected* 2, 1 (2004).

* Jonathan Reynolds, 'Africa's Role in World History,' 2011.

Week 2: Beginnings

- T 1/13 Africa in western thought, media, & activism
* Media articles: 'Dateline: Africa,' 'Savage Beasts and Bestly Savages', 'The Media and Africa', 'The Ivory Story, Africans, and Africanists', 'The Invisible Violence of Celebrity Humanitarianism,' 'Past Time for BandAids'
- R 1/15 African Geography & Environment Gilbert & Reynolds, chap. 1
Human Origins Gilbert & Reynolds, chap. 2

Week 3: Food Production and Early Technology

- T 1/20 Hunter Gatherers Gilbert & Reynolds, chap. 3
* Solway & Lee, 'Foragers, Genuine or Spurious? Situating the Kalahari San in History,' *Current Anthropology* 31, 2 (1990): 109-147.
- ** FIRST RESPONSE PAPER DUE IN CLASS ****
- R 1/22 The Origins of Agriculture Gilbert & Reynolds, chap. 4

Week 4: Africa and the Mediterranean World

- T 1/27 Ancient Egypt Gilbert & Reynolds, chap. 5: 67-78.
* Diana Patch, 'Art & Writing in Ancient Egyptian Culture,' *Inscribing Meaning: Writing & Graphic Systems in African Art*: 107-116.
- R 1/29 Nubia & Aksum Gilbert & Reynolds, chap. 5: 78-84

Week 5: Africa & the Development of Christianity

- T 2/3 Desert Fathers/ Ethiopian Christianity
Gilbert & Reynolds, chap. 6
* Mary N. Roberts, 'Sacred Scripts,' *Inscribing Meaning: Writing & Graphic Systems in African Art*: 89-106.
* *Kebre Neghast* excerpt.
- R 2/5 Global Christian Revival in Colonial Africa
Gilbert & Reynolds, pp. 344-346.
* Shaw, *Global Awakening: How 20th-Century Revivals Triggered a Christian Revolution*, chapters 3, 5, & 8.

Week 6: Trans-Saharan Africa in World History/ Islam as a Globalizing Force

- T 2/10 From Desert Barrier to Global Highway/ Islamization of North & West Africa

Gilbert & Reynolds, chap.7

- R 2/12 Islamic Radicalism in Post-Colonial Africa & the War on Terror: Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (Reading TBA)

Week 7: Africa and the Indian Ocean World: the Swahili Coast

- T 2/17 Swahili Origins & Urban Transformation/ Portugese Incursions & the Omani Empire
Gilbert & Reynolds, chaps. 8 & 12

- R 2/19 the Zanzibari Revolution (reading TBA)

Week 8: Southern African State Building

- T 2/24 Shaka Zulu, the Afrikaner 'Great Trek,' & British Colonialism in South Africa
Gilbert & Reynolds, chap. 13
* J. B. Peires, "The Central Beliefs of the Xhosa Cattle-Killing," *The Journal of African History*, Vol. 28, No. 1 (1987): 43-63.

- R 2/26 **MID-TERM EXAM IN CLASS**

**** SPRING BREAK: FEBRUARY 28-MARCH 7 ****

Week 9: Africa & the Making of the Atlantic World

- T 3/10 The Rise of the Atlantic Slave Trade
Gilbert & Reynolds, chaps. 9 & 10
- R 3/12 Atlantic Creole Cultures
*Robin Sparks, "The Two Princes of Calabar: An Atlantic Odyssey from Slavery to Freedom," *William and Mary Quarterly* 59, 3 (2002): 555-584.

Week 10: European Colonialism in Africa

- T 3/17 the Industrial Revolution & the Scramble for Africa
Gilbert & Reynolds, chaps. 14 & 15
- R 3/19 Colonial Economies & Administration/ Africa & the World Wars
Gilbert & Reynolds, chap. 16
* Myron Echenberg, "'Morts Pour la France': The African Soldier in France During the Second World War," *The Journal of African History*, 26, 4 (1985): 363-380.

Week 11: Social & Cultural Change in the Colonial Era

- T 3/24 Gilbert & Reynolds, chap.17
 Alegi, *African Soccerescapes*, chapters 1-3.
 * L. Fair, "Kickin' It: Leisure, Politics and Football in Colonial Zanzibar, 1900s-1950s," *Africa* 67, 2 (1997): 224- 251.
- R 3/26 (Global) Popular Culture in Colonial & Post-Colonial Africa
 * Bob W. White, 'Rumba and Other Cosmopolitanisms in the Belgian Congo (1949-1999),' *Cahiers D'Etudes Africaines* (2002):
 * Charles Ambler, 'Popular Films & Colonial Audiences in Northern Rhodesia.'
 * Brian Larkin, 'Indian Films & Nigerian Lovers: the Creation of Parallel Modernities,' *Africa* 67, 3 (1997): 406-440.
 * Abdalla Adamu, 'Poetic Barbs: Angst, Voter Mobilization and Urban Music in the Kano State 2011 Elections,' unpublished manuscript, 2012.

****SECOND RESPONSE PAPER DUE IN CLASS ****

Week 12: African Nationalism and Decolonization

- T 3/31 Gilbert & Reynolds, chap. 18
 Alegi, *African Soccerescapes*, chapters 4-6 & Epilogue.
- R 4/2 * W.E.B Dubois, 'Ghana & Pan-Africanism,' in *The World and Africa: An Inquiry Into the Part which Africa has played in World History* (International Publishers, 1946): 292-304.

Week 13: Contemporary Africa: Textbooks & Tribunals in the Aftermath of Crises

- T 4/7 Apartheid & Its Aftermath
 Gilbert & Reynolds, chap. 19
 * Brizuela-Garcia & Getz, *African Histories: New Sources and New Techniques for Studying African Pasts*, chapter 11.

**** FILM IN CLASS: 'Long night's journey into day: South Africa's search for truth & reconciliation' (2000)****

- R 4/9 genocide & justice in Rwanda
 * Gerard Prunier, *The Rwanda Crisis: History of a Genocide* (Columbia University Press, 1997): chap. 1 (1-40).

Week 14: Africa and the Global Spread of Christian Evangelicalism

- T 4/14 * Brouwer, Gifford, & Rose, *Exporting the American Gospel: Global Christian Fundamentalism*, chapter 8.

**** FILM IN CLASS: 'God Loves Uganda' (2013) ****

- R 4/16 Muslim/Christian Conflict in Contemporary Africa

* Brian Larkin & Birgit Meyer, 'Pentecostalism, Islam & Culture,' *Themes in West Africa's History*: 286-312.

Week 15: Africa & Global Epidemics in the 20th c.: from Influenza to Ebola

T 4/21 (Reading TBA)

**** Monday, April 27th at NOON: TAKE-HOME FINAL EXAM DUE IN MY OFFICE: 437 GRINTER (early submissions welcome)****

Disclaimer: This syllabus represents my current plans and objectives. As we go through the semester, those plans may need to change to enhance class learning. Such changes, communicated clearly, are not unusual and should be expected.