



HIST 1310: Introduction to African History

2023 Summer Session	
Total Class Sessions: 25 Class Sessions Per Week: 5 Total Weeks: 5 Class Session Length (Minutes): 145 Credit Hours: 4	Instructor: Staff Classroom: TBA Office Hours: TBA Language: English

Course Description:

This course explores the political, religious, economic, and social developments of Africa from around 500 AD to the present. It examines the transformation of Africa from being a colonized continent to becoming independent states and the social movements, and ideologies involved in the process. Topics include slavery and the slave trade in West Africa; the impact of Christianity and Islam on African colonialism; colonialism and its consequences; nationalist movements and de-colonization; pan-Africanism and the politics of African unity.

Course Materials:

1. **In-class Handouts**

Students are not required to buy textbooks. The in-class handouts are the only mandatory course materials. Contents of handouts will be selected from the suggested textbooks below and other sources determined by the instructor.

2. **Optional Texts:**

Africa,

Phyllis M Martin and Patrick O'Meara, 3rd edition

The World and a Very Small Place in Africa,

Donald R Wright, 4th edition

History of Africa,

Kevin Shillington, 4th edition

Course Format and Requirements:

Classes will frequently follow a similar structure: Starting with announcements and current event(s); main time devoted lecture, and ending with small group and class discussion.

Attendance:

Participation and active engagement in class discussions are essential components of this class. Attendance will be taken every day. Each student will have 3 (three) free absences, so no grade deduction will be made for the first three absences. Starting from the fourth absence, each unexcused absences will result in an automatic drop in grade. With each unexcused absence your



final letter grade will be dropped ½ a grade – NO EXCEPTIONS (e.g.: A to A-).

Course Assignments:

Quizzes:

The quiz will consist of a series of short answer questions and multiple-choice questions about the story and characters described in class or mentioned in the class handouts from the instructor (which means it’s an assigned reading). Basically if you read the novel carefully you should do well on this quiz. There will be 5 quizzes administered through the whole semester. Quizzes will always be completed in the first ten minutes of class. There are no make-up quizzes for any reason

Critical Response Paper:

Students will write a two page paper in response to one topic selected from a given list of potential topics for the paper. Clarity of argument and critically engaging the text in response is an essential component to this assignment and students should refer to the below guidelines for clarification:

Paper General Guidelines

- Double-spaced and typed, using 12 font and one inch margins.
- A clear introduction with a defined thesis; following by a well-structured body and conclusion.
- Proof read for spell checking, grammatical and structural errors.
- All sources must be properly cited.

Paper Grading Policy

- 20%- Overall style and creativity of the work
- 40%- Structure and Argument
- 40%- Reading of Sources, use of evidence and proper citations

Midterm Exam & Final Exam:

The two midterm exams will be in-class, close-book and non-cumulative. Exams will cover all class notes and handouts, information from the textbook, and contents introduced in lecture. Exams may be multiple choices, true/false, matching, short answer, identification, document analysis, and essay.

The final will be close-book, covering the entire course. Students would be required to write at least one short essay, and answer a combination of various question types. Note that the final will not be taken during the normal class times. Exact time and location for final will be announced later. Formats and types of questions in the final exam will be same as in the midterm.

Course Assessment:

Quizzes	10%
Midterm Exam 1	20%
Midterm Exam 2	20%
Paper	20%



Final Exam	30%
Total	100%

Grading Scale (percentage):

A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	F
98- 100	93- 97	90- 92	88- 89	83- 87	80- 82	78- 79	73- 77	70- 72	68- 69	63- 67	60- 62	<60

Academic Integrity:

Students are encouraged to study together, and to discuss lecture topics with one another, but all other work should be completed independently.

Students are expected to adhere to the standards of academic honesty and integrity that are described in the Chengdu University of Technology's *Academic Conduct Code*. Any work suspected of violating the standards of the *Academic Conduct Code* will be reported to the Dean's Office. Penalties for violating the *Academic Conduct Code* may include dismissal from the program. All students have an individual responsibility to know and understand the provisions of the *Academic Conduct Code*.

Special Needs or Assistance:

Please contact the Administrative Office immediately if you have a learning disability, a medical issue, or any other type of problem that prevents professors from seeing you have learned the course material. Our goal is to help you learn, not to penalize you for issues which mask your learning.

Course Schedule:

Class 1:

Introduction to Course & Syllabus

Why Study the History of Africa?

The Decolonization of African History since 1955

Class 2:

African Continent Geography & the Dawn of Humanity

Major physical features of the continent of Africa

Early Human Civilizations :

Reading: Cheikh Anta Diop, *The African Origin of Civilization: Myth or Reality*, p. 1-9

Class 3:

Early Human Civilizations :

The Ancient Sudanic Civilization of Kush (Meroe) in the Sudan (c.1600 B.C.-300 A.D.)



The connections between Kush and ancient Egypt
Kushite kings

Class 4:

Quiz 1

Early Human Civilizations :

Main Achievements of Kushite civilization

Spread of Iron Working

African Religions & Spirituality

Class 5:

Early Human Civilizations:

Development & Technology;

Film (short): The Fractals at the Heart of African Designs

Reading: Walter Rodney, How Europe Underdeveloped Africa, p. 48-68;

Trade Networks

Ancient Ethiopia & Nubia, (c. 1,000 B.C.—800 A.D.):

Class 6:

The Kingdom of Axum

Coming of Christianity

Epilogue: The Portuguese Impact.

The Trans-Saharan Trade

Class 7:

Quiz 2

The Sudanic Kingdoms

The Kingdom and Empire of Mali

The East African Coast and the Empire of Zanj (c. 900—1500 A.D.)

Class 8:

The Central and Southern African Interior

Reading: Peter Garlake, Early Art and Architecture of Africa (2002)

Review for Mid-Term 1

Class 9:

Exam: Mid-Term Exam 1

Class 10:



Emergence of Atlantic Slave Trade
The Causes & Course of European Expansion
The Dimensions & Impact of the Atlantic Slave Trade

Class 11:

The Dimensions & Impact of the Atlantic Slave Trade -Continued
Atlantic Slave Trade Intensifies

Reading: Rebecca Shumway, *The Fante and the Transatlantic Slave Trade*, p. 75-81

Class 12:

Quiz 3

African Empires & Foreign Incursions
European Imperialism & African Resistance

Reading: Samuel Attoh-Ahuma, "Colony or Protectorate?" p. 311-326

Class 13:

The Impact of European Colonial Rule in West Africa
The anti-slavery Movement
European Exploration

Class 14:

The Anti- Slavery Movement in Africa
Near Independence
Gold Coast Cocoa Crisis

Class 15:

Quiz 4

Pan-Africanism
From Colonialism to Freedom:
The Independence Revolution in Africa

Class 16:

Patrice Lumumba, "Speech at the Ceremony of the Proclamation of Congo's Independence," 1960"

Film: Lumumba
Review for Mid-Term 2

Class 17:

Exam: Mid-Term Exam 2



Class 18:

Building New Nations

Reading: Albert Lutuli, “Our Vision is a Democratic Society,” Speech before the South African Congress of Democrats, 1958

Class 19:

The Cold War & “Neo-colonialism”

Reading: Amilcar Cabral, excerpts from “The Weapon of Theory,” Speech before the Tricontinental Conference of the Peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America, 1966

Class 20:

Post-colonial Identities:

Literature from Ayi Kwei Armah, Ama Ata Aidoo, Ngugi wa Thiong’o, Bessie Head
African migrants

Film: Black Girl

Class 21:

Quiz 5

Post-colonial Identities :

Music and messages

Various Artists

Class 22:

Contemporary Challenges:

Militarism

Global Economic Relationships

Class 23:

Contemporary Challenges:

Reading : John Stockwell, In Search of Enemies, p. 128-137

Reading : Achille Mbembe, On the Postcolony, p. 49-53

Racism and Racist Legacy

Class 24:

Contemporary Challenges:

Voices of the Atlantic Slave Trade

Health Care

Class 25:



Wrap-up

Review for final exam

Final Exam (Cumulative): TBA