

AFH 2000: AFRICA IN WORLD HISTORY

Dr. Philip Janzen
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Office Hours: Mon/Wed 2:00-3:30
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Course Schedule:
MWF period 6
0021 Anderson Hall

Course Overview

In North America, Africa is often represented as a faraway and isolated continent, on the periphery of world history. This course starts from the premise that Africa has long been linked with the rest of the world and has been central to many global developments. Through five thematic units, we will examine how the relationships between Africans and the rest of the world have changed over time: Africa and the World before the 19th Century; Atlantic Africa; Colonialism and Decolonization; Health and Development; and Contemporary Africa. Because the continent contains a remarkable array of languages, societies, and peoples, we cannot hope for exhaustive coverage. However, we will visit almost every major region at least once during the semester.

Learning Objectives

This introductory course allows students to consider how Africa's history has been shaped by both internal and external dynamics. In lectures, readings, discussions, and assignments, students will learn to analyze and challenge popular narratives of African history. We will examine broad historical processes that have shaped communities and the local and regional dynamics of specific peoples and places. I hope that you will take away from the course an understanding not just of *what* to think about the history and cultures of Africa but also *how* to think about this region and its connections with the rest of the world.

Required Course Texts

Johanna Tayloe Crane, *Scrambling for Africa: AIDS, Expertise, and the Rise of American Global Health Science* (Cornell, 2013)

Yaa Gyasi, *Homegoing* (Alfred A. Knopf, 2016)

D. T. Niane, *Sundiata: An Epic of Old Mali* (Pearson, 2006)

All three books are on reserve at Library West. Links to all other readings can be found on the Canvas course website.

Evaluation

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|-----------------------------------------------|-------|------|
| • Map Quiz | (5%) | 1/17 |
| • Assignment #1: Article Précis | (15%) | 2/7 |
| • Midterm Exam | (15%) | 2/26 |
| • Assignment #2: <i>Homegoing</i> | (20%) | 3/27 |
| • Assignment #3: <i>Scrambling for Africa</i> | (25%) | 4/29 |
| • Reading quizzes | (20%) | --- |
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| • Extra Credit: Harn Museum Report | (5%) | 4/22 |

Procedure

The course will consist of lectures and informal class discussions. Students must finish the assigned readings by the dates noted in this syllabus. There will be periodic reading quizzes. I will provide detailed instructions for the assignments in the coming weeks.

Need Help?

If you have questions about the course, please first consult this syllabus. You may also contact me by email or come to my office hours. If you do contact me by email, use your @ufl.edu email address and adhere to professional email etiquette. I will do my best to respond within one business day.

Course Schedule

Week 1 Introduction to the Course

1/6-1/8 **Lectures:** Review Syllabus; The Image of Africa

1/10 **Reading:** Binyavanga Wainaina, "How to Write About Africa."

PART I: AFRICA AND THE WORLD BEFORE THE 19th CENTURY

Week 2 East Africa and the Indian Ocean World

1/13-1/15 **Lectures:** The Swahili Coast; Wealth and Urban Complexity

1/17 **Reading:** Start reading D. T. Niane, *Sundiata: An Epic of Old Mali*.

MAP QUIZ IN CLASS ON FRIDAY 1/17

Week 3 Trans-Saharan Trade and Islam in West Africa

1/22 **Lecture:** Trans-Saharan Trade and Islam in West Africa

1/24 **Reading:** D. T. Niane, *Sundiata: An Epic of Old Mali*.

Week 4 Political Complexity in the Great Lakes Region

1/27-1/29 **Lectures:** Healing, Agriculture, and Politics in the Ancient Great Lakes

1/31 **Reading:** Steven Feierman, "Colonizers, Scholars and the Creation of Invisible Histories," in *Beyond the Linguistic Turn: New Directions in the Study of Society and Culture*, ed. Lynn Hunt and Victoria Bonnell, (1999): 182-216.

Week 5 History and Historiography of the Buganda Kingdom

2/3-2/5 **Lectures:** Spirit Mediums and the Founding of the Buganda Kingdom

2/7 **Reading:** Sir Apolo Kagwa, *The Kings of Buganda*, translated by M. S. M. Kiwanuka (Nairobi: 1971): 11-14; Roland Oliver, "The Traditional Histories of Buganda, Bunyoro, and Nkole," *The Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland* 85:1/2 (1955), 111-117; Neil Kodesh, *Beyond the Royal Gaze*, 98-130.

ASSIGNMENT #1 DUE 2/7

PART II: ATLANTIC AFRICA**Week 6 The Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade**

2/10-2/12 **Lectures:** Slavery in Africa; Enslavement and the Middle Passage

2/14 **Readings:** John K. Thornton, "Slavery and African Social Structure," in *Africa and Africans in the Making of the Atlantic World, 1400-1800* (1998): 72-97; Stephanie Smallwood, "Turning African Captives into Atlantic Commodities," in *Saltwater Slavery: A Middle Passage from Africa to American Diaspora* (2007): 33-64.

Week 7 Africans in the Americas

2/17-2/19 **Lectures:** Social Death; Recreating Africa

2/21 **Readings:** Vincent Brown, "Social Death and Political Life in the Study of Slavery," *American Historical Review* 114 (2009): 1231-1249; J. Sweet, "The Evolution of Ritual in the African Diaspora," in Michael A. Gomez, *Diasporic Africa: A Reader* (New York, 2006): 64-80.

Week 8 Review and Midterm Exam

2/24-2/26 Review for Midterm Exam; MIDTERM EXAM IN CLASS 2/26

2/28 No Class – Visit the Harn Museum of Art for extra credit assignment

PART III: COLONIALISM AND DECOLONIZATION**Week 9 End of the Slave Trade and Early Colonization**

3/9-3/11 **Lectures:** "Legitimate" Trade and Creeping Imperialism

3/13 **Reading:** Yaa Gyasi, *Homegoing* (2016), Part I, 1-153.

ASSIGNMENT #2 DUE 3/13

Week 10 Colonialism

3/16-3/18 **Lectures:** Colonial Rule; Self and Identity

3/20 **Reading:** Yaa Gyasi, *Homegoing* (2016), Part II, 154-end.

Week 11 Decolonization

3/23-3/25 **Lectures:** Decolonization in Guinea and Angola

3/27 **Reading:** Frantz Fanon, *The Wretched of the Earth*, "On Violence" (1961): 1-62.

ASSIGNMENT #2 DUE 3/27

PART IV: HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT

Week 12 Colonial Medicine

3/30-4/1 **Lectures:** Colonial Medicine in Uganda and Congo

4/3 **Reading:** Johanna Tayloe Crane, *Scrambling for Africa: AIDS, Expertise, and the Rise of American Global Health Science*, 1-108.

Week 13 Development and Biomedicine

4/6-4/8 **Lectures:** Postcolonial State building; NGOs and Global Health

4/10 **Reading:** Johanna Tayloe Crane, *Scrambling for Africa: AIDS, Expertise, and the Rise of American Global Health Science*, 109-end.

PART IV: CONTEMPORARY AFRICA

Week 14 Popular Culture and Urban Africa

4/13-4/15 **Lectures:** Music, visual art, literature; African cities

4/17 **Readings:** Emily Callaci, *Street Archives and City Life: Popular Intellectuals in Postcolonial Tanzania* (2017): 141-179.

Week 15 Review

4/20-4/22 **Lectures:** Course Wrap Up and Review

ASSIGNMENT #3 DUE 04/29

OTHER NOTES

Late Policy: I do not accept late work. If you do not expect to meet a deadline, come see me in advance.

Attendance: Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

Health and Wellness Resources

U Matter, We Care: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, 352-392-1575, or visit umatter.ufl.edu/ to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.

Counseling and Wellness Center: Visit counseling.ufl.edu/ or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.

Grading Scale

A	93-100	B-	80-82	D+	67-69
A-	90-92	C+	77-79	D	63-66
B+	87-89	C	73-76	D-	60-62
B	83-86	C-	70-72	E	Below 60

For information regarding current UF policies for assigning grade points, see: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

Course Evaluations

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.ua.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.ua.ufl.edu/public-results/>