

HIST/AFST 1110: AFRICAN CIVILIZATION
Fall 2009, University of Toledo
Dr. Todd M. Michney

Meeting Place/Time: Rocket Hall 1555 TR 9:30-10:45am
Office/Office Hours: Tucker Hall 3115 F 11am-4pm, or by appt.
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Teaching Asst.: Mr. Richard Meader (richard.meader@rockets.utoledo.edu)

This survey course is an introduction to African societies from prehistory to the present. Students will learn to evaluate primary historical sources and a work of African literature critically, in the process honing their verbal and writing skills.

Required Texts (3):

- Erik Gilbert and Jonathan Reynolds, *Africa in World History*, 2nd ed. (2007)
- Robert Collins, *Documents from the African Past* (2001)
- Chinua Achebe, *Things Fall Apart* (1958; 1994)

Weekly Class Schedule and Readings

Week 1

Aug. 25 – INTRODUCTION

Aug. 27 – Human Origins and African Prehistory (L)

Read: Gilbert & Reynolds, Chapters 1-2

Week 2

Sep. 1 – Ancient Egypt (L)

Sep. 3 – The Iron Age in Africa (L)

Read: Gilbert & Reynolds, Chapters 3-4

Week 3

Sep. 8 – Northern Africa in the Ancient Mediterranean World (L)

Sep. 10 – *Read for class:* Collins, Documents 1-3

Week 4

Sep. 15 – Early Christianity and the Arrival of Islam in Africa (L)

Sep. 17 – *Read for class:* Collins, Documents 5, 6, 9

Read: Gilbert & Reynolds, Chapters 5-6

**** REACTION PAPER #1 DUE ****

Week 5

Sep. 22 – Islam and the Swahili Coast (L)

Sep. 24 – *Read for class:* Collins, Documents 4, 11, 14

Read: Gilbert & Reynolds, Chapter 7

Week 6

Sep. 29 – Central and Southern Africa before 1600 (L)

Oct. 1 – European Contacts and the Origins of the Atlantic Slave Trade (L)

Read: Gilbert & Reynolds, Chapter 8

Week 7

Oct. 6 – NO CLASS; FALL BREAK

Oct. 8 – *Read for class:* Collins, Documents 7, 8, 12

**** REACTION PAPER #2 DUE ****

Week 8

Oct. 13 – ** MIDTERM EXAM **

Oct. 15 – NO CLASS; MICHNEY AT CONFERENCE

Week 9

Oct. 20 – Impacts of the Slave Trade on West Africa and Beyond (L)

Oct. 22 – *Read for class:* Collins, Documents 24, 26, 27

Read: Gilbert & Reynolds, Chapter 9

Week 10

Oct. 27 – Ottoman Rule in Egypt and the “Arabization” of North Africa (L)

Oct. 29 – *Read for class:* Collins, Documents 10, 15, 16

Read: Gilbert & Reynolds, Chapter 10

**** REACTION PAPER #3 DUE ****

Week 11

Nov. 3 – Portuguese and Omani Dominance in East Africa (L)

Nov. 5 – Southern Africa and European Intrusion (L)

Read: Gilbert & Reynolds, Chapters 11-12

Week 12

Nov. 10 – European Colonialism and African Resistance (L)

Nov. 12 – *Read for class:* Achebe, whole book (start Week 11)

Read: Gilbert & Reynolds, Chapter 13

Week 13

Nov. 17 – European Imperialism, Africa, and the World Economy (L)

Nov. 19 – *Read for class:* Collins, Documents 54, 56, 59

Read: Gilbert & Reynolds, Chapter 14

**** ACHEBE PAPER DUE NOVEMBER 19 ****

Week 14

Nov. 24 – Colonial Change and African Independence Movements (L)

Nov. 26 – NO CLASS; THANKSGIVING BREAK

Read: Gilbert & Reynolds, Chapters 15, 17

Week 15

Dec. 1 – *Read for class*: Collins, Documents 63, 65, 66

Dec. 3 – Contemporary Africa (L)

Read: Gilbert & Reynolds, Chapters 16, 18

**** REACTION PAPER #4 DUE ****

Dec. 8 – FINAL EXAM REVIEW (optional); CLASS PAPER DUE

FINAL EXAM: WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 8:00am

Grade Breakdown:

Class Participation	10%
Reaction Papers (4)	20%
Midterm Exam	25%
Achebe Paper	20%
Final Exam	25%

Readings: Be sure to do the required readings every week, since they will form the basis of our class discussions and your paper assignments. Also, please be sure to bring the Collins text with you to class on the discussion days (marked as "*Read for class*:").

Class Attendance and Participation: You should come to class prepared to participate; successful class discussions depend on it, and your participation over the course of the term will be taken into account in formulating your final grade (10%). Discussion, and thus participation, will center mainly around the Collins textbook. Lecture days (marked with an "L" on the schedule, subject to change at my discretion if necessary) will supply you with information needed for the midterm and final exams, so be sure to take good notes. **THE BEST WAY TO SUCCEED IN THIS CLASS IS TO ATTEND ALL LECTURES AND TAKE THOROUGH NOTES ABOUT WHAT I SAY. INDEED, THERE IS NO SUBSTITUTE FOR CERTAIN LECTURE MATERIAL AND YOU WILL BE UNABLE TO COMPLETELY PREPARE FOR THE EXAMS IF YOU ARE LACKING THIS INFORMATION.** Attendance is mandatory, and more than FIVE unexcused absences will result in the *total forfeiture* of this portion of your grade. The University expects you to attend every class meeting, with absences to be excused only in a handful of situations and with official documentation. For details, see:

http://www.utoledo.edu/facsenate/missed_class_policy.html

Quizzes and Exams: There will be a midterm, a final exam, four short papers and one medium-length paper required for this course.

The midterm (October 13) and final (December 16) exams will consist of three sections each: identifications (matching), short definitions, and an

essay. The midterm will cover material from the first half of the course, and the final from the second half. You will be given a study guide (including possible essay questions) for both the midterm and final, approximately one week in advance. Mr. Meader will be assisting me in the grading of your exams.

Each of the four "reaction papers" is to be a 1-2 page long reflection on one week's readings from the Collins text, in which you raise an important question or analyze. You should strive for something which is neither just gut reaction nor straight summary. The idea here is to grasp the major ideas in the text, with an eye on points that could form a good basis for class discussion. You will get ample practice analyzing the course readings during class discussion, and I will give you more details about this course requirement in class. These reaction papers will count for 5 points each; there are eight weeks with reading selections from Collins, so you will be picking four out of the eight. Which weeks you choose to write on is at your discretion, but YOU MUST HAVE AT LEAST ONE TURNED IN BY SEPTEMBER 17, A SECOND BY OCTOBER 8, A THIRD BY OCTOBER 29, AND THE FOURTH BY DECEMBER 3.

The paper (due November 19) is to be 5-6 pages in length, and will basically be a book review of Chinua Achebe, *Things Fall Apart*. I will be supplying you with more details about this assignment as the due date approaches, but the idea is to analyze how the African society portrayed therein was impacted by contact with European colonialism. Most importantly, you will have to PICK SPECIFIC EXAMPLES FROM THE BOOK AND DISCUSS IN DETAIL. You will get practice analyzing historical sources during class discussion, so the assignment will not be as daunting as it may seem at first.

The paper should be typewritten, in a 12-point font, double-spaced (or 1.5), with 1-inch margins. Be sure to spell-check your papers. THERE IS TO BE NO SUBMISSION OF PAPER ASSIGNMENTS VIA E-MAIL WITHOUT MY EXPLICIT AND PRIOR APPROVAL. Papers turned in late will be penalized.

Grades: By my standards, "A" quality work demonstrates a mastery of the materials covered in the course; "B" work is characterized by a full understanding of the materials, but a less thorough evaluation of them; and "C" work shows a satisfactory understanding, but an even less-thorough evaluation. Work not showing an understanding of the course materials or a highly inadequate evaluation will earn either a "D" or an "F." On all assignments, you will receive letter grades along with a numerical score on the following scale: A=95-100; A-=90-94; B+=87-89; B=84-86; B-=80-83; C+=77-79; C=74-76; C-=70-73; D+=67-69; D=64-66; D-=60-63; F=59 and below.

Writing Assistance: For assistance in preparing the main assigned paper, you may contact the Writing Center at Carlson Library (530-4939; see <http://www.utoledo.edu/centers/writingcenter/>). Both Mr. Meader and I

would also be glad to glance over rough drafts of papers, provided you submit these to us at least five days in advance.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is defined as the use of another's ideas or verbiage without proper citation, and is completely unacceptable. It falls under the category of cheating; any offender will receive a "0" on the assignment in question, or else fail the course outright, depending on the severity. For more details on plagiarism, see http://www.utoledo.edu/catalog/2000catalog/admissions/academic_dishonesty.html

More on plagiarism can be found at:

<http://www.northwestern.edu/uacc/plagiar.html>

Disturbances during Class: Cell phones and similar electronic devices must be turned off during class; repeated phone ringing may result in your class participation grade being lowered. Verbal disruptions or any other inappropriate conduct during class may also be penalized. Laptops are to be used for note-taking only.

Disabilities: If you have a disability and require special accommodations, please notify me after consulting with the Office of Accessibility (530-4981). Their website is: <http://www.utoledo.edu/utlc/accessibility/>