

Course Syllabus
History 389. 01 CID: 4561
Africa - Past & Present
Meeting T-Th, 2-3:20pm.
AB4 303
(3 Credit Hours)
Fall Semester 2007

Prof: Robert L. Shadle
Office: AB4 471 Ext: 4-1490
E-Mail: HIS_RXS@SHSU.EDU

Office Hours
M-W, 2-3pm.
T-Th, 1-2pm.

Class Objectives:

Africa is one of the most ethnically and culturally complex areas of the world. The continent of Africa faces rapid population growth and severe economic, social, and political problems.

After completing the course, students should be

- familiar not only with the facts of African history, but with the major issues confronting Africa today and the impact of Africa on other areas of the world.
- Also, students should be able to understand the connections--*ie.* should to be able to relate significant names, terms, dates, events, facts, movements, and developments in African History to each other and to the present situation.
- Students should learn how to find and use available resources that will help expand their knowledge of African history.
- Finally, this course should help students learn to express themselves in writing more clearly and concisely.

Helpful Hint: If you are interested in cultivating your study skills, the SAM Center has all kinds of resources available as well as a capable staff ready to help you!
<http://www.shsu.edu/~sam_www/>

Class Description:

Survey of the history of Africa from the emergence of human life in Africa to the events and issues of the present time.

The instructional method *in class* will primarily involve lectures, discussion, and the occasional viewing of videos.

African history is a vast subject. It is not possible to deal with every aspect of the history of Africa in class in one semester. This means that the student will be responsible for filling in the gaps by reading the assignments dealing with the material not covered in lectures.

Textbook:

Kevin Shillington--***Africa in World History***
(Revised 2nd Edition)

African History Web sites for further background reading (Optional).

BBC World Service: The Story of Africa

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/africa/features/storyofafrica/>

African History/About.com/HistoryNet

<http://africanhistory.about.com/>

Additional Reading Assignments:

Articles, essays, stories, maps, and other reading material will be posted electronically by the instructor--*eg. on* Blackboard or by e-mail.

These **reading assignments** are intended to provide you with up-to-date news and background information related to the topics you will be dealing with in this course.

Your mission is to master and command the information in all reading assignments in this course. To do that you must read intelligently, alertly, and aggressively. (Underline, take notes, ask questions--either to yourself or in class.)

In regard to the Internet reading assignments, remember that journalists usually try to answer the following questions in their stories:

- I. Who?
- II. What?
- III. When?
- IV. Where?
- V. Why?
- VI. And sometimes "How?"

At the very least, try to spot the answers to those questions as you read.

In addition, **it is strongly suggested that you keep yourself informed** about current events in Africa and around the world by:

1. Watching and/or listening to news programs, on television and radio (e.g. CNN, the News Hour with Jim Lehrer.
2. Reading at least two good newspapers each day and perusing one or more weekly news magazines--e.g. Time, Newsweek, the Economist. (Many of the major newspapers and magazines of the world are available on the Internet.)

You cannot relate the events of the past to the present if you do not know what is happening in the present.

Assignments:

Week of---

- Aug. 19** Introductory Meeting
- Aug. 26** Why Study Africa?
Text: Ch. 1.
- Sept. 2** Early African Cultures (Egypt, Nubia).
Text: Ch.2
- Sept. 9** Early African Cultures
Text: Ch. 3, 4.
- Sept. 16** Africa: Christianity/the Spread of Islam.
Text: Ch. 5.
- Sept. 23** The Sudanic States and Kingdoms of West Africa.
Text: Ch. 6, Ch. 7. 13.
- Sept. 30** Trading Cultures of Eastern and Southern Africa.
Text: Ch. 8, 9.
- Oct. 7** Trading Cultures/Eastern and Southern Africa II.
Text: Ch.10, 11.
- Mid term exam over Lectures and
Text—10/9/07
Last day to drop a class--10/10/07**
- Oct. 14** The Era of the Slave Trade, I.
Text: Ch. 12, 16.
- Oct. 21.** The Expansion of European Power, I.
Text: Ch. 20 .
- Oct. 28.** The European "Scrambles,"
Text: Ch. 21.

- Nov. 4.** Southern Africa.
Text: Ch. 15, 18, 22.
- Nov. 11.** The Impact of WWI & WWII.
Text: Ch. 23, 24, 25.
- Nov. 18.** The Decolonization of Africa
Text: Ch. 26
- Nov. 25.** South Africa and Apartheid.
Text: Ch. 27.
- Dec. 2** Independent Africa--The Coming Anarchy?
Text: Ch.28.
- Dec. 9.** **Final Exams**

Please Note: Topics may be combined, shifted, added, or dropped depending on availability of tapes, films, and reading material. The focus of the course may be altered also by the urgency of current news events.
Time constraints and unforeseen circumstances that could adversely affect the majority of the class might also result in minor changes to this syllabus.

Exams

There will be two major exams during the semester. The Mid-term and Final will cover the textbooks, readings, and the information presented in class.

All major exams will be worth 100 points.

It will be the responsibility of the student to contact the professor

in order to make up work or exams missed for appropriate cause. A documented, university approved excuse will be required as proof of such appropriate cause.

Make up exams may be different in content and form (eg. essays instead of multiple-choice questions) from the original exam.

If you leave the classroom during the taking of an exam, you must turn in your exam at that point. You will not be allowed to return and resume taking the exam.

No one who arrives late for an exam will be allowed to begin the exam after the first student to complete the exam has left the room.

Quizzes

There will be Thirteen or more pop quizzes over lectures and class presentations. Each quiz will be worth up to 10 points.

Persons who come to class late-after a quiz has begun-will not be allowed to take that quiz.

At the end of the semester, one or more quizzes will be dropped; the ten highest quiz scores will be counted toward the student's total score.

Writing Assignments

Writing assignments may include journalizations, book reviews, or research papers--no more than three and worth no more than 50 points each. The writing topics will be selected by the instructor.

Grading

The major exams will be worth 100 points each--200 points total.

The quizzes over the lectures will be worth ten points each--100 points total.

The journalizations, book reviews, or research papers assigned and worth worth no more than 50 points each.

At the end of the semester, the total points of each student will be divided by the total number of points that it was possible to earn. The result will show the percentage of the total possible points earned by the student.

The letter grade for the semester will be determined from that percentage.

The grade scale will be as follows:

85% =A; 75% =B; 60% = C; 50% = D; below 50% = F.

There will be no curve and no individualized extra credit.

If you fail to take or make up any major exam or complete any major assignment you cannot pass the course, regardless of your scores on your other work.

Please consult the University Calendar for the date and time of the final examination for your class. That date will not be changed. Do not plan any trips, events, etc. that might prevent you from taking your final exam at the scheduled time.

You must take--and pass--the final examinations in order to pass the course.

ATTENDANCE POLICY--F/2007

A. Regular classroom attendance is expected of students in this course. More than three absences during the semester will be considered excessive.

In case of any absence, whether excused or unexcused, the student is still responsible for the material covered. The instructor is obligated to disseminate class information, materials, and instructions one time only. He cannot and will not recreate the lectures for tardy or absent students, nor is he obligated to loan, books, videotapes, or other materials to students.

B. The instructor will take roll at the beginning of each class period. Any person not in their seat will be counted absent.

C. No points will be given for attendance; no points will be deducted for excessive absences.

D. In order to receive credit for work done during the class period, the student must be in attendance during the entire class period unless other arrangements are made in advance with the instructor.

E. Regular (and wide awake) class attendance and the taking of a good set of lecture notes are critical to successful performance on the major examinations and quizzes in this course. (Class attendance will be recorded, as is required by university policy.) Outside of class study is equally important. At a bare minimum, students should expect to spend six to eight hours per week on outside of class assignments and preparation. If you know that you are a slow reader, or you know (or discover) that your reading vocabulary is too limited, then you should be prepared to spend such additional time as is necessary on the reading assignments.

Extra study time--however much is necessary for you to gain a thorough grasp of the material--may be required to prepare for quizzes and major examinations.

Taking" a course implies doing the work required--in this case, reading the materials assigned and demonstrating that you have done so and have comprehended the materials through class discussion and performance on such exams and reports as are required. Be prepared to discuss the material assigned for any particular day--each student should expect to be called upon numerous times during the semester and to be judged in regard to his or her degree of preparation for that day.

F. It is the student's responsibility to drop a course. The professor cannot drop a student from the course.

G. Absences for Religious Holy Days:

An institution of higher education shall excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence. If possible, a student who plans to miss a class or required activity to observe a religious holy day should inform the professor prior to the planned absence.

STUDENT ABSENCES ON RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS POLICY

Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence. University policy 861001 provides the procedures to be followed by the student and instructor. A student desiring to absent himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day(s) shall present to each instructor involved a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). This request must be made in the first fifteen days of the semester or the first seven days of a summer session in which the absence(s) will occur. The instructor will complete a form notifying the student of a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed.

University Policy on Academic Honesty from Academic Policy Statement 810213

5.3 Academic Honesty. The university expects all students to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty

and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action.

All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials.

In other words, cheating is unacceptable. Cheating, copying, plagiarism and/or failure to comply with written and/or oral rules, directions or instructions in regard to class assignments, papers, tests, exams, or quizzes, etc. will be subject to disciplinary action that--at the discretion of the professor--could result in loss of points, lowering of letter grade, or failure in the course.

University Policy on Student Conduct:

Students will refrain from behavior in the classroom that intentionally or unintentionally disrupts the learning process and, thus, impedes the mission of the university. Cellular phones, pagers, laptops and other communications, recording, and listening devices must be turned off and put away before class begins. Students are prohibited from eating in class, using tobacco products, making offensive remarks, reading newspapers or other publications, sleeping, talking at inappropriate times, wearing inappropriate clothing or engaging in any other form of distraction. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result in a directive to leave class. Students who are especially disruptive may also be reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action in accordance with university policy.

As scholars at a great university, you will be expected to conduct yourselves accordingly in this class. Talking, sleeping, passing

notes, bothering other people, inattentiveness, etc. constitute-- and will be deemed--inexcusable conduct. Persons engaged in such conduct will be subject to disciplinary actions including warnings and reprimands, escalating loss of points from the student's total score, loss of eligibility for extra-credit points, and expulsion from class.

Please see the following web address for the complete SHSU Code of Student Conduct and Discipline.

<http://www.shsu.edu/students/guide/dean/codeofconduct.html>

University Policy on Visitors in the Classroom:

Unannounced visitors to class must present a current, official SHSU identification card to be permitted to stay. They must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. If the visitor is not a registered student, it is at the instructors discretion that the visitor will be allowed to remain in the classroom.

Students with Disabilities

Persons who are seeing or hearing impaired should notify the professor if they need to have a seat that is close to the front of the classroom. Persons with learning disabilities, physical handicaps, or other serious conditions or impairments might require special arrangements for exams, assignments, use of tape recorders, etc. Those persons should contact the Counseling Center (ext. 4-1720), which will then inform the instructor about the arrangements that need to be made.

Please do not bring a tape recorder to class unless you can provide some documentation for a disability.

DISABLED STUDENT POLICY

It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that no otherwise qualified disabled individual shall, solely by reason of his/her handicap, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any academic or Student Life program or activity. Disabled students may

request help with academically related problems stemming from individual disabilities from their instructors, school/department chair, or by contacting the Chair of the Committee for Continuing Assistance for Disabled Students and Director of the Counseling Center, Lee Drain Annex, or by calling (936) 294-1720.

Discussion of--and questions about--this syllabus may take place at any time during the semester.