

**History 346**

**History of Africa – Section 10 – Spring Semester, 2024**

MW 1:30-2:45 p.m. – Tarpley 213

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Office Hours: MWF – 12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. and By Appointment

**Course Description**

Welcome to History of Africa! The first goal of this course is to familiarize you with major events, trends, and figures in the history of Africa – from our earliest human ancestors in prehistoric Africa to the globally interconnected world of modern Africa. Emphasis will be given to the ways in which African societies became increasingly connected over time, and the ways in which those connections shaped both the history of the continent and the history of the wider world. In the classroom, the course will consist of lectures to reinforce and supplement readings and class discussions to collaboratively evaluate primary and secondary source documents. Outside the classroom, you will interact with other sources, read/watch/listen to supplemental online material, and prepare for written and assessed work.

My second overarching goal is for you all to walk away from this course with a greater appreciation for the history and cultures of Africa and a greater ability to think critically and write winsomely at the college level. As such, you will be expected to participate fully, work diligently, and complete all assigned work in a timely manner. This is your responsibility. Mine is to make the material understandable, engaging, and – hopefully – enjoyable!

**History Program Objectives (HPO)**

The faculty at Reinhardt University desire that all students in history demonstrate

1. Use of evidence, logic, and reasoning as they think historically about the past
2. Knowledge of human history in various times and places
3. Effective written and oral expression of ideas
4. Methodological competence using libraries and appropriate information technologies
5. Moral reasoning abilities as they seek what is good, beautiful, and true

**In History 346, History of Africa,** the course will emphasize

1. Historical thinking skills that employ evidence, logic, and reasoning
2. Knowledge of African from the earliest times to the Present
3. Effective written expression of ideas
4. Moral reasoning abilities as we examine how human beings have acted in and beyond their various societies in varying circumstances

**Required Readings**

1. *African History: A Very Short Introduction*, by John Parker and Richard Rathbone (Oxford) ISBN13: 9780192802484
2. *African Religions: A Very Short Introduction*, by Jacob K. Olupona (Oxford) ISBN: 9780199790586
3. *Sundiata: A West African Epic of Old Mali,* by D.T. Niane (Pearson) ISBN13: 9781405849425
4. *Things Fall Apart,* by Chinua Achebe (Random House) ISBN: 9780385474542
5. *King Leopold’s Ghost: A Story of Greed, Terror, and Heroism in Colonial Africa,* by Adam Hochschild (Houghton Mifflin) ISBN: 9780618001903

**Success**

My desire is that each and every one of you succeeds in this class. In order to succeed, you need to:

* Listen and take good notes on all Lectures ***and*** complete all assigned readings *before* class  (See schedule below for details)
* Manage your time wisely in order to prepare for quizzes, assignments, papers, and exams.
* Approach the class with an attitude of curiosity and a willingness to respectfully engage with the professor and your classmates on a variety of issues and topics related to the course content
* Relax. Slow down and enjoy the incredible opportunity you have to participate in the privilege of learning at Reinhardt.

**Assignments and Corresponding Point Values**

1. Quizzes and Canvas Discussion Posts – 250 pts
   1. Imperial Africa Map Quiz: 25 pts
   2. Modern Africa Map Quiz: 25 pts
   3. Pre-Discussion Board Posts on Canvas: 11 posts, 20 points each, 1 drop – 200 pts
2. Exams: Midterm and Final – 300 pts
   1. Midterm: 150 pts
   2. Final: 150 pts
3. Research Paper: 250 pts
   1. What? Why? How? Paper: 50 pts
   2. Annotated Bibliography: 100 pts
   3. Final Research Paper: 100 pts
4. Class Participation: 100 pts
5. Attendance: 100 pts

**Grading Scale**

A: 900-1000 Points

B: 800-899 Points

C: 700-799 Points

D: 600-699 Points

F: 599 Points and Below

**Course Policies and Expectations**

* *Attendance*
  + Attendance is mandatory and factors into the overall grade (100 points)
  + 3 unexcused absences = -25 points; 4-6 = -50 points; 7-10 = -75 points; 10+ = 0/100 points
  + Reasonable Excuses: Documented illness, athletic competition/travel, or personal/immediate family grievance
  + Missed Work = Students are responsible to get caught up if absent from class
* *Classwork/Homework Time*
  + As a good rule of thumb for a 3-credit hour online course such as ours, one should anticipate seven to ten hours weekly spent reading, writing papers, and reviewing for quizzes/exams.
* *Quality of Work* 
  + Written work is graded for: content, clarity, grammar, and syntax (sentence structure)
* *Class Behavior*
  + Students will comport themselves as mature, responsible adults
  + You will be respectful of your classmates’ understandings, perspectives, and experiences
* *Late Assignments*
  + Reading Quizzes **may not** be taken late or made up without a reasonable excuse
  + Pre-Discussion Board posts **may not** be made up without a reasonable excuse
  + Late papers will be counted off 10 points per day for 3 days, then receive a score of 0
  + KEY: Avoid these crises by managing your time wisely and submitting assignments on time
  + *Makeup Exams:* Exams may be made up only due to ***extreme extenuating circumstances***

**Academic Honesty**

* Education thrives in an atmosphere of honesty and trust. Students who do ***not*** do their own work degrade education, demonstrate a lack of respect for themselves and the college, and rob themselves of the opportunity to improve their own thinking and writing.
* In this course, all work must be your own. **Cheating will not be tolerated**. Plagiarism, the use of someone else’s ideas or words without acknowledging them as such, is a serious academic offense. **Any suspected cases of academic misconduct will be dealt with strictly, normally resulting in a failing grade on the assignment – or even the course as a whole, depending on the circumstance.**
* Using **ChatGPT** or other AI tools for content generation on any assignments in this class will also not be tolerated and will be considered the same as plagiarism from a traditional source
* All papers and written work will be checked for improper use of outside sources or AI
* The Academic Catalog of Reinhardt University goes into greater detail regarding what constitutes academic dishonesty. If you are ever uncertain about whether your actions are academically honest, please consult your instructor, who will be glad to advise you.

**Reinhardt’s Academic Support Office**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a documented disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Academic Support Office (ASO). Reinhardt is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. Therefore, if you are seeking classroom accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act, you are required to register with the Academic Support Office (ASO). ASO is in the basement of the Lawson Building. Phone is 770-720-5567. To receive academic accommodations for this class, please obtain the proper ASO letters/forms.

**Reinhardt’s Center for Student Success**

The Center for Student Success is located on the bottom floor of Lawson, room 035. It is a free tutoring service available to all students. For appointments, go to Reinhardt’s webpage and click on “Academics.” When the next page appears, click “Student Success Center.” On that screen, click “Student Appointment Form.” Fill out the required fields and then submit. If you prefer to call, the number is 770-720-9232.

**Course Schedule**

| When | Topic | Breakdown |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Week 1 | | Geography, Human Origins, and Early African Societies | - **Monday – 1/8 NO CLASS! Dr. Jones at a conference**  \* For Next Time: Read through the syllabus ***in detail*** and complete the “About Me” Assignment on Canvas!  **- Wednesday – 1/10**  **\*** In Class: Lecture 1  \* For Next Time  **- “About Me” Assignment DUE SUNDAY 11:59 PM** |
| Week 2 | The Agricultural Revolution and Bantu Migrations | - **Monday – 1/15 NO CLASS - MLK HOLIDAY**  \* For Next Time  - *African History: A Short Introduction*, Ch.1-3  - Pre-Discussion Post #1  - **Wednesday – 1/17**  **\*** In Class: Lecture |
| Week 3 | Ancient North Africa and the Mediterranean World | - **Monday – 1/22**  **\*** In Class: Lecture 3  \* For Next Time  - *African History: A Short Introduction*, Ch. 4-7  - Pre-Discussion Post #2  - **Wednesday – 1/24**  **\*** In Class: Discussion |
| Week 4 | Varieties of Christianity in Early African History | - **Monday – 1/29**  \* In Class: Lecture 4  \* For Next Time  - *African Religions: A Very Short Introduction,* Preface-Ch. 3  - Pre-Discussion Post #3  - **Wednesday – 1/31**  **\*** In Class: Discussion |
| Week 5 | West African Kingdoms and the Spread of Islam | - **Monday – 2/5**  **\*** In Class: Lecture 5  \* For Next Time:  - *African Religions: A Very Short Introduction,* Ch. 4-6  - Pre-Discussion Post #4  - **Wednesday – 2/7**  **\*** In Class: Discussion  \* For Next Time:  **- What? Why? How? Paper DUE SUNDAY 11:59 PM** |
| Week 6 | East Africa and The Rise of Swahili Civilization in the Indian Ocean World | - **Monday – 2/12**  **\*** In Class: Lecture 6  \* For Next Time:  - *Sundiata: A West African Epic of Old Mali*, p. 1-60  - Pre-Discussion Post #5  - **Wednesday – 2/14**  **\*** In Class: Discussion  \* For Next Time: |
| Week 7 | African Slavery in the Atlantic World | - **Monday – 2/19**  **\*** In Class: Lecture 7  \* For Next Time:  - *Sundiata: A West African Epic of Old Mali,* p. 61-120  - Pre-Discussion Post #5  - **Wednesday – 2/21**  **\*** In Class: Discussion  \* For Next Time: |
| Week 8 | Early ModernWest and West-Central Africa in Global Perspective | - **Monday – 2/26**  **\*** In Class: Lecture 8  \* For Next Time: Study for Midterm  - **Wednesday – 2/28**  \* In Class: **MIDTERM EXAM**  **SPRING BREAK MARCH 4-8** |
| Week 9 | Islam, Colonialism, and Reform in North Africa | - **Monday – 3/11**  **\*** In Class: Lecture 9  \* For Next Time:  - *King Leopold’s Ghost,* Intro-Ch. 4  - Pre-Discussion Post #6  - **Wednesday – 3/13**  **\*** In Class: Discussion |
| Week 10 | African and European Empires in East Africa | - **Monday – 3/18**  **\*** In Class: Lecture 10  \* For Next Time:  - *King Leopold’s Ghost,* Ch. 5-11  - Pre-Discussion Post #7  - **Wednesday – 3/20**  **\*** In Class: Discussion  \* For Next Time:  **- Annotated Bibliography DUE SUNDAY 11:59 PM** |
| Week 11 | South Africa Before 1870: Dutch and Zulu Nationalisms in Tension | - **Monday – 3/25**  **\*** In Class: Lecture 11  \* For Next Time:  - *King Leopold’s Ghost,* Ch. 12-16  - Pre-Discussion Post #8  - **Wednesday – 3/27**  **\*** In Class: Discussion |
| Week 12 | New Imperialism and African Resistance, ca. 1870-1914 | - **Monday – 4/1**  **\*** In Class: Lecture 12  \* For Next Time:  - *King Leopold’s Ghost,* Ch. 17-Afterword  - Pre-Discussion Post #9  - **Wednesday – 4/3**  **\*** In Class: Discussion |
| Week 13 | Economic and Political Developments in Colonial Africa | - **Monday – 4/8**  **\*** In Class: Lecture 13  \* For Next Time:  - *Things Fall Apart,* Part 1&2  - Pre-Discussion Post #10  - **Wednesday – 4/10**  **\*** In Class:  - Discussion  **- Imperial Africa Map Quiz** |
| Week  14 | Decolonization, Independence, and Contemporary Africa | - **Monday – 4/15**  **\*** In Class: Lecture 14  \* For Next Time:  - *Things Fall Apart,* Part 3  - Pre-Discussion Post #10  - **Wednesday – 4/17**  **\*** In Class:  - Discussion  **- Modern Africa Map Quiz** |
| Week 15 | Wrapping Up | - **Monday – 4/22**  \* In Class: Course Conclusion and Exam Review  \* For Next Time: Study for Final Exam  - **Wednesday – 4/24** = READING/STUDY DAY  \* For Next Time  **- Final Research Paper DUE SUNDAY 11:59 PM** |
|  | **FINAL EXAM** | * **DATE TBD** |

NB: The instructor reserves the right to amend the syllabus when conflicts, emergencies or circumstances dictate. Students will be duly notified.