

## ARKY439 African Complex Societies

**Dr. Diane Lyons**

**Lectures: Tuesday/Thursday 12:30-13:45 ES859**

**Office Hours: ES 854 Wednesday 1-2 pm or by appointment**

**Phone: 403-220-6370**

**dlyons@ucalgary.ca**

The course examines ancient African complex societies with an emphasis on state development south of the Sahara. Lecture topics will include why these states developed, their participation in internal and international systems of exchange, technological developments, belief systems that supported power structures, and the reasons for their collapse.

**Text:**

Connah, Graham. 2001. *African Civilizations (2<sup>nd</sup> edition)*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.

**Note: A list of required and supplementary readings is provided. Articles are available as online journals in the library, hardcopy in the department library or on reserve in the department library.**

**Course evaluation**

Map Quiz	10%	September 26th
Exam 1	25%	October 17th
Exam 2	25%	November 19th
Final Quiz	10%	December 5th
Paper	30%	November 7th

Paper writing and topics will be discussed in class in week 2. Students are required to submit a paper topic to the instructor by the 5th week of classes.

**Grading Scheme**

96-100	A+	66-70	C+
91-95	A	61-65	C
86-90	A-	56-60	C-
81-85	B+	53-55	D+
76-80	B	50-52	D
71-75	B-	below 50	F

No particular course component need be passed in order to pass the course as a whole, however, students must complete all elements of the course in a diligent manner in order to complete the course.

Missed exams can only be written with a medical certificate documenting absence from the scheduled exam.

## Section 1: Introduction

### Week 1: September 10, 12

Lecture: Course Introduction, and Introduction to the Continent

*Readings:* Connah: The context

### Week 2: September 17, 19

Theoretical perspectives on the emergence of complexity in Africa

Background to the emergence of African complex societies

#### ***Supplementary Reading***

Connah, Graham. 2008. Urbanism and the archaeological visibility of African complex societies. *Journal of African Archaeology* 6(2): 233-242.

Monroe, J. Cameron. 2013. Power and Agency in Precolonial African States. *Annual Review of Anthropology* 42(2): posted on line August.

## Section 2: Northeast Africa: Egypt, Nubia and Ethiopia

### Week 3: September 24, 26

Ancient Egypt: pre-dynastic, Old Kingdom

***Map quiz in Thursday class (10%)***

#### ***Supplementary Readings***

Wengrow, David. 2003. On desert origins for the ancient Egyptians. *Antiquity* 77(297): 597-601. (*online journal*)

Wenke, Robert J. and Deborah Olszewski. 2007. Chapter 9. The Origins of Complex Societies in Egypt. *Patterns in Prehistory* (5<sup>th</sup> edition). Oxford University Press, Great Britain. *On reserve in department library.*

### Week 4: October 1, 3

Ancient Egypt: Middle and New Kingdoms

***Readings:*** on reserve in archaeology reading room: Wenke, Robert and Deborah Olszewski. 2007. *Patterns in Prehistory*, 5<sup>th</sup> edition. Oxford University Press, Oxford.

Read chapter 9 on the rise of Ancient Egypt.

### Week 5: October 8, 10

Ancient Nubia

***Readings:*** Connah chapter 2

Supplementary Reading:

Edwards, David. 2007. The archaeology of Sudan and Nubia. *Annual Review of Anthropology* 36:211-228.

Judd, Margaret, and Joel Irish. 2009. Dying to serve: the mass burials at Kerma. *Antiquity* 83(321): 709-22.

**Week 6: Ethiopia October 15, 17**

**Readings:** Connah chapter 3

**Exam 1 on Thursday class (25%)**

**Supplementary readings:**

Curtis, Matthew

2009 Relating the Ancient Ona Culture to the wider northern Horn: discerning patterns and problems in the archaeology of the first millennium BC. *African Archaeological Review* 26:327-350.

Fattovich, Rodolfo

2009 Reconsidering Yeha, c. 800-300 BC. *African Archaeological Review* 26:275-290.

2010 The development of ancient states in the northern Horn of Africa, c. 3000 BC-AD 1000: an archaeological outline. *Journal of World Prehistory* 23:145-175.

**Section 3: North Africa, the Sahara and West Africa**

**Week 7: October 22, 24**

The Sahara and North Africa

Savannah kingdoms and empires of West Africa

**Readings:** Connah chapter 4

**Supplementary Reading:**

Nixon, Sam. 2009. Excavating Essouk-Tadmakka (Mali): new archaeological investigations of early Islamic trans-Saharan trade. *Azania* 44(2): 217-55.

Park, Douglas Post. 2010. Prehistoric Timbuktu and its hinterland. *Antiquity* 84: (326): 1076-1088.

Preston Blier, Suzanne. 2011. Of horses and pots: early Nigerian arts of conveyance. *Arts & Cultures* 12:112-29.

**Week 8: October 29, 31**

Savannah kingdoms and empires of West Africa continued

**Readings:** Connah chapter 4

**Week 9: November 5, 7**

West African Forest States

**Readings:** Connah chapter 5

**TERM PAPERS DUE IN CLASS ON THURSDAY November 7**

**Section 4: Eastern, Southern, and Central Africa**

**Week 10: November 14**

West African forest states continued

East Africa

**Readings:** Connah chapters 5,6

**Supplementary Readings**

Fleisher, Jeffrey B. 2010. Swahili synoecism: rural settlements and town formation on the Central East African coast, A.D. 750-1500. *Journal of field archaeology* 35(3):265-82.

Fleisher, Jeffrey and Stephanie Wynne-Jones

2011 Ceramics and the early Swahili: deconstructing the early Tana Tradition. *African Archaeological Review* 28:245-278.

LaViolette, Adria.

2008. Swahili cosmopolitanism in Africa and the Indian Ocean World, A.D. 600-1500. *Journal of the World Archaeological Congress* 4(1): 24-49.

**Week 11: November 19, 21**

**Exam 2 on Tuesday class (25%)**

Southern Africa

**Readings:** Connah chapter 7

Huffman, Thomas N. 2009. Mapungubwe and Great Zimbabwe: The origin and spread of social complexity in southern Africa. *Journal of Anthropological Archaeology* 28:37-54.

**Week 12: November 26, 28**

Southern Africa continued

Central Africa

**Readings:** Connah chapter 7, 8

**Week 13: December 3, 5**

Central Africa and wrap-up

**Readings:** Connah chapters 8, 9

**Final Quiz in Thursday class (10%)**

## ADDITIONAL CONTENT

### Writing across the Curriculum

Writing skills are not exclusive to English courses and, in fact, should cross all disciplines. The University supports the belief that throughout their University careers, students should be taught how to write well so that when they graduate their writing abilities will be far above the minimal standards required at entrance. Consistent with this belief, students are expected to do a substantial amount of writing in their University courses and, where appropriate, instructors can and may use writing and the grading thereof as a factor in the evaluation of student work. The services provided by the Writing Centre in the Effective Writing Office can be utilized by all undergraduate and graduate students who feel they require further assistance.

### Academic Accommodation Policy

It is the students' responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodations and have not registered with Student Accessibility Services, please contact them at 403-220-6019. Students who have not registered with Student Accessibility Services are not eligible for formal academic accommodations. More information about academic accommodations can be found at [www.ucalgary.ca/access](http://www.ucalgary.ca/access).

## **Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act**

The University of Calgary is committed to protecting the privacy of individuals who work and study at the University or who otherwise interact with the University in accordance with the standards set out in the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

Please refer to the following link for detailed information:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip>

## **Academic Misconduct**

Academic dishonesty is an unacceptable activity at the University of Calgary and students are **strongly advised** to read the Student Misconduct section of the University Calendar. Quite often, students are unaware of what constitutes academic dishonesty or plagiarism. The most common are:

- 1) Presenting another student's work as your own
- 2) Presenting an author's work or ideas as you own without proper referencing
- 3) Using work completed for another course

This activity will not be tolerated and students conducting themselves in this manner will be dealt with according to the procedures outlined in the University Calendar.

For detailed information on what constitutes academic misconduct, please refer to the following link:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-2-1.html>

## **Plagiarism**

Plagiarism involves submitting or presenting work as if it were the student's own work when it is not. Any ideas or materials taken from another source written, electronic, or oral must be fully and formally acknowledged. Plagiarism includes but is not limited to:

- (a) The work submitted or presented was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting or presenting the work (this includes having another impersonate the student or otherwise substituting the work of another for one's own in an examination or test),
- (b) Parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author,
- (c) The whole work (e.g., an essay) is copied from another source, and/or,
- (d) A student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course (although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved.

While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted. Plagiarism is an extremely serious academic offence. It is recognized that clause (d) does not prevent a graduate student incorporating work previously done by him or her in a thesis or dissertation.

### **Emergency Evacuation Assembly Points**

In the event of an emergency that requires evacuation, please refer to the following link to become familiar with the assembly points for the class:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

### **Safewalk Information**

Campus Security, in partnership with the Students' Union, provides the Safewalk service, 24 hours a day to any location on Campus including the LRT, parking lots, bus zones and University residences. Contact Campus Security at (403) 220-5333 or use a help phone, and Safewalkers or a Campus Security Officer will accompany you to your campus destination.

### **Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources**

- Have a question, but not sure where to start? The new Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (PIC) is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS102, call us at 403-220-3580 or email us at [artsads@ucalgary.ca](mailto:artsads@ucalgary.ca). You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> which has detailed information on common academic concerns.
- For program planning and advice, contact the Student Success Centre (403) 220-5881 or visit them in their new space on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library.
- For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Library Block.

### **Contact Information for Student and Faculty Representation**

Student Union Vice President – Academic

Phone: (403) 220-3911

Email: [suypaca@ucalgary.ca](mailto:suypaca@ucalgary.ca)

Student Union Faculty Representatives

[arts1@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts1@su.ucalgary.ca)

[arts2@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts2@su.ucalgary.ca)

[arts3@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts3@su.ucalgary.ca)

Student Ombudsman's Office

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/>