

University of Calgary
Department of History

HTST 397.01
Sub-Saharan Africa (c.500 BCE to the present)
Winter 2018

Instructor: Dr. T. Stapleton

Office: SS632

Phone Number: 403-220-6418

Email: timothy.stapleton@ucalgary.ca

Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday, 9am – 9:50am (and by appointment)

Course Description:

This course introduces the history of Sub-Saharan Africa from the Early Iron Age to the present. African History is usually divided into three periods; pre-colonial, colonial and post-colonial (or independent). Important themes for the pre-colonial period include the spread of Early Iron Age agriculture and metallurgy, Later Iron Age developments such as expansion of trade and state formation, and African involvement in inter-continental trade networks such as the Trans-Sahara, Indian Ocean and Trans-Atlantic networks. For the brief but transformative era of European colonial rule, which began in the late nineteenth century for most parts of Africa, the course will look at conquest and resistance, economic and social change, the impact of the world wars and decolonization. Focusing on the period after the withdrawal of European colonial rule around 1960, the course will conclude with a look at the impact of the Cold War on Africa, the rise and fall of apartheid in South Africa, and relatively recent issues such as the AIDS pandemic and conflicts over valuable resources.

Attention history majors: History 300 is a required course for all history majors. You should normally take it in your second year.

Times: Monday, Wednesday and Friday – 10:00 – 10:50am

Location: ES 054

Text: Erik Gilbert and Jonathan T. Reynolds, *Africa in World History: From Prehistory to the Present*, Upper Saddle River, N.J.: Pearson, 3rd edition, 2011.

Evaluation:

Map Quiz = 10% (**26 January**)

Research Essay Proposal = 10% (**9 February**)

Research Essay = 40% (**16 March**)

Final Exam = 40% (**see exam schedule**)

MAP QUIZ: This short test will be written in class on **26 January**. It will require students to identify the names of countries on a map of contemporary (2018) Africa.

RESEARCH ESSAY PROPOSAL:

This assignment represents the first step in creating the research essay which is due later in the course. While students are free to select any topic relating to the history of Sub-Saharan Africa, they are strongly advised to consult with the instructor before finalizing their topics. There is a list of suggested topics below. The proposal should include the following elements:

1. **Topic or Title** of the Research Essay
2. **Concise Explanation** of the topic. This section should be around **500 words long**. It must state the research question and a tentative thesis which is a one sentence answer to the question. No citations are required here.
3. **Preliminary Bibliography**. This must include at least **5 academic secondary sources** such as scholarly books, book chapters and/or journal articles that are relevant to the topic. Do not cite the course textbook.

A hard (paper) copy of the proposal will be submitted in class on **9 February**. Please do not send email copies to the instructor unless prior arrangements have been made. Students are strongly encouraged to discuss their proposals with the instructor before submission.

RESEARCH ESSAY: Completing a research paper represents a central activity of this course. The research paper should address a question and present a clear thesis (a one sentence answer to that question). It must be organized into an introduction, body and conclusion, and contain a bibliography with at least **7 academic secondary sources**. It must be written in a clear and concise manner. The essay can employ quotations but students are strongly advised to do so sparingly and to use appropriate rules and citation methods. The paper should be roughly **1500 words long** supported by footnotes or endnotes and a bibliography. Students should avoid using course texts, lecture notes or websites (online academic resources like JSTOR are fine) as cited sources in essays. The research for the paper, as reflected in the citations (footnotes or endnotes) and bibliography, should focus on scholarly secondary sources such as academic books, book chapters and/or journal articles. Hard (paper) copies of essays should be handed directly to the instructor during the class of **16 March**. Please do not send email copies to the instructor unless prior arrangements have been made.

For guidance on essay writing, including citation methods, see the Department of History's online student handbook:

http://hist.ualgary.ca/sites/hist.ualgary.ca/files/history_students_handbook_2015.pdf

Late Assignments: These will NOT BE ACCEPTED. If a student has a problem meeting a deadline, he or she is invited to discuss the situation with the instructor. Extensions can be granted when appropriate.

FINAL EXAM – Written during the exam period, this assessment will require students to identify important terms and names, and to answer broad essay questions. This is a registrar-scheduled final examination.

Lecture Outline:

Week 1: 8-12 January

Course Introduction - Historiography of Africa

Reading: Gilbert and Reynolds, preface and chapters 1 and 2.

Week 2: 15-19 January

Pre-Colonial Africa: The Expansion of Bantu Languages, Early Iron Age and Later Iron Age (to c.1600 CE)

Reading: Gilbert and Reynolds, chapters 3, 4, 5 and 6.

Week 3: 22-26 January

Pre-Colonial West Africa: Trans-Sahara Trade, Trans-Atlantic Trade and Jihads (c.500-1900 CE)

Reading: Gilbert and Reynolds, chapters 7, 8 and 9.

26 January: MAP QUIZ (written in class)

Week 4: 29 January - 2 February

Southern Africa: Early Colonization and Mineral Revolutions (1600-1900)

Reading: Gilbert and Reynolds, chapter 13.

Week 5: 5-9 February

Pre-Colonial Central and East Africa: the Expansion of Empires and Trade (1600-1900)

Reading: Gilbert and Reynolds, chapters 10, 11 and 12.

9 February: SUBMIT RESEARCH ESSAY PROPOSALS

Week 6: 12-16 February

The Scramble for Africa and Colonial Rule (1880-1939)

Reading: Gilbert and Reynolds, chapters 14 and 15.

Reading Week: 18-25 February

Week 7: 26 February – 2 March

Africa in the Era of the World Wars (1914-45)

Reading: Gilbert and Reynolds, chapters 16 and 17.

Week 8: 5-9 March

African Nationalism and Decolonization (1945-80)

Reading: Gilbert and Reynolds, chapter 18.

Week 9: 12-16 March

The Rise and Fall of Apartheid in South Africa (1948-94)

Reading: Gilbert and Reynolds, chapter 18.

16 March: SUBMIT RESEARCH ESSAY

Week 10: 19-23 March

Africa in the Cold War Era (1960-90)

Reading: Gilbert and Reynolds, chapter 19

Week 11: 26-30 March

Africa and the End of the Cold War (1990+)

Readings: Gilbert and Reynolds, chapter 19

Week 12: 2-6 April

Conflict in the Great Lakes Region (1990+)

Week 13: 9-13 April

Course conclusion – discussion of exam

Final Exam to be scheduled by registrar. The exam period runs from **16 to 26 April**.

Research Essay – a few examples of possible topics – these are starting points and will need to be narrowed down:

The origins of a major pre-colonial state (eg. Lunda, Buganda, Asante, Zulu)

The impact of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade on part of West Africa (eg. Niger Delta)

The Impact of the Portuguese on the Kingdom of Kongo

Queen Nzinga of Angola (or another prominent African leader from any period)

The impact of Christian missionaries in a region of Africa (West, East or Southern)

The expansion of the slave trade in East Africa (1800s)

Any war of European colonial conquest (eg. Anglo-Zulu War of 1879)

Cocoa Boycotts in the Gold Coast (c.1930s)

The Industrial and Commercial Workers' Union (ICU) of South Africa (1920s-30s)

The Indian Community in East Africa

The experience of African women under colonialism (select a country as a case study)

Decolonization in any African country (focus on one)

Military Coups and/or Regimes in Post-colonial Africa (pick a country and a coup)

Personalist Dictatorships in Post-Colonial Africa (eg. the Mobutu regime in Zaire)

The Soweto Uprising in South Africa (1976)

The rise of football (soccer) as a popular sport in Africa

The Nigerian Civil War (1967-70) (or any other post-colonial conflict)

The impact of the AIDS pandemic in Africa

The rise of Nollywood (Nigerian film industry)

Debt relief for African countries

The history of popular music in an African country or region

African refugees (pick a specific region, country, conflict or theme)

The African Union (or one of the regional international organizations like ECOWAS)

The Impact of the United Nations in an African Conflict (eg. Rwanda in 1994)

China's growing interest in Africa

Africa and the "Resource Curse" (select a country as a case study)

Why has Botswana become a "successful" African country?

Homophobia in post-colonial Africa (Uganda would be a useful case study)

Islamist Insurgency in Post-Cold War Africa (pick an example such as Somalia)

Important Departmental, Faculty, and University Information

Department Twitter @ucalgaryhist

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources:

- Have a question, but not sure where to start? The Arts Students Centre (ASC) is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at Social Sciences 102, call 403-220-3580, or email artsads@ucalgary.ca. For detailed information on common academic concerns, you can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate>.
- For program planning and advice, contact the Arts Students Centre (ASC) in SS 102, call 403-220-3580, email artsads@ucalgary.ca, or visit <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/advising>.
- For registration issues, paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at 403-210-ROCK (7625), visit the office in the MacKimmie Library Block (MLB) or their website at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/>.

Writing:

This course will include written assignments. Faculty policy directs that all written assignments (including, although to a lesser extent, written exam responses) will be assessed at least partly on writing skills. Writing skills include not only surface correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc.) but also general clarity and organization. Research papers must be properly documented.

Writing Support:

Students are also encouraged to use Writing Support Services and other Student Success Centre Services, located on the 3rd floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library (TFDL). Writing Support Services assist with a variety of assignments, from essays to lab reports. Students can book 30-minute one-on-one appointments online, sign up for 15-minute drop-in appointments, and register for a variety of writing workshops. For more information on this and other Student Success Centre services, please visit www.ucalgary.ca/ssc.

Copyright:

The University of Calgary has opted out of the Access Copyright Interim Tariff proposed by the Copyright Board. This means that instructors in all University of Calgary courses will strictly adhere to Copyright Act regulations and the educational exceptions permitted by the Act for both print and digital course material. What this simply means is that no copyrighted material may be placed on course D2L or web sites without the prior permission of the copyright holders. In some cases, this may mean that instructors will require you to purchase a print course pack from the University of Calgary bookstore or that you will have to consult books on reserve at the library. For more information on the University of Calgary's copyright policy, see <http://library.ucalgary.ca/copyright>.

Red Box Policy:

Essays and other assignments may be handed in to the red box located outside of the History

Department office (Social Sciences, Room 656). Please include the following information on your assignment: 1) **course name and number**, 2) **instructor**, 3) **your name** and 4) **your student number**. Assignments received after 4:00 p.m. will be date stamped with the date of the next business day. We do not time stamp any papers. Please do not bring your paper into the office to be stamped. The box is emptied promptly at 8:30 a.m. and at 4:00 p.m. Monday to Friday.

Departmental Grading System:

The following percentage-to-letter grade conversion scheme has been adopted for use in all Canadian Studies, History, and Latin American Studies courses.

Percentage	Letter Grade	Grade Point Value	Description
90-100	A+	4.00	Outstanding
85-89	A	4.00	Excellent—superior performance showing comprehensive understanding of subject matter.
80-84	A-	3.70	
77-79	B+	3.30	
73-76	B	3.00	Good—clearly above average performance with knowledge of subject matter generally complete.
70-72	B-	2.70	
67-69	C+	2.30	
63-66	C	2.00	Satisfactory—basic understanding of the subject matter.
60-62	C-	1.70	Receipt of a grade point average of 1.70 may not be sufficient for promotion or graduation.
56-59	D+	1.30	Minimal pass—marginal performance; generally insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject.
50-55	D	1.00	
0-49	F	0	Fail—unsatisfactory performance or failure to meet course requirements.

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism occurs when one submits or presents one's work in a course, or ideas and/or passages in a written piece of work, as if it were one's own work done expressly for that particular course, when, in fact, it is not. As noted in *The History Student's Handbook* (http://hist.ucalgary.ca/sites/hist.ucalgary.ca/files/history_students_handbook_2015.pdf), plagiarism may take several forms:

- Failure to cite sources properly may be considered plagiarism. This could include quotations, and wording used from another source but not acknowledged.
- Borrowed, purchased, and/or ghostwritten papers are considered plagiarism, as is submitting one's own work for more than one course without the permission of the instructor(s) involved.
- Extensive paraphrasing of one or a few sources is also considered plagiarism, even when

notes are used, unless the essay is a critical analysis of those works.

- The use of notes does not justify the sustained presentation of another author's language and ideas as one's own.

Plagiarism is a serious academic offence and written work that appears to contain plagiarized passages will not be graded. All such work will be reported to the Faculty of Arts' associate deans of students who will apply the penalties specified in the *University of Calgary Calendar*.

Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI):

At the University of Calgary, feedback provided by students through the Universal Student Ratings of Instruction survey provides valuable information to help with evaluating instruction, enhancing learning and teaching, and selecting courses (www.ucalgary.ca/usri). Your responses make a difference. Please participate in USRI surveys.

Academic Accommodations (implemented July 1, 2015):

The student accommodation policy can be found at: ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy. Students needing an Accommodation because of a Disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.

Students needing an Accommodation based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to the course instructor.

Campus Resources for Mental Health:

The University of Calgary recognizes the pivotal role that student mental health plays in physical health, social connectedness and academic success, and aspires to create a caring and supportive campus community where individuals can freely talk about mental health and receive supports when needed. We encourage you to explore the excellent mental health resources available throughout the university community, such as counselling, self-help resources, peer support or skills-building available through the SU Wellness Centre (Room 370, MacEwan Student Centre, <https://www.ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/services/mental-health-services>) and the Campus Mental Health Strategy website (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/mentalhealth/>).

Other Useful Information:

- Faculty of Arts Representatives: 403-220-6551, arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca, arts4@su.ucalgary.ca.
- Campus Security & Safewalk: 403-220-5333, <http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk>.
- Freedom of Information: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip/foip-hia>.
- Emergency Evacuation Assembly Points: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>.
- Student Union Information: <http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/>.
- Graduate Student Association: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/gsa/>.

- Student Ombudsman Office: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>

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