

University of Calgary
Department of History

HTST 402
Military History of Africa

Instructor: Dr. T. Stapleton

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

Course Description

This course examines the history of warfare and military structures in Africa from precolonial times to the present. Most of the emphasis will be on Africa south of the Sahara. Important themes will include the use of horses and firearms in different parts of precolonial West Africa, late nineteenth century wars of European colonial conquest, the world wars in Africa, the development of colonial and post-colonial African militaries, and the impact of the global Cold War on post-colonial African conflicts. While there will be considerable focus on the broader social and political context of warfare in Africa, some specific conflicts and engagements will be discussed in detail.

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, Friday, 1400-1450 (2pm – 2:50pm)

Location: ES 054

Text: Richard Reid, *Warfare in African History* (Cambridge University Press, 2012)

Evaluation

Research Essay Proposal = 20% (**9 February**)

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

Final Examination = 40%

RESEARCH ESSAY PROPOSAL:

This assignment represents the first step in creating the research essay which is due later in the course. The aim here is for students to develop their topics and begin research. While students are free to select any topic relating to the military 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 at the end of this outline. 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 **700 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 for this section.

3. **Preliminary Bibliography.** This section must cite at least **6 academic secondary sources** such as scholarly books, book chapters and/or journal articles which 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 Do not cite the course textbook.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 email proposals to the instructor unless prior arrangements have been made.

RESEARCH ESSAY

Completing a research paper represents a central activity of this course. The research paper should address a specific question and present a clear thesis (a one sentence answer to that question). It must be clearly organized into an introduction, body and conclusion, and contain a bibliography with at least **8 academic secondary sources**. It must be written in a clear and concise manner. The essay may employ quotations but students are strongly advised to do so sparingly and to use appropriate rules and citation methods. The paper should be roughly **2000 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 the bibliography, should focus on scholarly secondary sources such as academic books, book chapters and/or journal articles. Hard (paper) copies of essays should be submitted 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.ucalgary.ca/sites/hist.ucalgary.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 will require students to identify important terms/names and answer broad essay questions. The exam will be discussed in detail during some of the lectures in the second half of the semester. This is a registrar-scheduled final examination.

Lecture Outline:

Week 1: 8-12 January

Course introduction – overview of African History and Historiography

Week 2: 15-19 January

Precolonial Warfare: Horses and Guns in West Africa

Reading: Reid, chapter 1

Week 3: 22-26 January

Precolonial Warfare: Warrior Societies of Eastern, Central and Southern Africa

Reading: Reid, chapter 2

Week 4: 29 January – 2 February

Colonial Conquest (c.1880-1910)

Reading: Reid, chapter 3

Week 5: 5-9 February

The First World War in Africa

Reading: Reid, chapter 4

9 February: Research Essay Proposal

Week 6: 12-16 February

The Second World War in Africa

Reading Week: 18-25 February

Week 7: 26 February – 2 March

Decolonization Wars

Reading: Reid, chapter 5

Week 8: 5-9 March

Cold War Era Conflicts: Civil Wars

Reading: Reid, chapter 6

Week 9: 12-16 March

Cold War Era Conflicts: Southern Africa

16 March: Submit Research Essay

Week 10: 19-23 March

Cold War Era Conflicts: Interstate Wars

Week 11: 26-30 March

Post-Cold War Conflicts: Africa's World War

Week 12: 2-6 April

Post-Cold War Conflicts: Civil Wars and Insurgencies in West and East Africa

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 just starting points and will have to be narrowed down:

The Moroccan Conquest of Songhay (1591)
 Portuguese Intervention in Ethiopia (1541-1633)
 Portuguese Wars in Angola (1575-1648)
 French Invasion of Egypt (1798-1801)
 Jihads in West Africa during the 1700s and early 1800s
 The Yoruba Wars (1797-1893)
 The Zulu Army (c.1815-1879)
 The Cape-Xhosa Wars (c.1790-1880 - there were nine wars so pick one)
 Anglo-Asante War (1874)
 Anglo-Zulu War (1879)
 Anglo-Boer War (first, 1881)
 Anglo-Boer War (second, 1899-1902)
 Italo-Ethiopian War (1896)
 Maji Maji Uprising in German East Africa (1905)
 Herero and Nama Uprisings in German South West Africa (1904-07)
 Zulu Rebellion (1906)
 Italian Invasion of Libya (1911)
 The King's African Rifles (KAR)
 The Tirailleurs Senegalais
 East Africa Campaign of the First World War (1914-18)
 East Africa Campaign of the Second World War (1940-41)
 The Home Front during the Second World War (pick a country to study)
 Nigerian Civil War (1967-70)
 Congo Crisis (1960-63 – secession of Katanga)
 Rebellion in Congo (1964-67)
 Egyptian Conflicts with Israel (1948, 1956, 1967 or 1973)
 The Mau Mau Emergency in Kenya (1952-56)
 Rhodesian Counter-Insurgency (1966-79)
 The Armed Struggle against Apartheid (1960-94)
 The South African Defense Force (SADF)
 Post-colonial Military Coups (pick one of the many dozens)
 Tanzanian Invasion of Uganda (1979)
 South Africa's "Border War" (1966-89)
 Eritrea's Independence War (1961-91)
 Genocide in Rwanda (1994)
 First Congo War (1996-97)
 Second Congo War (1998-2002)
 Tuareg Rebellions in Mali and/or Niger (1960+)
 Boko Haram in Nigeria (2009+)

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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