HIS 335
ANCIENT AFRICAN HISTORY
Instructor: Dr. Jonathan T. Reynolds.
Fall, 2015

Meeting Times and Location: M/W/F, 9:00-9:50 -- LAN 413
Office Location: LAN 439
Office Hours: MWF 10-10:50 & 2-2:50
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Phone: x5279

Course Rationale:
HIS 335 takes an interdisciplinary approach to the examination of the history and people of Africa in the wider context of World History, with the specific goal of examining many of the myths and misrepresentations that have developed around the continent and its inhabitants. To this end, the course will examine the cultural, economic, political and technological developments of African societies across the continent, and the connections between Africa and the wider world from the time of early human habitation to the advent of the Atlantic World.

Goals of the Course. Upon successful completion of HIS 335, students will have acquired:
1) a basic understanding of Africa's physical and human geography
2) a knowledge of important themes, issues, events and personalities in Ancient African History
3) a sense of the methodology of African History
4) a sense of Africa’s place in World History

Each Student's Progress towards these goals will be accessed via:
1) Analysis of student’s written work, both in out of class assignments, quizzes, and essay exams. Reviews will test the student’s ability to identify, examine, and critique scholarly arguments. Essay exams will test the student’s ability to utilize course materials to construct and present a persuasive argument. The final paper will test the student’s ability to undertake scholarly research, frame an argument and present that argument in an orderly and persuasive manner.
2) Evaluation of Class Discussions (see below).

REQUIREMENTS

Attendance: Coming to class is a guaranteed way to get the most out of the course and improve your grade. Excessive unexcused absences (more than three) will result in a reduction of your class participation grade. Students with excused absences are still expected to complete all assignments.

Readings: Most lectures have companion reading assignments. Students should have read each assignment before the lecture. Reading the assignment before the lecture will help you understand the discussion and help you pose challenging questions. Gilbert and Reynolds’ Africa in World History (3rd Edition) will be the source of most reading assignments. If there is a lack of class participation, I have been known to administer pop quizzes (grrrrrrr).
Participation: You all learn more if you do more than listen to me yack. As such, class participation is part of your grade. Participation includes, but is not limited to:

– attendance
– enthusiasm for the material (and learning in general)
– evidence of having done and critically accessed the readings
– answering my questions
– willingness to ask questions or raise issues without being called upon
– ability to draw connections between class material and other classes, topics or fields of study
– requests for greater detail, clarification, etc.
– disagreeing with me (in a properly “academic” tone, of course)
– coming up with things I haven’t thought of

Students with Disabilities: Students with disabilities who require accommodations (academic adjustments, auxiliary aids or services) for this course must register with the Disability Services Office. Please contact the Disability Service Office immediately in the University Center, suite 320 or call 859-572-6373 for more information. Verification of your disability is required in the DSO for you to receive reasonable academic accommodation. You can visit their website at: http://www.nku.edu/~disability/.

Honor Code: Read it, Know it, Obey it. http://www.nku.edu/~deanstudents/
"The work you will do in this course is subject to the Student Honor Code. The Honor Code is a commitment to the highest degree of ethical integrity in academic conduct, a commitment that, individually and collectively, the students of Northern Kentucky University will not lie, cheat, or plagiarize to gain an academic advantage over fellow students or avoid academic requirements."

Note: I am not one to take cheating lightly. I will assume each student is honest and trustworthy until I am given a reason to believe otherwise. If this trust is abused, I tend to become quite hard-hearted. Serious cases of dishonesty will result in a grade of “F” for the course – or worse. You have been warned.

Grade: The final grade for the course will be based on:

Class Participation and Pop Quizzes (20%)
Map Quiz (10%)
Mid-term (15%)
Academic Reviews (2@10% each) (20%)
Research Paper (20%)
Final Exam (15%)
100%

Written Assignments
Each student will complete two scholarly reviews. The goal of each review is to critically access the scholarly merit of a book or article. Sources reviewed may be historical books, or articles, which are relevant to the course content. “Pop” sources such as National Geographic, Newspaper articles, Blog posts and the like ARE NOT suitable for review. Please Consult the ACME REVIEW GUIDE for how to write a scholarly review.

The research paper will be from eight to ten pages long and will be on a subject (relating to
African History prior to 1500) chosen by the student. Citations (footnotes, endnotes, or Social Science Notations) are required, as is a bibliography. The paper must cite a minimum of eight different sources (the Gilbert & Reynolds text does not count as a source).

This Syllabus: This Syllabus provides a basis upon which the course will be built. But, it could just so happen that I will need to change stuff... so I reserve the right to do so.

EXTRA CREDIT: If at any time you feel that you might need a boost to your grade, I will allow the writing of extra reviews or Wikipedia entries for Extra Credit. Attending and reviewing academic and community programs relating to things African may also earn you extra credit as well.

COURSE SCHEDULE:

1. Greetings, Goals of the course. Discussion of popular “Notions” of Africa. Why study Ancient Africa??
   - “Envisioning Africa in World History”
   - Intro, Part I: “Africa up to 1500 CE”
     Mega-Rare Powerpoint presentation: “UnMisunderstanding Africa”

2. How to Study Africa: Sources and Methodology for African History.

   - Study maps from text, atlases, and on the net.
   - G&R Chapter 1 “The Physical Context of African History: Geography & Environment”
     - Note: A Map Quiz will follow this section. The content of the map quiz will be discussed in class. Don’t miss it!

   - G&R Chapter 2: “African and Human Origins”
     Thinking about Science and Perspectives on Africa and Africans

5. Ancient Foraging Lifeways
   - Agricultural and Technological innovations
   - Population Movements in Ancient Africa
   - Social Technologies... Politics and Religion
   - G&R Ch 3 “Finding Food and Talking about It”

6. Agricultural and Pastoral Innovations
   - Food Production
   - Animal Domestication
   - Technology & Migrations
   - G&R Ch 4 “Settled Life: Food Production, Technology and Migrations

The Settlement of the Nile Valley.
The Rise of Egypt.
Egypt and the Mediterranean.
States of the Upper Nile.

G&R Chapter 5: “North and Northeast Africa in Early World History”

_____ Christianity in North and Northeast Africa.
Origins of Christianity
N. Africa and Christian Theology
Christianity in N. Africa
Christianity and Upper Nile States.

G&R Ch. 6: “Africa and Early Christian World”

_____ North and West Africa in the Early Islamic Era.
The Origins and Expansion of Islam
North Africa – From Christendom to Dar al-Islam
West Africa – Savannah States & the Coming of Islam.
Trans-Environmental trade and cultural transformations.

G&R Ch. 7 “North and West Africa and Early Islam”

_____ East Africa and the Coming of Islam
Origins of the “Swahili”
Swahili Cosmopolitanism
The Advent of Islam
Ties to the Interior

G&R Ch. 8 “Indian Ocean and the Development of the Swahili”

Note: The topics below are “Gravy” – just in case we make super-rapid progress through the syllabus.

_____ North Africa in the Early Modern Period
Rise of the Ottomans
European Involvements
The Rise of Morocco

G&R Ch. 11 “North Africa 1500-1880” pp. 201-209

_____ New Connections and Implications: Africans and Europeans in West Africa
West and West-Central Africa in the 15th and 16th Centuries
Early Portuguese Contacts
Initial Reactions and Relations

G&R Ch. 10 “West and West Central Africa 1500-1880” pp. 175-183.

_____ Africans and Europeans in Southern Africa
Southern Africa in the 15th and 16th Centuries
The Dutch in South Africa
Initial Reactions and Relations
G&R Ch. 13 “South Africa 1500-1880” pp. 244-250..

Africans and Europeans in East Africa
Eastern Africa in the 15th and 16th Centuries
Initial European Contacts and Impacts
G&R Ch. 12, East Africa 1500-1880, pp. 223-229.

**IMPORTANT & EXCITING DATES:**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Grade &amp; % of Total</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Map Quiz</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 7 September: Labor Day – No Classes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, 14 September. First Review Due</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, 25 September. No Class, Doc R at MWWHA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 9 October – Mid Term Exam (Bring BIG Blue Books)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 12 October – No Class (Fall Break)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 13 November – Second Review Due</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 20 November -- No Class. Doc R at ASA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 30 November -- Research Paper Due</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday and Friday, 25 &amp; 27 November: No Class – Thanksgiving (eat!)</td>
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– **Final Exam: 8-10am, Monday December 7th (BBB) ** | 20% |
