

**History 610**  
**Africa to c.1830**  
**Prof. Trevor Getz**



*A lukasa: An encoded 'map' of family, society, history and space made by a Luba Artisan*

“Africa has a history. Unfortunately, for far too long, little was known about it and the little that was known was misunderstood... the history of Africa, like the history of mankind as a whole, is really the story of an awakening. That story needs rewriting, for it has been considerably distorted by ignorance or self-interest.”

-J. Ki-Zerbo, Introduction, UNESCO GHA Vol. I

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Office Hours: T 2-3, Th 2-4.

**Cluster/Segment III rules**

This course is part of the General Education Segment III cluster: African Contributions to World Culture. All Segment III courses must be required to include a minimum of 10 pages of corrected writing. Segment III rules are described in the Class Schedule and Bulletin, and include the requirement that the student must have earned 60 units by the end of the semester in which they take the course.

The Cluster co-ordinator is Dr. Aguibou Yansane. He can be reached at [aymouke@sfsu.edu](mailto:aymouke@sfsu.edu) or 338.2495.

**Course Description**

History of Africa to 1830 forms the first half of a two-semester survey course in African history. The course addresses the major themes of African history prior to the period of intensive European intervention which was a prelude to colonialism. The introductory lessons address the peopling of Africa and the food/technology/trade revolutions between 4500 BC–1000 AD, as well as interaction with the Mediterranean world. The second section addresses state formation in the period 1000-1600 AD. This is followed by a theme-based discussion of political and socio-cultural institutions. The last major section of the class addresses the transformations of Islam, the Atlantic and Indian Ocean trades, and the further development of African state and society 1600–1830 AD.

**Learning Objects**

Students will be asked to critically and rigorously analyze:

- the way in which African history has been studied, and the sources used to understand the history of the continent.
- the relationship between African peoples and their environment
- the rise of Africa states and state-building techniques prior to 1830
- the relationship between Africans and the Muslim, Middle-Eastern, and European worlds
- how African cultures developed to enable African peoples to deal with the challenges of the environment, their own societies, and relationships with other peoples.
- Africa’s contributions to the world prior to 1830

History of Africa to 1830		
DATE	TOPIC	READINGS/DUE
<b>The Peopling of Africa c.462,000 – c.1000 AD</b>		
28 Aug	Introduction	
28 Aug	Environment and human origins	Iliffe, Chapter 1, Falola Chapter 2
30 Aug	Images of Africa 1: our images, popular images, images from the 'earliest' Africans.	<i>Prepare your image. Our conceptions of Africa.</i> Falola Chapters 1 and 3
4 Sep	Images of Africa 3: How western academics 'measure men' and the implications for Africa	
6 Sep	Domestication: harnessing the power of plants and animals	Iliffe Chapter 2
11 Sep	Pharaonic Egypt	Falola Chapter 4 (pp. 73-109), Iliffe Chapter 3 (18-33).
13 Sep	The peopling of Africa I: West Africa	Iliffe Chapter 3 (33-36), Chapter 5 (62-70)
18 Sep	The peopling of Africa II: The 'Bantu' Expansion (and linguistic analysis as a tool)	Falola Chapter 5, Iliffe Chapter 6 (97-118). <i>Getz &amp; Brizuela-Garcia, chapter 3.</i>

State and Society in Sub-Saharan Africa 1000 AD – 1600 AD		
Thu 20 Sep	The implications of trade	Iliffe Chapter 5 (81-85) and Chapter 6 (18-120). <b>Linguistic analysis questions due.</b>
Thu 25 Sep	<i>Movie: Keita</i>	Falola Chapter 6, Iliffe Chapter 5 (70-80)
Tu 27 Sept	No class, instructor delivering paper at conference (website: <a href="http://www.mebao.org/index.php?PageID=9">http://www.mebao.org/index.php?PageID=9</a> )	
2 Oct	The development of state and society in West Africa	<i>Getz &amp; Brizuela-Garcia, Chapter 4.</i>
4 Oct	Archaeology and the African city	<b>Archaeology questions due.</b>
9 Oct	Keita Discussion	Niane all
11 Oct	Abyssinia and north-east Africa	Falola Chapter 10
11-16 Oct	Power and states in East, Central, and Southern Africa	Falola Chapters 8 and 9
16 Oct	Case study: Great Zimbabwe	
16 Oct	Midterm Review	Prepare for midterm
18 Oct	<b>Midterm</b> By proctor. Instructor will be giving paper and chairing panel at conference (website <a href="http://www.africanstudies.org/asa_annualmeeting2007.html">http://www.africanstudies.org/asa_annualmeeting2007.html</a> )	<b>Midterm</b>
Topics in immediate pre-modern African culture, production, and belief		
23 Oct	Family, religion, and belief	Falola Chapter 12, Iliffe Chapter 5 (85-96) and Chapter 6 (120-123)
23 Oct –25 Oct	Arts	
25 Oct	Slavery and production	
30 Oct	Gender	
30 Oct – 1 Nov	Oral tradition and concepts of history	
1 Nov	<i>Discussion: Our oral traditions</i>	<i>Oral Tradition assignment – presented orally (of course)</i>
6 Nov	Christianity	Iliffe Chapter 4 (37-42 and 56-61)
Transformations in African History 1600 AD – 1840 AD		
8 Nov	North Africa to the Ottomans	Falola Chapter 11, Iliffe Chapter 4 (42-49)
8 Nov- 13 Nov	West Africa: Islam, trade, and states 17 <sup>th</sup> and 18 <sup>th</sup> c.	Falola Chapters 7 and 13 Iliffe Chapter 4 (49-53), Iliffe Chapter 8 (168-173)
15 Nov – 27 Nov	Atlantic slave trade	Falola Chapter 17, Iliffe Chapter 7
4 Dec	Africa in the Indian Ocean	Falola Chapter 14, Iliffe Chapter 4 (53-55)
4 -6 Dec	Transformations in economy and slavery: Coastal Africa	Falola Chapter 18, Iliffe Chapter 8 (160-168)
6 Dec	Kongo, East & Central Africa -17 <sup>th</sup> and 18 <sup>th</sup> c.	Falola Chapter 15, Iliffe Chapter 8 (180-186)
11Dec	Prelude to colonialism?: Southern Africa	Falola Chapter 16, Iliffe Chapter 8 (173-180)
11 Dec	Africa at the crossroads	
13 Dec	<i>Final Review</i>	
	<b>Final Exam</b>	<b>Final</b>

## Texts

- Two chapters will be made available to you from the forthcoming text *African Histories*, by Esperanza Brizuela-Garcia and Trevor Getz, to be published by Prentice Hall in 2009. They can be found on the course iLearn site: <https://ilearn.sfsu.edu/login/index.php> . Enter your ID# and pin and you should find them under History 610, Fall 2007 (use the “files” function).
- Niane, D.T., *Sundiata: An Epic of Old Mali*, Longman African Classics, 1995,
- Iliffe, John, *Africans: The History of a Continent*, Cambridge University Press, 1995
- Falola, Toyin (ed), *Africa: African History Before 1885 (Vol I)*, Carolina Academic Press, 2000.

## Academic Honesty

Plagiarism is a form of cheating or fraud; it occurs when a student

misrepresents the work of another as his or her own. Plagiarism may consist of using the ideas, sentences, paragraphs, or the whole text of another without appropriate acknowledgment, but it also includes employing or allowing another person to write or substantially alter work that a student then submits as his or her own. Any assignment found to be plagiarized will be given an "F" grade. All instances of plagiarism in the College of BSS will be reported to the Dean of the College, and may be reported to the University Judicial Affairs Officer for further action.

**Attendance**

Attendance will be taken in some form or another. If a student misses more than 3 classes (more than 2 in the summer session), the instructor reserves the right to penalize that student.

<b>EVALUATION</b>
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**Course Marking Guidelines**

Linguistic analysis assignment	5-page essay	20%
Archaeology assignment	5-page essay	20%
Midterm	Short Essays and IDs	25%
Final	Short Essays and IDs	35%

**Exams**

Each exam will consist of short and long essay questions. Students are usually given a choice of essays. Exams cover only the information given in the previous unit of the class. You will be required to know information from both the textbook and lectures. PLEASE NOTE: Lectures are more comprehensive than the text – missing lectures is a bad idea. There will be review sessions.