

History 610
African History: Method, Content, Philosophy
Assoc. Prof. Trevor Getz

እኑሃ፡ለእሙ፡ወሰዳግ፡ያዕቆብ፡
ለራሔል፡ወጸርኑ፡በቀሉ፡ወበ
ክዩ፡ወዋድኦ፡ለራሔል፡ክሙ፡
ወልደ፡እኅቱ፡ለላባ፡ወእቱ፡ወ
ክሙ፡ወልደ፡ርብቀ፡ወእቱ፡
ወሮጾት፡ራሔል፡ወአጸድዳዩ፡
ለአቡሃ፡ዘኝተ፡ነገረ፡ወሰባ፡
ሰሞዩ፡ቀለ፡ሰሞ፡ያዕቆብ፡ወ
ልደ፡ርብቀ፡እኅቱ፡ሮጾ፡ወተቀ
ቢሎ፡ወሐቀሮ፡ወሰዳግ፡ወወሰ
ዩ፡ቤቶ፡ወነገሮ፡ለላባ፡ኩሎ፡
ዘኝተ፡ነገረ፡ወጸቢሎ፡ለባ፡ለ
ያዕቆብ፡እሞኑ፡ዐጽሞዩ፡ወእሞ
ኑ፡ሠጋዩ፡አኝተ፡ወነበረ፡ሞስሌ
ሁ፡ሠላሳ፡መዋዕለ፡።።።
ወጸቢሎ፡ለባ፡ለያዕቆብ፡እ
ሰሞ፡እኑሃ፡አኝተ፡ኢትተቀነጸ፡
ለተ፡በክ፡ንግረኑ፡ዐስበክ፡ሞ
ንተ፡ወእቱ፡ወቦቱ፡ለላባ፡ክል
ሌ፡አዋልድ፡ሰግ፡ለእኝተ፡ተል

Genesis 29.11-16, written in Ge'ez

“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: Thursday 2-5

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 or 338.2495.

Course Description

History 610 is an introduction to the African past for students of all majors. The aim of this course is to interweave three pedagogical tasks: the interdisciplinary skills of studying African pasts, narratives of African history, and the relationships between contemporary Africans and their pasts. While taught within the discipline of History, this course is heavily interdisciplinary.

Learning Objects

This course is partly a course in methodology, especially methods of study pioneered by scholars studying the African past. Upon completion, students are expected to be able to demonstrate skills in the interpretation of archaeobotanical and archaeological data, physical anthropological remains, oral histories and oral traditions, court testimony, and art as well as written sources including scholarly texts, inscriptions, novels, poetry, and textbooks

Thematically, students will be asked to critically and rigorously analyze:

- the way in which African history has been studied and known by its inhabitants and professional scholars, and the sources used to understand the history of the continent.
- the relationships 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.
- Contemporary methods for understanding the African pasts from across disciplines.

History 610: HISTORY OF AFRICA			
Date	Topic	G&B-G chapters	Other readings
Aug 25	Introduction: the academy and Africa		
Aug 27	Sharing: Our visions of African pasts	0	Falola 1-2
Sep 1	L: Food production and consumption		
Sep 3	Workshop 1: Archaeobotany and cultivation	1	
Sep 8	L: Building enduring societies in N/NE Africa		Falola 4
Sep 10	W2: Early written sources from Africa	2	
Sep 15	L: The movement of peoples		Falola 5
Sep 17	W3: Linguistics and the Bantu diffusion	3	
Sep 22	L: Building enduring societies in W Africa		Falola 3, 6-7
Sep 24	W4: Archaeology and the African city	4	
Sep 29	L: Networks of commerce and intellectual exchange		Falola 8-10
Oct 1	W5: Islamic written sources from East Africa	5	
Oct 6	L: The Atlantic slave trade		Falola 17
Oct 8	W6: Memory and oral sources from the AST	6	
Oct 13	L: Pre-colonial European and African interactions		Falola 18
Oct 15	W7: Cultural nationalism and African intellectuals	8	
Oct 20	L: Colonialism I – power and authority		
Oct 22	W8: Archaeology and colonial power	9	
Oct 27	L: Colonialism II – the African experience		
Oct 29	W9: Legal testimony and Abina Mansah		Getz article
Nov 3	L: Gendering African history		
Nov 5	W10: anthropology and gender	11	
Nov 10	L: The end of empires in Africa		
Nov 12	W11: Paintings and ethnography	10	
Nov 17	L: Decolonization and postcolonialism		
Nov 19	W12: Literature	12	
Dec 1	L: Crisis and solution in modern Africa		
Dec 3	W13: Testimony and textbooks	13	
Dec 8	Film: <i>Keita</i>		
Dec 10	W14: Sundiata as a source: history and Heritage		Niane
	<i>Final Exam</i>		

Course Marking Guidelines

Introductory assignment	Image & response	5%
Workshop assignments (14)	question worksheets	5% x 14 = 70%
Final exam		25%

Introductory Assignment – part of contributions grade

Given on the first day of the course, and due on the second day of the course. You are required to come to class on the second day of the course with the following, on one page of 8 ½ x 11 paper:

- An image of Africa, from any print publication, the web, etc.
- A response to the image, including why you chose this image, what it represents, and what it says to you about Africa.

The instructor reserves the right to drop students who do not come to class with the assignment completed.

Workshop Assignments

- Assignments are worksheets attached to the chapters from Getz & Brizuela-Garcia, to the article on Abina Mansah or assigned in this class.

- Source assignments must be typed and are due on the day of the discussion at the beginning of class. Wholly hand-written assignments will not typically be accepted (although partial credit will be given for additions/changes made in class).
- Assignments are due every Thursday and *all* questions must be answered.
- Every week, I will grade *one* question from the submitted assignment.

Exams

The final exam will consist of short and long essay questions. Students are usually given a choice of essays. The exam will 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.

Texts

- 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 2009 (use the "files" function).
- Niane, D.T., *Sundiata: An Epic of Old Mali*, Longman African Classics, 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.