AFRICA TO 1800

HIS 281  Westminster College  Spring 2018
10:30-11:30 MWF  208 Patterson

Instructor: Dr. Patricia Clark  Office: 317 Patterson
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Office hours: 8:15-9:15 a.m. M, 9:00-11:00 a.m. T, and by appointment

Course website: https://learn.westminster.edu/d2l/home/17424

Course Purpose
This course surveys African history from human origins to 1800 by tracing the major political, economic, and cultural developments on the continent.

Course Objective
To understand the political, economic, and cultural development of pre-colonial sub-Saharan Africa.

Goals
Through studying human origins in Africa, the great African civilizations of the first millennium, and the trans-Atlantic slave trade, students will gain a basic understanding of Africa's early history that will allow them to engage in further discussion and inquiry in other courses in African, European, and world history.

Outcomes
Students will be able to understand political institutions (such as age grades) and explain their importance to pre-colonial Africa.
Students will be able to identify economic processes (such as the trans-Atlantic slave trade) and explain their importance to pre-colonial Africa.
Students will be able to recognize cultural practices (such as syncretism) and explain their importance to pre-colonial Africa.

Readings  (available from the bookstore and on reserve in McGill Library)
Web texts as indicated below

Requirements
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<th>Activity</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tr>
<td>class participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>map assignment</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>group discussion</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>agriculture project</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<td>article review</td>
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<tr>
<td>exam 1</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>exam 2</td>
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Grading scale

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
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<td>A</td>
<td>93-100</td>
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<td>A-</td>
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Regular attendance at and participation in class meetings is required. Students who merely attend each class meeting without contributing to class discussion will receive a failing grade for participation. Participation includes not only oral contribution to class discussion, but also completion of quizzes and other written work as assigned. Expectations for written work include proper documentation, good grammar, and clear, persuasive writing.

Absences are excused at the instructor's discretion. If you miss class for a legitimate reason, you must provide appropriate documentation in writing for the absence to be excused. E-mail or write the instructor within 24 hours of the absence regarding the reason for your absence and your plans for making up the work missed.

Late assignments will be penalized for each day the assignment is late.
Failure to complete all course requirements will result in an "F" for the course.

More information about assignments and exams will be forthcoming on the course website.

**Accommodations**
Westminster College actively strives for the full inclusion of all our students. Students with disabilities who require access solutions for environmental or curricular barriers should contact Faith Craig, Director of Disability Support Services, located in 209 Thompson-Clark Hall (phone: 724-946-7192, e-mail craigfa@westminster.edu).

Students who may need academic accommodations are encouraged to discuss options with their instructor no later than the second week of class.

**Academic Integrity**
Violations of the Westminster College Academic Integrity Policy include (but are not limited to) cheating, misconduct, plagiarism, and providing false information. All students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the definitions of these infractions of academic integrity. Academic dishonesty will be penalized in accord with the procedures outlined on pages 21-23 of the Westminster College Handbook for Students 2017-2018. The instructor reserves the right to submit students' written work to turnitin.com, and encourages students to use the turnitin.com web site as a resource to learn more about intentional and unintentional plagiarism.

**Schedule**
Please read all assigned readings before the class for which they are scheduled, and bring an annotated copy of the week's readings (or your extensive notes on the readings) with you to each class meeting. The schedule is subject to revision by the instructor.

**Introducing Africa**
- January 17  
  *History of Africa, Introduction*

- January 19  
  Christopher Ehret, "Introducing Africa and Its History," p. 3-17

**Geography and Environment**
- January 22  
  *History of Africa, chapter 1*

- January 24  
  Christopher Ehret, "Introducing Africa and Its History," p. 17-24

- January 26  
  Christopher Ehret, "Africa before the Agricultural Age, 16,000-9,000 BCE"  
  **map due**

  **Group 1** posts discussion questions by 11:55 p.m. January 28; leads discussion January 29

- January 29  
  Lawrence Barham and Peter Mitchell, "Introducing the African Record"

**Agriculture and Pastoralism**
- January 31  
  *History of Africa, chapter 2, p. 22-30*

- February 2  
  library research day--meet in McGill library

  **Group 2** posts discussion questions by 11:55 p.m. February 4; leads discussion February 5

- February 5  
  Edda L. Fields-Black, "Untangling the Many Roots of West African Mangrove Rice Farming: Rice Technology in the Rio Nunez Region, Earliest Times to c. 1800"
Ironworking
February 7  History of Africa, chapter 3
February 9  History of Africa, chapter 4

Group 3 posts discussion questions by 11:55 p.m. February 11; leads discussion February 12

February 12  S. Terry Childs and Eugenia W. Herbert, "Metallurgy and its Consequences"
February 14  agriculture presentations
February 16  agriculture presentations
February 19  guest speaker Bakithi Kumalo

Egypt and Nubia
February 21  History of Africa, chapter 2, p. 30-43
February 23  Black Kingdoms of the Nile [in class]
February 26  review
February 28  field trip to Carnegie Museum of Natural History

March 2  exam 1
March 5  Spring Break
March 7  Spring Break
March 9  Spring Break

Islam & Commerce
March 12  History of Africa, chapter 6
March 14  History of Africa, chapter 7

Northeastern African Civilizations
March 16  History of Africa, chapter 5, p. 77-79
          History of Africa, chapter 8, p. 114-122
          History of Africa, chapter 11, p. 170-173

Group 4 posts discussion questions by 11:55 p.m. March 18; leads discussion March 19

March 19  Isaac, "Solomon and Sheba"
         Francisco Alvarez, "The Land of Prester John"
         Shihab al-Din, "The Conquest of Ethiopia"
March 21  The Holy Land [in class]

East African Civilizations
March 23  History of Africa, chapter 9

Group 5 posts discussion questions by 11:55 p.m. March 25; leads discussion March 26

March 26  Ibn Battuta, "The East African Journey"
March 28  library research day--meet in McGill library
March 30  Easter Break
April 2   Easter Break
April 3   *The Swahili Coast* [in class] (Monday classes meet)

**Southern African Civilizations**
April 4   *History of Africa*, chapter 10
April 6   *Great Zimbabwe* [in class]
            **Group 6** posts discussion questions by 11:55 p.m. April 8; leads discussion April 9
April 9   Shula Marks, "South Africa: The Myth of the Empty Land"
April 11  *History of Africa*, chapter 15
            **article review due**

**Era of the Transatlantic Slave Trade**
April 13  *History of Africa*, chapter 12
            **Group 7** posts discussion questions by 11:55 p.m. April 15; leads discussion April 16
April 16  Excerpts from Olaudah Equiano, *The Life of Olaudah Equiano*
April 18  Undergraduate Research & Arts Celebration
April 20  *History of Africa*, chapter 13
            **Group 8** posts discussion questions by 11:55 p.m. April 22; leads discussion April 23
April 23  Lisa A. Lindsay, "Making Connections: Legacies of the Atlantic Slave Trade"
April 25  *History of Africa*, chapter 16

**Europeans and Africa**
April 27  *History of Africa*, chapter 18
            **Group 9** posts discussion questions by 11:55 p.m. April 29; leads discussion April 30
April 30  Excerpts from "To Build a Nation: The Story of Moshweshwe"

May 2    *History of Africa*, chapter 20
May 4    review

May 7, 8:00-10:30 a.m.  **exam 2**