

HISTORY 2630G AFRICA: AN INTRODUCTION

| Winter 2024 |

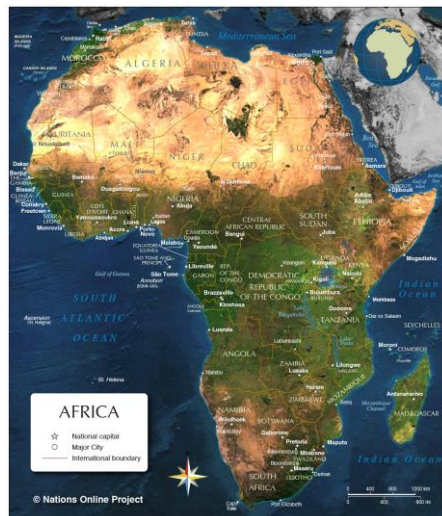
Instructor: Prof. Ruramisai Charumbira

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Department of History, Lawson 1220

Office Hours: TBA

Invocation: To the Sun, in whose tight embrace we and other planets travel the Cosmos free of charge, we are grateful. To the Earth, the ground of our being, we are grateful. To all fellow creatures on this planet, on land, in the air, and waters, we are grateful; we apologize that our human ways have ravaged your ways of life in the recent past. To our personal and collective ancestors, we are grateful, and we shall right the wrongs. *We are grateful to, and acknowledge the Anishinaabek, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak and Chonnonton Nations, on whose traditional Dish with One Spoon Treaty Territory is where this course takes place.* And so, it is.



Course Description

Mauya! Sam'kele! Welcome! This course introduces students to the African continent through a historical lens. Combining political, social, economic, cultural, and ecological history, students will each week study an element of African History that will support their understanding of contemporary Africa. That is, the course combines a close study of the deep past with the triumphs and challenges of contemporary life to understand Africa's place in the world, and the world's place in Africa.

Course Objectives, students will be able to:

- * Read and speak fluently the basic timelines and themes in African History.
- * Write a historically informed essay on one region of Africa.

- * Use primary sources, and in collaboration with their team, (to) produce posters that introduce others to Africa in accessible manner.

Methods of Evaluation

- * **30% - 3 In-Class Quizzes @ 10% Each**
 - o Each of these will be based on material covered, including maps. Students have the option to work in teams for this assignment
- * **20% - Individual Essay**
 - o A prompt will be given, and students will choose one region to focus for this individual essay
- * **30% - Team Poster Preparation and Presentation**
 - o Teams will be assigned approximately 3-4 weeks before, so you prepare.
- * **20% - Attendance, Active Preparation and Participation**
 - o Missing more than two classes will set this portion of your grade to 50%
 - o Active preparation for, and participation in, class

Absences and Late Assignments:

- Students with an approved absence from an in-class assignment will be required to write a make-up test. The make-up test will not necessarily be in the same format, be of the same duration, or cover the same material as the original assignment. For the university's policies on this, see the following: [Absence & Academic Consideration](#), the university's policies on [Academic Consideration for Medical Illness](#), and the Department of History's own [Undergraduate Policies and Statements](#), for department procedures and requirements.
- Students must attend at least ten of our twelve seminar meetings in order to pass the course, regardless of grades received for other assignments.
- Students must submit all course assignments in order to pass the course.
- Make-up tests, midterms, and exams can only be approved by Academic Counselling.

Course Materials

- Christopher Ehret. 2018. *Civilizations of Africa: A History to 1800*. Charlottesville: The University of Virginia Press (Textbook)
- Short Pieces Posted on the course's Brightspace site
- Documentary and Feature Films via Western Libraries

Course Schedule: *Weekly Titles are quoted from the Textbook

Week 01: Introduction to Course and to One Another

- Week 02: Introducing Africa and its history
- Week 03: Africa before the agricultural age, 19,000-9500 BCE
-QUIZ # 1
- Week 04: Culture and technology in Africa, 9500-3500 BCE
- Week 05: Diverging paths of history: Africa 3500-1000 BCE
-QUIZ # 2
- Week 06: An age of commerce, an age of iron: Africa, 1000 BCE to 300 CE
- Week 07: Spring Reading Week-No Classes**
- Week 08: Southern, Central, and Eastern Africa: the middle centuries, 300-1450
- QUIZ # 3
- Week 09: Northeastern, West, and North Africa: the middle centuries, 300-1450
- Week 10: The early Atlantic age, 1450-1640
- Individual Essay Due
- Week 11: Africa in the era of the Atlantic slave trade, 1640-1800.
- Week 12: Team Research and Preparations
- Week 13: Team Posters Presentation

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

Communication policies: I am available via email and office hours in-person or on Zoom.

Classroom behavior: Respect is important, both in and outside the classroom. In the classroom it includes waiting your turn, being respectful of different points of view on different issues and leading with heart and mind. The classroom interaction includes watching films as well as close reading of texts electronically and in print.

This is a draft outline .Please see your course site for the final syllabus.

Use of electronic devices: There will be short breaks during the three hours of class time. To that end, please keep your devices in silent (without vibration) mode, or better, in airplane mode and store until breaktime and after class.

Use of generative AI tools: The use of generative AI tools like ChatGPT is permitted in this course for activities such as brainstorming and refining your ideas, drafting an outline to organize your thoughts, or checking grammar and style. Any use of such tools should be properly documented and cited. If in doubt, please ask me for clarification.

Please review the Department of History's shared policies and statements for all undergraduate courses at: https://history.uwo.ca/undergraduate/program_module_information/policies.html for important information regarding accessibility options, make-up exams, medical accommodations, health and wellness, academic integrity, plagiarism, and more.

