

University of Arkansas - Fort Smith
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General Syllabus

HIST 3603 Pre-Colonial Africa to 1900

Credit Hours: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Laboratory Hours: 0

Prerequisite: ENGL 1213 Composition II or ENGL 1233 Honors Composition and HIST 1123 Civilizations of the World to 1500 or HIST 1133 Civilizations of the World since 1500

Effective Catalog: 2019-2020

I. Course Information

A. Catalog Description

The history of Africa from the earliest times to beginning of European imperial control.

B. Additional Information

This course represents an effort by the History Department to broaden the course offerings in the history of the non-western world. The course will provide students with an opportunity to study the rich heritage of Africa and its important contribution to the history of the world.

II. Student Learning Outcomes

A. Subject Matter

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Identify and describe the major pre-colonial African states and empires.
2. Evaluate the reasons for the rise and fall of the major pre-colonial African states and empires.
3. Illustrate the nature of the socio-cultural and political institutions of pre-colonial African societies.
4. Describe the scientific and technological achievements of pre-colonial African societies.
5. Discuss the nature of the interaction between pre-colonial Africa and the rest of the world.
6. Analyze the nature and the effects of the African encounter with the Europeans.

7. Evaluate the reasons for the European imperialism in Africa and the reasons for the failure of African resistance against European invasion and colonization.

B. University Learning Outcomes

This course enhances student abilities in the following areas:

Global and Cultural Perspectives

Students will examine the socio-cultural, political, and economic development of pre-colonial Africa. They will illustrate an awareness of the place of Africa in world history by writing research projects on select themes on pre-colonial Africa.

Communication Skills (written and oral)

Students will illustrate an awareness of the place of Africa in world history by writing research papers on select themes on pre-colonial Africa. Students will present their research in class.

III. Major Course Topics

1. The Geography, Environment, Climate & Vegetation of Africa
2. The Study of Africa in Historical Perspective
3. Africa and the origins of humans
4. The Ancient Nile River Civilizations of Egypt, Kush, Meroe and Aksum
5. The Sudanese Kingdoms in West Africa: Ghana, Mali, Songhay, Kanem-Bornu
6. The Bantu Migrations and their consequences
7. The Forest States of West Africa: Benin, Oyo, Dahomey, and Asante
8. The City-States of the East Africa Coast
9. Forms of government in pre-colonial Africa: Centralized and Decentralized States
10. The Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade
11. Christianity in pre-colonial Africa
12. Islam in pre-colonial Africa
13. Indigenous Religion and Divination Systems
14. Social Institutions and Education
15. Written and Oral Literature
16. Medicines, Science and Technology