HIST 360

WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY
Spring 2009
HIST 360-001/CRN 31384
AFAM 360-001/CRN 21752
Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays
9:10 am -10:05 am
Instructor: John A. Hardin, Ph. D.

(PLEASE PRINT OUT THIS SYLLABUS AND BRING IT TO THE FIRST DAY OF CLASS.)

Course Description:

HISTORY OF AFRICA. A survey of the history of sub-Saharan Africa from the earliest times to the present. Three (3) hours.

General Education and Course Goals:

This course helps fulfill the requirements for Category F: World Cultures and American Cultural Diversity in Western Kentucky University’s General Education program. It will help you attain:
• a historical perspective and an understanding of connections between past and present.
• an appreciation of the complexity and variety of the world’s cultures.
This course uses lectures, readings, and class discussions to introduce you to major phases in the history of the world’s cultures. This course is designed to develop your ability to identify ideas and achievements characteristic of these cultures. Exploring change over time will be one of the major themes of this course. Historians are most frequently involved in answering the question, “How did this develop from that?” Class assignments are designed to help you answer this question for those cultures addressed in each class thereby strengthening your grasp of historical perspective and causation. This course will also encourage you to think analytically about how each culture has adjusted to internal and external challenges and opportunities that have confronted them in the past.

Course Content Goals:

1. To provide students with an overview of the critical historical issues of sub-Saharan Africa from the earliest times to the present.

2. To expose students to the elements which led to the development of early African civilizations, extensive contact with non-African cultures and the formation of contemporary nation-states.
Course Content Objectives:

1. Each student must complete a mid-term and final examination both of which may include essay and objective questions.

2. Each student will be expected to submit a research-based paper on a specific problem or issue in African history using primary sources.

3. Each student will be expected to complete a critical analysis of an article on African history.

4. Each student will be expected to read the required text and any assigned materials.

Expectations and Requirements:

1. Students will be expected to complete one take home essay exam. Length: three to five pages typed double-spaced. Value: 30 points.

2. Students will be expected to complete the mid-term and final examinations as per the schedule below. Value of each exam: 80 points.

3. The critical analysis of the article or monograph will be selected from the Meridian Sources in World History anthology on African history. Length: no less than five (5) typed doubled-spaced pages. Value: 30 points.

4. Each student must write and submit a short (ten to twelve pages) paper on a specific problem or issue in African history. The paper will be judged on content, syntax and grammar. If you have not written a research paper in an upper-level history course or have not had extensive collegiate-level writing assignments in history, you MUST use the Rampolla text or the University of Chicago Manual of Style. Value: 80 points.

Footnote and bibliographic entries should be from the Chicago Manual of Style. Use this web site link: http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html When using this guide for footnote and bibliographic entries use the humanities style noted by [N] and [B] in the samples in the guide.

Most history papers DO NOT use the American Psychology Association style (APA). History or social science majors will use Mary Lynn Rampolla’s Pocket Guide to Writing History Papers (Bedford/St.Martin’s) as a style guide. It is required for this course.

The cover sheet, bibliography and other pages are not included in the number of pages. DO NOT SUBMIT ANY PAPERS IN A PLASTIC OR CARDBOARD COVER. Please staple your paper and include on the front cover sheet your name, course name and section, the complete title of your paper, and date of submission. Failure to abide by these requirements will lead to a ten (10) point deduction.

Please note: plagiarism is NOT acceptable. All essay papers can be checked via turnitin.com for inappropriate use of text from internet term paper services. Papers with
all internet sources are NOT acceptable. While the internet is useful to obtain background information, there are thousands of published scholarly articles and books on which the internet writers used to create their webpages. Moreover, internet data are not always accurate or verifiable. Published scholarly journal articles and books tend to be more reliable. **WEBSITES SUCH AS WIKIPEDIA OR GOOGLE ARE NOT TO BE USED AS KEY SOURCES/REFERENCES IN YOUR PAPERS.**

4. The determination of the final grade will occur as follows: the sum of the points earned from each exam (80 + 80), paper (80), article critical analysis (30) and take home exam (30) will be divided by three (3). The resulting average will be used to compute your final grade accordingly: A/A- 100-89; B/B- 88-79; C/C- 78-69; D/D- 68-59 and F 58-0. For example, if your final average was 88.9, the final grade is **B**.

5. It is the student’s responsibility to determine if withdrawal is needed. If the student decides to use this option, the University deadline for withdrawal must be observed and procedures followed through TOPNET. Please note the class attendance policy of the current WKU Student Bulletin: Registration in a course obligates the student to pay for the course and to fulfill course requirements. It is the student’s responsibility to drop the course prior to the official deadline if the student does not intend to complete the course. Students who remain registered in a course without fulfilling course requirements will be issued an appropriate grade.

**Required Texts:**


**Office Hours/Phone/E-Mail:**

My office is Cherry Hall, Room 223A. My phone number is 745.2233. My campus e-mail address is: john.hardin@wku.edu. I have three classes on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Office hours are by appointment on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

**Student Disability Services:**

In compliance with university policy, students with disabilities who require accommodations (academic adjustments and/or auxiliary aids or services) for this course must contact the Office for Student Disability Services in DUC A-200 of the Student Success Center in Downing University Center. Students can contact this office via phone (270.745.5004), TTY (270.745.2003) and fax (270.745.6289).
Please DO NOT request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a letter of accommodation from the Office for Student Disability Services.

**Exams and Due Dates:**

2. Critical analysis of article--(30 points): Friday, March 6, 2009.
5. Final Examination--(80 points): Thursday, May 14, 2009, 8:00 am-10:00 am.

**Lecture and Reading Schedule:** (subject to adjustment)

If the student misses class, he/she is still responsible for the lectures and any distributed materials.
First week: Introduction; chapter 1
Second week: chapter 2
Third week: chapter 3
Fourth week: chapter 4
Fifth week: chapter 5
Sixth week: chapter 6
Seventh week: chapter 7
Eighth week: Spring break
Ninth week: chapters 8-9
Tenth week: chapters 10-11
Eleventh week: chapters 12-13
Twelvth week: chapters 14-15
Thirteenth week: chapter 16
Fourteenth week: chapter 17
Fifteenth week: chapter 18

**Scholarly Journals on Africa Helms/Craven Library**

Other journals may contain data appropriate to your essay. If the information that you need is not found in these, look elsewhere. Do not be afraid to ask questions of library staff.