

**KENNESAW STATE UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY**

**HIST 3391: History of West Africa
Fall Semester, 2013 T/TH 8:00-9:15 AM, SO 3007**

Course Director: Dr. Akanmu G. Adebayo
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Office Hours: 9:30-11:00 AM in SO 2039

Course Description

A history of West Africa from the earliest times to the present. The course emphasizes cultural continuities and change, trade and cultural ties with North Africa, and contemporary challenges of economic development and nation building in the region. It examines important themes such as village, urban and community life; the formation of mini and mega states like Ghana, Mali and Songhai empires; the impact of trans-Saharan and trans-Atlantic trade networks; traditional religion, Islam and Christianity; European colonialism and African resistances; decolonization and development since independence.

Important Notes

- a. Read the course outline and all explanations carefully. You are responsible for the entire content of this outline and possible revisions announced in the class.
- b. The course director reserves the right to modify the syllabus at any time and notify the class accordingly.
- c. All deadlines will be strictly observed. You may lose points for each day a project/assignment is late.
- d. Please write your name on every page of material submitted to me for grading. You may lose points for not including your name on your work.
- e. You are reminded of KSU regulations regarding academic honesty. See below.
- f. Attendance is required; this is not an online course.

Academic Honesty

The high quality of education at Kennesaw State University is reflected in the credits and degrees its students earn. The protection of high standards of academic integrity is crucial since the validity and equity of the University's grades and degrees depend upon it.

No student shall receive, attempt to receive, knowingly give or attempt to give unauthorized assistance in the preparation of any work required to be submitted for credit (including examinations, laboratory reports, essays, themes, term papers, etc.). Unless specifically authorized, the presence and/or use of electronic devices during an examination, quiz, or other class assignment is considered cheating. Engaging in any behavior which a professor prohibits as academic misconduct in the syllabus or in class discussion is cheating. When direct quotations are used, they should be indicated, and when the ideas, theories, data, figures, graphs, programs, electronic based information or illustrations of someone other than the student are incorporated into a paper or used in a project, they should be duly acknowledged. No student may submit the same, or substantially the same, paper or other assignment for credit in more than one class without the prior permission of the current professor(s).

Students suspected of violating the KSU statement of Academic Honesty will meet with the instructor to discuss the violation AND will be reported to the Department of Student Conduct according to the process outlined at the following link: <https://web.kennesaw.edu/scai/content/scai-misconduct-procedures>

Examples of Plagiarism Avoidance websites:

<http://plagiarism.org/>

<http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/plagiarism.shtml>

<http://www.library.arizona.edu/help/tutorials/plagiarism/index.html>

ADA Compliance

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Public Law 101-336, gives civil rights protections to individuals with disabilities. This statute guarantees equal opportunity for this protected group in the areas of public accommodations, employment, transportation, state and local government services and telecommunications.

Should you require assistance or have further questions about the ADA, please contact: Ms. Nastassia Sanabria, ADA Compliance Officer for Students 770-423-6443.

Texts

Emmanuel Akyeampong, ed., *Themes in West Africa's History*. Athens: Ohio University Press, 2006

Basil Davidson, *West Africa before the Colonial Era: A History to 1850*. London: Longman. 1998.

Library Resources: KSU Library: <http://www.kennesaw.edu/library>

(Many articles will be posted on D2L. Several will be supplementary reading while others will be required reading)

Course Activities/Grades

Activities	Date Due	Percent	Grade Distribution
Attendance and participation	Class roll	5%	A = 90% or higher
Test 1	Sept 5, 2013	15%	B = 80%-89%
Test 2	Oct 3, 2013	20%	C = 70%-79%
Research project	Oct 17, 2013	20%	D = 60%-69%
Test 3	Oct 31, 2013	20%	F = 59% or lower
Final Exam	Dec 5, 2013	20%	
Total		100%	

Description/Explanation of Course Activities

1. Attendance and Participation

Class attendance is important in this course. A sign-up sheet will be passed every class meeting. If you don't see one, ask. You will be responsible for ensuring you sign your name. And you will need to be in class for at least an hour to be considered present for that day. Only a "perfect" attendance (no more than three classes missed in the entire semester) will earn 10 points. Others, nothing. I sympathize with family and/or medical emergencies, job demands, and other genuine reasons for absences. However, the attendance policy simply is: you are absent whenever you are not in class.

2. Research Project October 17, 2013

You have two options. Select one. Either write an ethnographic paper on a West African ethnic group, or write a research paper on a topic of your interest. Whichever option you select, the length of the research project is minimum 5 pages and maximum 7 pages, not including bibliography page(s). All pages must be double-spaced. Use at least six sources, three of which must be books. The research project is due on October 17, 2013. Be aware that your research project (whichever option you select) will be graded on the five elements outlined below. Consult the Writing Center for assistance regarding your writing style, grammar, citation style, etc.

- a) appropriateness of sources used
- b) content: information must be substantial, exhaustive, and significant, interpretation must be original, argument must be consistent and coherent
- c) analysis: historical and contextual analysis must be skillful and profound
- d) style, grammar, spelling, clarity of expression, beauty of language, originality of thought
- e) citing your sources and preparing your bibliography in the *Chicago Style*.

Option 1: Peoples of West Africa: Write a descriptive essay on one West African ethnic group. Select from the list below.

Akan (or Asante or Fante)	Bambara	Borgu	Dogon
Edo (or Benin)	Ewe	Fon	Fulani or Fulbe
Hausa	Igbo	Mande (or Mandingo)	Songhai
Tiv	Tuareg	Wolof	Yoruba

Make sure you include in your essay information addressing the following themes: geographical location; something you find significant (or that interests you deeply) about the ethnic group; social organization (family, kinship, religion); political and economic organization; and current and contemporary challenges facing the ethnic group.

Option 2: Research Paper

Choose your own topic. Use the following list of ten topics from previous classes to jog your memory as you think of your topic, and discuss your ideas/interests with the course director. Recall all the things you learned in your previous English classes about writing a research paper, and put that skill to use very well.

Sample topics:

Impact of the Slave Trade	Factors that promoted the spread of Islam in West Africa
Why the French Conquered Samori Toure	Women and politics in West Africa
Traditional Land Tenure System	Natural resources and conflicts in West Africa
Indigenous system of slavery	Causes of the Liberian Civil War
Music and traditional religions in West Africa	Impact of structural adjustment program in Ghana

3. Tests and Final Examination

All tests will be essay; some will be done in class while others may be take-home. If a test is take-home, you will be required to submit via D2L. You will be informed and instructed appropriately on the dates and times of all tests, and/or when you are to submit a take-home test.

HIST 3391: SCHEDULE OF LECTURES

Tuesday 8:00-9:15 AM, SO 3007	Thursday 8:00-9:15 AM, SO 3007
August 20 General introduction to the course	August 22 Ecology, culture, and prehistory of West Africa <i>Reading:</i> Akyeampong, chs. 1 & 2
August 27 Ecology, culture, and prehistory of West Africa (contd.) <i>Reading:</i> Akyeampong, chs. 1 & 2	August 29 West African peoples and cultures <i>Reading:</i> Akyeampong, chs. 1 & 2; Davidson, chs. 10-11
September 3 West African peoples and cultures (contd.) <i>Reading:</i> Akyeampong, chs. 1 & 2; Davidson, chs. 10-11	September 5 Test 1 (format TBA) <i>Reading:</i> Akyeampong, chs. 1 & 2
September 10 Empires of West Africa <i>Reading:</i> Davidson, chs. 2-6 <i>Last day to withdraw without academic penalty is September 11</i>	September 12 Empires of West Africa (contd.) <i>Reading:</i> Davidson, chs. 2-6
September 17 Empires of West Africa (contd.) <i>Reading:</i> Davidson, chs. 2-6	September 19 Empires of West Africa (contd.) <i>Reading:</i> Davidson, chs. 2-6
September 24 Empires of West Africa (contd.) <i>Reading:</i> Davidson, chs. 2-6	September 26 Empires and Kingdoms of the Forest Zone <i>Reading:</i> Davidson, ch. 8
October 1 Empires and Kingdoms of the Forest Zone (contd.) <i>Reading:</i> Davidson, ch. 8	October 3 Test 2 (format TBA) <i>Reading:</i> All materials since Test 1
October 8 The Coming of Europeans <i>Reading:</i> TBA	October 10 The Atlantic Slave Trade <i>Reading:</i> Akyeampong, ch. 5; Davidson, ch. 13
October 15 The Atlantic Slave Trade (contd.) <i>Reading:</i> Akyeampong, ch. 5; Davidson, ch. 13	October 17 West Africa and Abolition of Slave Trade <i>Reading:</i> Akyeampong, ch. 5; Davidson, ch. 13 Research Project Due; Submit in D2L latest 11:59 PM
October 22 Revolutions and wars on West Africa <i>Reading:</i> Afigbo et al, Vol 1, ch. 3 (see D2L)	October 24 Revolutions and wars (contd.) <i>Reading:</i> Afigbo et al, Vol 1, ch. 3 (see D2L)
October 29 Liberia and Sierra Leone <i>Reading:</i> Webster and Boahen, chs. 11-12 (see D2L)	October 31 Test 3 (format TBA) <i>Reading:</i> All materials since Test 2
November 5 Establishment of European rule in West Africa <i>Reading:</i> Afigbo et al, Vol 1, ch. 4 (see D2L)	November 7 Establishment of European rule in West Africa (contd.) <i>Reading:</i> Afigbo et al, Vol 1, ch. 4 (see D2L)
November 12 Partition and conquest of West Africa <i>Reading:</i> Webster & Boahen, chs.15-16 (see D2L)	November 17 European Colonial Rule <i>Reading:</i> Afigbo et al, Vol 2, ch. 1 (see D2L)
November 19 Economic Development under colonial rule <i>Reading:</i> Akyeampong, chs. 8-9	November 21 Struggle for independence <i>Reading:</i> Afigbo et al, Vol 2, ch. 2 (see D2L)
November 26 West Africa since independence <i>Reading:</i> Akyeampong, chs. 11-12; Afigbo et al, Vol 2, ch. 3 (see D2L)	November 28 <i>Fall break, no class</i>
December 3 Revision	December 5 Final Exam , 8:00-10:00 AM (to be written in class); all materials since Test 3

These required readings are to be accomplished before class. Additional readings will be posted on D2L.