Hist 3334/01  The Africans in Diaspora
Spring 2010

Kennesaw State University

Time: T & R 9:30-10:45AM  Instructor: William E. Allen, Ph. D.
Room: SO 2025  Office: SO 4083
Office Hours: 8-9AM and by  E-mail: wallen14@kennesaw.edu
appointment anytime  Tel. 770 423 6526
Website: http://kennesaw8.view.usg.edu

Course Description
This introductory course is the history of the forced and voluntary migrations of Africans,
from around the several centuries just before the Christian era to the end of the nineteenth
century. Coerced migrants or enslaved persons constituted the overwhelming majority of
those who ended up abroad. The bulk of this enslaved population was transported to Asia
and the Americas, from about 800 CE to the waning years of the nineteenth century.
Estimating the total number of persons involved in the forced dispersion is problematic
because sources are hard to find. However, 23 million or thereabouts is the figure that is
generally suggested for those forcibly transported to Asia and the Americas. Today,
descendants of this original enslaved population can still be found primarily in the
Americas, Europe, and Asia.

Course Objectives
By the end of this class, students should be able to accomplish the following:

1. determine the difference between the African Diaspora and other historic
dispersions;
2. identify the areas of resettlement and observe how the migrants rebuild their
cultures;
3. evaluate the strategies of survival Africans in the Diaspora adopted, especially in
the face of legalized oppression and vicious racism; and
4. examine the practical ways in which Africans in the Diaspora demonstrated their
emotional attachment to Africa.

Required Textbooks
2. Harris, Joseph, ed., Global Dimensions of the African Diaspora
3. Benjamin, Jules, A Student’s Guide to History

Books on Reserve in KSU Library
These books and the Internet resources are very useful for in-depth analysis on topics that
may be related to your short essays and class presentations:
Americas
2. Potkay & Burr, ed., Black Atlantic Writers of the 18th Century
3. Sertima, African Presence in Early Asia
4. Northrup, Africa’s Discovery of Europe, 1450-1850
Course Requirements and Evaluation

The final grade for the course is derived from the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Areas</th>
<th>% of Course Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Two exams</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two quizzes</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two separate page-long papers</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class presentation</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOD (News of the Diaspora)</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. **Two exams**: These non-cumulative exams will comprise questions that were not included in the quizzes. The exams, which will require short essay answers, will be drawn from the lectures and assigned readings. Look in the subsequent pages for the dates of the exams and the quizzes: Do not miss the exams, quizzes, and class presentations: as a rule, there are no make-ups.

2. **Two quizzes**: The quizzes will be mostly objective, i.e., they will require answers that are directly from the readings and lectures.

3. **Two separate page-long papers**: You will write two individual page-long, single-spaced papers in 12 pt Times New Roman font. Each paper should have a separate page for the bibliography. I will post the assignment on WebCT Vista, and you will do likewise when you complete it. Read the sections on Plagiarism and Documenting Your Paper in A Student's Guide to History. The consequence of presenting someone’s ideas as yours (without indicating so) is simple: I will give you an F for plagiarism. (See also below.) A grade of “B” is the highest you can earn on a late assignment. You have two days from the original deadline to turn the assignment in; otherwise you will lose the points entirely.

4. **Class presentation**: I will assign topics for presentation in class. The measure of your performance is preparedness and familiarity with the topic. End your presentation with a question for the class.

5. **News of the Diaspora (NOD)**

You can present one piece of news from the African Diaspora on any topic. Give the source of the news, and explain its relevance to our class. Each presentation is worth one point.

6. **Final grade**: The formula for converting your numerical grade is 90-100=A; 80-89=B; 70-79=C; 60-69=D; 0-59=F.
Academic Integrity
Every KSU student is responsible for upholding the provisions of the Student Code of Conduct, as published in the Undergraduate and Graduate Catalogs. Section II of the Student Code of Conduct addresses the University’s policy on academic honesty, including provisions regarding plagiarism and cheating, unauthorized access to University materials, misrepresentation/falsification of University records or academic work, malicious removal, retention, or destruction of library materials, malicious/intentional misuse of computer facilities and/or services, and misuse of student identification cards. Incidents of alleged academic misconduct will be handled through the established procedures of the University Judiciary Program, which includes either an “informal” resolution by a faculty member, resulting in a grade adjustment, or a formal hearing procedure, which may subject a student to the Code of Conduct’s minimum one semester suspension requirement.

Class Etiquette
The consequence for “abusive, profane, threatening and/or inappropriate behavior” is severe; see Disruption of Campus Life Statement in the KSU Faculty Handbook, pp. 3.10-3.12. Accordingly, proper behavior and respect for class decorum is essential. Please silence all cell phones and electronic devices that tend to disrupt the decorum of the class. Laptops should be used only for notes and other related class activities.

March 5: (LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW WITHOUT ACADEMIC PENALTY)

Tentative Course Schedule

*Part I*  
Introduction to class; what is the Diaspora, its scope? geography of Diaspora; definition of knotty terms

Jan. 7-12  
Read Gomez, Introduction; Harris, Introduction

*Part II*  
Themes and problems in the study of the African Diaspora

Jan. 14-19  
Read Harris, Chapters 1-2

*Part III*  
Earliest recorded dispersal c. 500 BCE to c. 800 CE

Jan. 21-28  
Read Gomez, Chapters 1-2; Harris Chapter 14

Feb. 2  
Quiz # 1

*Part IV*  
Scattering in Asia, c. 1000 CE to c. 1800s CE

Feb. 4-16  
Read Gomez, Chapter 3; Harris Chapters 17-18

*Part V*  
The Making of the New World Diaspora, 1500 to 1800s
(assign page-long essay)

Feb. 18-23  Read Gomez, Chapters 5-6

Feb. 25  Exam # 1

March 2-4  Continue with previous topic

March 6-12  SPRING BREAK: NO CLASSES

Part VI  Resettlement and adjustment

March 16-23  Read Gomez, 7; Harris, Chapters 6, 8-9

March 25  Quiz # 2

Part VII  “Reversing sail:” return to ancestral land
(assign page-long paper)

March 30-April 15  Read Harris, Chapters 19, 20, 23, and 24

April 20  Film (The Language You Cry In)

Part VIII  Post World War II developments

April 22-29  Read Gomez, Chapter 8

May 4  Exam # 2 or Final Exam, 9:30-11:30AM