

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

**HIST 3391: History of West Africa
Summer Semester, 2017 Tues/Thurs, 2:00-4:45 PM
Classroom Location: Social Sciences Building Room 3007**

Course Director: Dr. Akanmu G. Adebayo
Office Location: Social Sciences Building, Room 4112
Office Hours: Tues/Thurs 10-11 AM
Phone: (470) 578-6646
E-mail: aadebayo@kennesaw.edu

Course Communication:

You may contact me by email to aadebayo@kennesaw.edu or email me within D2L Brightspace. You may also reach me by phone. My number is 470-578-6646. Allow 24 hours for me to respond to either your email message or phone call. Finally, I am also available at my office hours stated above.

Electronic Communications:

The University provides all KSU students with an “official” email account with the address “students.kennesaw.edu.” As a result of federal laws protecting educational information and other data, this is the sole email account you should use to communicate with your instructor or other University officials.

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.

Learning Objectives/Outcomes

At the end of this course, students will be able to:

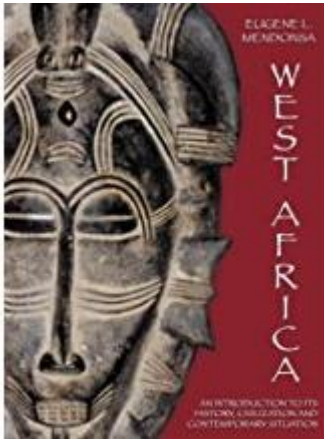
- Articulate major periods and events in the history of West Africa from the earliest times to the present;
- Create a chronology of West African history;
- List West African countries and ethnic groups;
- Understand the challenges of development and proffer solutions to societal problems;
- Compare and contrast development and democratization in various West African countries;
- Map conflict zones and offer solutions to many West African conflicts; and

- Describe West Africa's resources and their roles in the economy of West Africa

Professional Courtesy Statement

Students are expected to read the course outline carefully. You are responsible for its entire content and possible revisions announced in the class. The course director may modify the syllabus at any time and notify the class accordingly. Students should expect the course director to treat them with fairness and respect, and they too should reciprocate in like manner to the instructor and to their classmates. Classroom behavior is expected to meet the highest standards in the exercise of, and respect for, individual rights. All submissions should be in Word format and submitted electronically in D2L/Brightspace. Research papers written for this class should be original, not recycled from an earlier course. As soon as it is uploaded, Turnitin will check the paper for originality and, if found, you will score zero. Deadlines are observed strictly; late papers will be penalized by 2 point reduction per day they are late. Students are reminded to read and adhere to KSU regulations regarding academic honesty.

Textbooks/Required Reading:



Eugene L. Mendonsa, *West Africa: An Introduction to Its History, Civilization and Contemporary Situation* (Durham, NC: Carolina Academic Press, 2002) ISBN-13: 978-0890896495

Essays and supplementary readings accessible from the KSU Library and D2L

Attendance Policy:

KSU policy states as follows: Students are solely responsible for managing their enrollment status in a class; nonattendance does not constitute a withdrawal. See below for the attendance policy for this course.

Electronic Devices Policy:

Please note that no electronics are permitted in the classroom during examinations. Your computer, mobile phones, and tablets must be turned off and stowed during exams.

Course Assessments/Assignments:

See below.

Makeup Exams and Late Assignments:

Test dates are stated below. Be on time for these tests. You are allowed to make up one (1) exam, and must be completed within a week of the missed exam. Schedule the make-up with the course director. Assignments must be turned in as scheduled. Deadlines will be enforced. Assignments

turned in late will be graded, but will be penalized at 2 points per day, including weekend. In case of inclement weather when the university is closed, tests or assignments due on that day will be rescheduled.

Course Activities and Grading

Activities	Date Due	Points	% of total
1. Attendance and Participation.	Class roll	5 points	Bonus
2. Test 1	June 6 (2:00 p.m. in class)	10 points	10%
3. Test 2	June 20 (2:00 p.m. in class)	20 points	20%
4. Test 3	July 11 (2:00 p.m. in class)	20 points	20%
5. Research Paper	Submit on June 29 in D2L folder	30 points	30%
6. Test 4 [Final Exam]	June 25 (2:30 p.m. in class)	20 points	20%
Total		100 points	100%

Grade Calculations

Track your progress throughout the semester. Grade distribution will be as follows:

Grade Distribution

A = 90 points or higher

B = 80-89 points

C = 70-79 points

D = 60-69 points

F = 59 points or lower

I = Indicates an incomplete grade for the course, and will be awarded only when the student has done satisfactory work up to the last two weeks of the semester, but for nonacademic reasons beyond his/her control is unable to meet the full requirements of the course.

Incomplete grades are only valid after submission of the Incomplete Grade form (signed by both the instructor and student) to the Department Chair’s office.

Academic Integrity Statement:

Every KSU student is responsible for upholding the provisions of the Student Code of Conduct, as published in the Undergraduate and Graduate Catalogs. Section 5. C 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 Department of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity (SCAI), 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. See also <https://web.kennesaw.edu/scai/content/ksu-student-code-conduct>.

Academic integrity is important and students should maintain this at all times. It begins with ensuring originality in your assignments and research papers. When you submit materials via D2L, Turnitin will scan the essay for originality. If your essay fails this test, the instructor will report you to SCAI. For more information about plagiarism and to avoid it, see the links below

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:

Students with qualifying disabilities under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and/or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act who require “reasonable accommodation(s)” to complete the course may request those from Department of Student Success Services. Students requiring such accommodations are required to work with the University’s Department of Student Success Services rather than engaging in this discussion with individual faculty members or academic departments. If, after reviewing the course syllabus, a student anticipates or should have anticipated a need for accommodation, he or she must submit documentation requesting an accommodation and permitting time for a determination prior to submitting assignments or taking course quizzes or exams. Students may not request retroactive accommodation for needs that were or should have been foreseeable. Students should contact the office as soon as possible in the term for which they are seeking accommodations. For more information please visit their website, sss.kennesaw.edu/sds.

Contact information is as follows:

SDS Email: sds@kennesaw.edu

Primary number for Kennesaw campus: [470-578-2666](tel:470-578-2666)

Primary number for Marietta campus: [678-915-7244](tel:678-915-7244)

Other Important Information About this Course

1. Attendance

Class attendance is a requirement in this course. If this will be a problem, please let me know. A sign-up sheet will be circulated every class meeting. If you don’t see the roll, ask. You will be responsible for ensuring you sign your name. Only a “perfect” attendance (no more than two classes missed in the entire semester) will earn the 5 points. Others, nothing. You do not lose points for being absent; rather, this attendance policy awards you 5 *extra* points for being present. Every student’s reason for absence is important and credible, so the attendance policy that is applied across the board is “you’re absent whenever you’re not in class for its duration,” regardless of the reason.

2. Tests

There will be several tests in the course. All tests will be essay. Each test will be on materials covered since the previous test. Thus, Test 2 will be on materials covered since Test 1... and the final test (Test 4) is not cumulative but will be on materials covered since Test 3.

3. Research Paper

Thursday, June 29, 2017 at 11:59 PM

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 your essay has 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.

Use the following requirements for your paper:

- The length of the research paper is minimum 1000 words and maximum 1200 words, not including notes and bibliography.
- All pages must be double-spaced.
- For this paper, use at least six sources. The sources must be a combination of books and articles in scholarly journals. Such articles may be accessed on Google Scholar or via KSU Online Library. Of course you may use Internet sources as a supplement. In other words, blogs, articles, and commentaries on historynet.com, history.com, online encyclopedia, wikipedia, and similar sources do not count among the six required resources.
- The research project is due at 11:59 p.m. on June 29, 2017; 2 points will be deducted for each day your paper is late.
- Recall all the things you learned in your English composition classes about writing a research paper, and put those skills to use in every way possible. Consult the Writing Center for assistance regarding your writing style, grammar, citation style, etc.
- Use the **Chicago Style** for your citations, footnotes or endnotes, and bibliography.

Also, be aware that your research paper will be graded on the five elements outlined below.

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

A rubric is attached at the end of this syllabus.

4. Test 4 [Final Exam] July 25, 2017, 2:00-4:00 p.m.

Multiple choice, on materials covered since Test 3. The Final Test schedule is at this link:

<http://registrar.kennesaw.edu/dates-deadlines/final-exams-summer.php>

Tuesday, 2:00-4:00 PM, SO 3007	Thursday 2:00-4:00 PM, SO 3007
May 30 a. General introduction to the course b. West Africa: Geography, Environment, Culture Readings: Mendonsa, chapters 1 & 2	June 1 West African Religions Reading: Mendonsa, chapter 3
June 6 Test 1 (2 p.m., try to be on time) Political and Economic Institutions Reading: Mendonsa, chapters 4 & 5	June 8 West African Art and Music Reading: Mendonsa, chapters 6 & 7
June 13 Early History of West Africa Reading: Mendonsa, chapters 8 & 9	June 15 Empires and States to 1800 Reading: Mendonsa, chapters 9 & 10
June 20 Test 2 (2 p.m., try to be on time) Slavery and Slave Trades Reading: Mendonsa, chapter 11	June 22 European Scramble, Partition and Conquest Reading: Mendonsa, chapters 12 & 13
June 27 No class Work on research paper; catch up on your readings: Mendonsa, chapters 12 & 13	June 29 Research Papers Due No class Work on research paper, submit in D2L by 11:59 PM
July 4 Holiday, no class	July 6 European Rule Reading: Mendonsa, chapter 14
July 11 Test 3 (2 p.m., try to be on time) Nationalist Movement and Decolonization Reading: Mendonsa, chapter 15	July 13 Postcolonial Era Reading: Mendonsa, chapter 16
July 18 ECOWAS Reading: Mendonsa, chapter 17	July 20 Development and Modernization in the Age of Globalization Reading: Mendonsa, chapter 18
July 25 Test 4 (Final Exam, 2:00 PM)	

HIST 3391 GRADING RUBRIC

Criteria	Inadequate = D to F Needs Improvement	Adequate = C [options C- & C+] Meets Standard	Above Average = B [options B- & B+] Exceeds Standard	Exemplary = A [option A-] Professional Quality	Grade
Organization [Max 5 points]	There appears to be no organization; the essay is all over the place; it rambles; has no introduction or conclusion	The essay lacks an introduction and conclusion; fails to use paragraphing technique; lumps all information together	The essay can be easily followed; good introduction and conclusion; paragraphs flow easily with good transition	The essay is organized professionally; introduction is inviting and the conclusion is strong; information in the paragraphs have logical sequence	
Content [Max 20 points]	Brief; no details; most facts are wrong; does not provide evidence or examples where required; gives the wrong dates for events; does not address the required elements for the paper; has many irrelevant parts; does not make any argument where required	Provides some details, but none that goes beyond class notes and PowerPoint; does not show in-depth study of the texts; provides some evidence; addresses only a few of required elements; some facts are wrong; gives fewer examples than required; does not state argument or position clearly	Addresses the topic/question but left out a few details; provides technical information and evidence relevant to the subject; uses dates; uses the correct terms in the field; cites and discusses most or all required examples; essay is not ambiguous and is consistent; makes the argument clearly where required	Addresses the question/topic completely; essay is powerful and shows the student is comfortable with the materials; uses many dates; employs and defines terms correctly; uses a diversity of examples; makes the argument clearly and provides many facts and evidence to support thesis; the essay can be said to be profound, correct, and complete	
Style or Mechanics and Grammar [Max 5 points]	Incomplete and awkward sentences, wrong words, bad spellings; essay is poorly written and difficult to read; similarity index 30% and above	The essay contains numerous grammatical and mechanical errors; sentences are poorly constructed but the reader can piece the information together; similarity index 20%-30%	The essay has very minimal grammatical and mechanical errors; the student communicates clearly and uses vivid words and phrases; similarity index 10%-20%	The essay is clear and concise; it has no errors in grammar, mechanics, or; uses correct tenses; creative use of sentence structure; similarity index under 10%	
Total 30 points					

This rubric will be used in grading essay tests, but the points may differ.