

CUMBERLAND UNIVERSITY

COURSE SYLLABUS

Course Title: African History		
Course Prefix & Number: HIST 326-01	Section Number: 01	Semester: Fall 2023
Semester Credit Hours: 3	Room: Labry Hall 211	Schedule: TR 2:00 - 3:15 PM
Required Course Materials: Shillington, Kevin, <i>History of Africa (4th Edition)</i> Red Globe Press (ISBN: 978-1-137-50403-6) <ul style="list-style-type: none">eBook is available for purchase online.A physical copy is available for purchase at the CU Bookstore and Amazon. Getz and Clarke, <i>Abina and the Important Men</i> Oxford University Press (ISBN: 978-0-19-984439-5) <i>Further readings for this course will be added to Canvas.</i>		

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Name of Instructor:	Professor Miguel Angel Chavez
Telephone Number:	Office: (615) 257-4402
E-mail Address:	mchavez@cumberland.edu
Office Hours:	Labry 230 - MW 9:15-10:45 AM + 12:30-1:30 PM / TR 3:30-6:00 PM

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course explores key developments and themes in African history from the origins of humanity to the 21st century. From the Maghreb to the Cape of Good Hope, from Dakar to Zanzibar, the history of Africa is one of vast cultural change, the rise of empires and kingdoms, slavery and freedom, of colonial subjugation and revolutionary resistance, and the incorporation of Africa into the world system.

This course will consist of lectures, class discussions, audio-visual presentations, and student presentations. Students are expected to take notes and participate in class discussions.

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND OUTCOMES

Students will come away with an understanding of African history by looking at the major themes of the continent's history, engaging with primary sources, and by engaging with the historiography of African history. By the end of the semester, students will have an understanding of the continent's history,

Using primary and secondary sources, students will be required to think and write critically and logically about historical events and themes.

# of Graded Course Elements	Graded Course Elements	Percentage or Point Values
2	Exams	50%
1	Essay Assignment	20%
1	Book Review	10%
1	Class Leadership Discussion	10%
-	Attendance and Participation	10%

GRADING

Exams: There will be **two exams (a midterm and final)** over the material discussed in class as well as any assigned reading. The exams will consist of written essays. Each exam will be count towards 25% of your course grade, or 50% in total.

Writing Assignment: There will be **one essay assignment** during the semester. Students to write a reflection essay on a historical topic. The paper will be **at least 3000 words in length**, typed, double-spaced. Papers must be turned in digitally on Canvas. Late papers will be penalized -10 points per every day late. The writing assignments will count as 20% of your final grade. More details will be given in the coming weeks as to the essay's requirement.

Book Review: There will be **a book review** during the semester. Students will select a book from an approved list and situate that book in the context of the other class readings. This will be 10% of the course grade. More details will be given as to the review's requirements.

Class Leadership Assignment: Discussions will be an important part of this course. As such, it is imperative for you to read the weekly assignment and come prepared to discuss that with your classmate. To facilitate this, each student will **lead a class discussion** by providing a 10-15 minute presentation at the start of a Thursday class discussion. Students will summarize the arguments of each week's readings

Attendance and Participation: Students will be expected to attend class daily and arrive on-time. Roll will be taken every meeting, as per Cumberland University policy. **Participation in class discussions is necessary and a core part of this course.** This will count 10% of your grade.

Extra Credit: There are no extra credit opportunities for this course.

A = 100-93 / A- = 92.9-90 / B+ = 89.9-87 / B = 86.9-83 / B- = 82.9-80 / C+ = 79.9-77 / C = 76.9-70 / D+ = 69.9-67 / D = 66.9-60 / F = 59.9-0

Last day to withdraw from a course with a “W” is September 18. Last day to withdraw with a “WP” or “WF” is on October 30.

<http://cumberland.smartcatalogiq.com/Current-Catalog/Current-Catalog/Academic-Affairs/Registration-Policy/Drop-Process>

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Students are expected to follow all rules and regulations found in the “Academic Integrity Policy” section of Cumberland University’s 2023-2024 Catalog:

<https://cumberland.smartcatalogiq.com/en/Current/Current-Catalog/Academic-Affairs/Academic-Integrity-Policy>

Further, students are to live up to the *Cumberland Creed*: “Academic honesty is essential to effective learning. Therefore, we as seekers of knowledge hold these as our core values: personal integrity, individual worth, critical and independent thinking, discipline, community responsibility and accountability.”

Academic integrity violations include (but are not limited to): **plagiarism, cheating, re-submissions of prior assignments, using AI programs** (e.g. Chat GPT), and **damaging and destroying academic material**. **Violations will result in a grade of zero for the given assignment. Further, violations could be reported to the Dean of Students, to the Vice President for Academic Affairs and/or the Provost.**

Cite your sources carefully when writing! Remember to use quotation marks when quoting from a primary or secondary source. Do not copy-and-paste information from Wikipedia or the textbooks and pretend it is your own work. Do not lend your writing to your classmates: numerous cases of plagiarism have been reported by that method.

TECHNOLOGY USE IN THE CLASSROOM

I highly recommend you take your lecture notes on paper. However, given the needs of students with accessibility issues to use laptops and recorders, I will allow students to use laptops and tablets for note taking. But do not be disruptive with your technology use. In addition, do not use your smartphone in class. If you end up distracted and miss part of the class, that’s ultimately your responsibility.

STATEMENT ON COMMUNITY HEALTH CONCERNS

As we are all aware, the COVID-19 virus continues to circulate in our communities. At the same time, other communicable illnesses are also present. Members of the Cumberland University community are asked to help maintain a campus that is safe for all by undertaking appropriate health precautions. We encourage community members to be vaccinated against COVID-19 and to practice good hygiene, including frequent handwashing.

If you do experience symptoms of COVID-19, the flu, or other ailments, we encourage you to seek medical attention through the University Health Services by making an appointment at <https://cumberland.edu/health-services/> or through your personal health provider. Students may be excused from class attendance with a note from University Health Services or a private health provider, though anyone receiving an excused absence will continue to be responsible for completing all required course assignments.

For further guidance on how to respond to COVID-19, please review the University's statement on health protocols at: <https://www.cumberland.edu/coronavirus/current-health-protocols/>.

COURSE SCHEDULE – HIST 326: African History

This schedule is tentative and subject to change.

Textbook:

- HoA = *History of Africa*

Week 1 – Aug. 21 to Aug. 25

Introduction, Thoughts on African History / Early African Civilization

Reading(s):

- Get started on HoA, Ch. 1 and 2
- Bunmi Fatoye-Matory, "I am not just an African Woman" - <https://www.csmonitor.com/1996/0701/070196.home.home.1.html>
- Paul Stoller, "Ebola Emissions" - https://www.huffpost.com/entry/ebola-emissions_b_5663027
- Toby Green, "Africa, in its fullness" - <https://aeon.co/essays/liberating-the-precolonial-history-of-africa>

Class Discussion: Thoughts on African History / What is History?

Homework: Get your textbooks and readings in order!

Week 2 – Aug. 28 to Sept. 1

Iron Age Africa and the Historiography of Early African Civilization

Reading(s):

- HoA, Ch. 3 and 4
- Cheikh Anta Diop, *The African Origin of Civilization* (Extracts)
- Islam Issa, "Cleopatra was Egyptian - whether Black or brown matters less" - <https://www.aljazeera.com/opinions/2023/5/1/cleopatra-was-egyptian-whether-black-or-brown-matters>
- Hisham Aidi, Egypt and the Afrocentrists: The latest round - <https://africasacountry.com/2022/03/egypt-and-the-afrocentrists-the-latest-round>

Class Discussion: Diop and Historiographic Context

Week 3 – Sept. 4 to Sept. 8

Islam and Africa

Reading(s):

- HoA, Ch. 5, 6, and 7
- “The Arab Conquest and the Rise of Islam in North Africa” from *The Cambridge History of Africa*.
- Al-Bakri’s Description of Ghana, mid-11th century / Mansa Musa’s visit to Cairo (1324) / Ibn Battuta’s description of West Africa (1352-3) / Leo Africanus’s Description of Songhai (early 1500s) - <https://bit.ly/47Gdsiw>
- François-Xavier Fauvelle, *The Golden Rhinoceros* (Extracts)
- BBC, *Islam in Africa* - <https://youtu.be/tcF-e6RhLzU>

Class Discussion: Islam and Africa.

Week 4 – Sept. 11 to Sept. 15

Medieval Africa

Reading(s):

- HoA, Ch. 8, 9, and 10
- François-Xavier Fauvelle, *The Golden Rhinoceros* (Extracts)
- *The Sunjata Story* - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yOS78u1_rA
- Alamandini’s “Portuguese Priests Baptizing Africans” - <https://bit.ly/47EOhhs>
- TBD

Class Discussion: Medieval Africa and its Diversity

Week 5 – Sept. 18 to Sept. 22

The Slave Trade (pt. 1)

Reading(s):

- HoA, Ch. 11 and 12

Class Discussion: The Slave Trade in the Medieval and Early Modern Periods

Week 6 – Sept. 25 to Sept. 29

The Slave Trade (pt. 2)

Reading(s):

- HoA, Ch. 17
- Getz and Clarke, *Abina and the Important Men* (Entire Book)

Class Discussion: The Transatlantic Slave Trade and the African Diaspora

Week 7 – Oct. 2 to Oct. 6

Early Modern Africa

Reading(s):

- HoA, Ch. 13, 14, and 15

- Hermann Giliomee, *The Afrikaners: Biography of a People* (Extracts)
- Emmanuel Chukwudi Eze - *Race and the Enlightenment: A Reader* (Extracts)
- William McKee Evans, "From the Land of Canaan to the Land of Guinea: The Strange Odyssey of the 'Sons of Ham'"

Class Discussion: Race

Mid-Term Exam – October 10

Week 8 – Oct. 9 to Oct. 13

Africa in the 19th century

Reading(s):

- HoA, Ch. 16, 18 and 19
- A. Adu Boahen - *African Perspectives on Colonialism* (Extracts)
- TBD

Class Discussion: The Eve of Colonial Rule

Week 9 – Oct. 16 to Oct. 20

The Scramble for Africa

Reading(s):

- HoA, Ch. 20, 21, and 22
- General Act of the Berlin Conference on West Africa, 26 February 1885 - <https://loveman.sdsu.edu/docs/1885GeneralActBerlinConference.pdf>
- A. Adu Boahen - *African Perspectives on Colonialism* (Extracts)

Class Discussion: The "Why" and "How" of Conquest

Week 10 - Oct. 23 to Oct. 27

Colonial Rule in Africa

Reading(s):

- HoA, Ch. 23, and 24
- Mahmood Mamdani, *Citizens and Subjects* (Extracts)
- Frederick Lugard, *The Dual Mandate in British Tropical Africa*
- Kenneth Pomeranz, *The Great Divergence* (Extracts)
- A Brief Guide to Négritude - <https://poets.org/text/brief-guide-negritude>
- Seven Poems from Léon-Gontran Damas - <https://bit.ly/3P7Fe1l>

Class Discussion: The Realities of Colonial Rule

Book Review Due – Nov. 27 at 11:59 PM

Week 11 – Oct. 30 to Nov. 3

Africa and Gender

Reading(s): Ch. 25 and 26

- Linda Heywood, *Njinga of Angola* (Extracts)

- Nwando Achebe, *The Female King of Colonial Nigeria* (Extracts)
- Kathleen Sheldon, *African Women: Early History to the 21st century* (Extracts)

Class Discussion: Gender History and Africa

Week 12 – Nov. 6 to Nov. 10

Decolonization

Reading(s):

- HoA, Ch. 27, 28, and 29
- Kwame Nkrumah, Neo-Colonialism, the Last Stage of imperialism (Extracts) - <https://www.marxists.org/subject/africa/nkrumah/neo-colonialism/>
- FLN Declaration to the Algerian People (1954) - <https://www.marxists.org/history/algeria/1954/proclamation.htm>
- Aimé Césaire, *Discourse on Colonialism* (Extracts)
- Richard Wright, *The Color Curtain* (Extracts)

Class Discussion: Philosophy of African Resistance to Colonialism

Week 13 – Nov. 13 to Nov. 17

Africa after Independence and Apartheid

Reading(s):

- HoA, Ch. 30 and 31
- Frantz Fanon, *The Wretched of the Earth* (Extracts)
- Nelson Mandela, *Prison Letters* (Extracts)
- Alex Vines, “Fidel Castro's Greatest Legacy in Africa is in Angola” - <https://www.chathamhouse.org/2016/12/fidel-castros-greatest-legacy-africa-angola>
- Jacob Diamini, *Askari: A story of collaboration and betrayal in the anti-apartheid struggle* (Extracts)
- Joseph C. Miller, “The Politics of Decolonization in Portuguese Africa”

Class Discussion: Results of Decolonization

Thanksgiving Week – Nov. 20 to Nov. 24 – No Class!

Week 14 – Nov. 27 to Dec. 1

Contemporary Africa

Reading(s):

- HoA, Ch. 32
- Jemina Pierre, *The Predicament of Blackness: Postcolonial Ghana and the Politics of Race* (Extracts)
- Ibrahim Anoba, “How a Population of 4.2 Billion could impact Africa by 2100” - <https://saisreview.sais.jhu.edu/how-a-population-of-4-2-billion-could-impact-africa-by-2100-the-possible-economic-demographic-and-geopolitical-outcomes/>

- Mark Dery, “Black to the Future: Interviews with Samuel R. Delany, Greg Tate, and Tricia Rose” - <https://www.uvic.ca/victoria-colloquium/assets/docs/Black%20to%20the%20Future.pdf>

Class Discussion: Africa’s Past and Future

Writing Assignment Due – Nov. 27 at 11:59 PM

Last Day of Classes – Dec. 1

Final Exam – December 5 (1:30 PM to 3:30 PM)

CAMPUS SUPPORT

Disability and Accessibility: Students with a disability can register with the **Office of Accessibility**, located in Labry Hall 226, to discuss the possibility of accommodations. Once registered and approved, an electronic copy of the accommodations will be sent to the student and the professor. Students are encouraged to register for accommodations early in the semester. The Office of Accessibility can be reached by phone (615-547-1286), by email (adavis@cumberland.edu), or in person (Labry Hall, room 226). For more information, please visit: <https://www.cumberland.edu/accessibility/>.

Counseling: The **University Counseling Center** is located in Labry Hall 225. Appointments for individual personal counseling sessions, which may be in-person or virtual, can be scheduled by calling or emailing Eddie Christian at 615-547-1397 and echristian@cumberland.edu, or by emailing Sandy Fields (virtual appointments only) at sfields@theratribe.com. The Counseling Center website also contains additional information that may be helpful: <https://www.cumberland.edu/office-of-counseling-services/>.

Library: The **Doris and Harry Vise Library** is very helpful in your studies for obvious reasons. The regular Fall 2023 hours of the library are:

Sunday 5 to 9 p.m.; Monday through Thursday 7:30 a.m. to 11 p.m.; and Friday 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The library website can be very useful as well: <https://library.cumberland.edu/home> - scroll down to "Quick Links" to find the Vise Library Catalog and other resources. If you need help from off campus, please call the library at 615-547-1299 or email: library@cumberland.edu.

Computer Labs: There are computer labs available to students, faculty, and staff, located in the basement of Labry Hall. There are also selected workstations available in the University Library and above the atrium on the second floor of Labry Hall, as well as on the second floor of Memorial Hall and in the Learning and Career Commons. If you have problems with any of these computer workstations, printers/copiers, or have other account issues, please submit an IT Service Request by emailing support@cumberland.edu. Student passwords can be reset by visiting: <https://cams3.cumberland.edu/rptool/index.html?s=1>

Academic Support: The **Office of Student Retention and TN Promise Support** exists to offer encouragement, support, and guidance as you navigate life at CU. Among other services, they can offer referrals to the Office of Student Success (Tutoring and Writing Center) as well as the Counseling Center and the Office of Accessibility, when needed. This office houses three academic coaches, who can offer one-on-one sessions to help with things like time management, study skills, etc. Additionally, TN Promise students will receive reminders about important deadlines and requirements from this office. Contact Student Retention and TN Promise Support by visiting LCC 202, calling 615-547-1206, or emailing: retention@cumberland.edu.

Student Success: The **Office of Student Success** is located in the Learning and Career Commons, room 122. This office oversees tutoring and testing services for all actively enrolled Cumberland University students, including the Writing Center (LCC 116) and subject-based academic tutoring labs that are widely available. You can sign up for individual tutors in most CU courses or small group sessions for foundations courses as

well. Virtual tutoring sessions are also available for online students. You can visit LCC 122 or LCC 116 directly or email OfficeofSTudentSuccess@cumberland.edu or call 615-547-1238 for a referral. Additional information is also available on the website: <https://www.cumberland.edu/academics-2/office-of-student-success/>

Career Services: The **Office of Career Services**, located in the Learning and Career Commons, room 225, supports students and alumni in the development and achievement of career decisions and goals. Services are provided to all Cumberland students and graduates and include: Self-Assessment and Career Planning, Internship and Job Postings, Resume and Cover Letter Review, Graduate School Preparation, and Career-Related Workshops.

Remember to check out the Cumberland App and the website *HireCU* at <https://cumberland-csm.symplicity.com/> for part-time, full-time, and internship job opportunities! For more information or to schedule an appointment, contact the Career Services Director, Dixie Rury, by phone (615-547-1308) or via email (drury@cumberland.edu) or visit the website: <https://www.cumberland.edu/student-life/internships-and-career-services/>
