

# Africa Through the Era of the Slave Trade

## HIST 3318

MW 11 – 12:15

Pafford 204

### Instructor:

Dr. McCullers

Office Hours: TLC 3225, MW 2:30-4:30

mmcculle@westga.edu

### Course Objectives:

- Explore formation of Sub-Saharan African societies from 9,000 BCE to early 20<sup>th</sup> Century
- Examine integration of African societies into global economy through expansion of trade in natural resources, luxury commodities, and human beings
- Develop a greater understanding of slave trades in Africa and an appreciation of the cultural links between Africa and other parts of the world
- Develop a clear understanding of the complex interactions among African societies and global economic, political, and cultural forces
- Examine and critically analyze primary sources and historical documents

### Required Texts:

- Robert O. Collins, *Documents from the African Past* (Princeton: Markus Wiener, 2009).
- D.T. Niane, *Sundiata: An Epic of Old Mali* (Demco Media, 1995).
- Maryse Conde, *Segu* (Ballantine Books, 1988).

- Abdulrazak Gurnah, *Paradise* (Bloomsbury, 2004).
- Sol T. Plaatje, *Mhudi* (New York: Penguin, 2005).

**Policies:**

- **Attendance** - Attendance is taken for university administrative purposes only. However, attendance in class is essential to performing well and to your participation grade.
- **Missed Work** - You are responsible for all missed work. I do not give out notes.
- **Make-Up Quizzes & Exams** - I only give make-up quizzes and exams for documented excused absences. If you know you are going to be absent for a quiz or exam, let me know in advance.
- **Technology** - Do not use your phone in class and only use your computer to take notes in the first & last 2 rows of the classroom.
- **Email Policy** - University of West Georgia students are provided a MyUWG e-mail account. This is the official means of communication between the University and the student. **It is your responsibility to check your email. Only email me in Course Den.**
- **Academic Honesty** - All work must abide by the UWG honor code. All work must be completed independently unless otherwise specified and must be original. The UWG Honor Code is in force at all times. Each student is responsible for understanding the nature of, and rules regarding, academic dishonesty. **Academic dishonesty will result in a failing grade for the course.**
- **Accommodations** - If you require accommodations, **it is your responsibility to provide me with documentation** from the office of accessibility services. It is **also your responsibility to make arrangements for extra time, alternative testing locations, etc., and to remind me in advance.** I cannot provide accommodations without University documentation.

- **Grading:** - I will not discuss grades within 48 hours of posting them and I do not change grades except in cases of mathematical error. It is against university policy to discuss grades via email.
- **University Policies:** Please see the following link for a complete listing of University policies - <http://www.westga.edu/UWGSyllabusPolicies/>

**Assignments:**

**Homework:** You are expected to complete the homework for each class and come to class prepared to discuss the lecture and readings.

**Reaction Papers:** There will be **four** reaction papers due over the course of the semester for each of the books we will read during class. Response papers should:

- Be 3-4 pages in length
- Respond to a specific question or topic on the reading.
- Be analytical considerations of a theme or question, not book reports or whether or not you liked the book.
- Clearly identify the thesis statement and topic sentences
- Not provide background information or a synopsis.
- Judiciously use quotes from the book and other class readings to support your argument.
- Be written in the third person

**Exams:** There will be two (2) non-cumulative exams: Wednesday Sept. 21 and Wednesday Nov. 11.

**Grade Distribution:**

- Participation – 20%
- Exams – 30% (15% each)

- Papers – 50% (12.5% Each)

## Schedule

### Unit 1: West Africa

#### **W: 8/10 – Intro to Class**

HW:

- Jan Vansina – “The Roots of African Cultures” (Course Den)
- Philip Curtin – “Northern Africa in a Wider World”  
(Course Den)
- Begin Reading *Sundiata* ASAP

#### **M: 8/15 – The Iron Age Agricultural revolution**

HW:

- Curtin – “Northern Africa in a Wider World” (Course Den)
- Curtin – “Africa North of the Forest in the Early Islamic Age” (Course Den)

#### **W: 8/17 – Religious Changes & Commercial Revolution**

HW:

- Curtin – “Africa North of the Forest in the Early Islamic Age” (Course Den)
- Ibn Battuta – “Mali, 1325” (Collins p. 14)

- Malfante – “Tawat & the Western Trade, 1447”  
(Collins p. 16)

**M: 8/22 – Early Empires of Western Sudan**

HW:

- D.T. Niane - *Sundiata*

**W: 8/24 – *Sundiata***

HW:

- Curtin – “Africa North of the Forest”
- Leo Africanus – “Western Sudan in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century”  
(Collins p. 32)
- Al-Sadi – “Songhai & the Moroccan Invasion” (Collins p. 63)
- Work on *Sundiata* Paper
- Gomes de Azurara – “The Discovery of Guinea”  
(Collins p. 20)

**M: 8/29 – Expanding Trade Routes**

**\*\**Sundiata* Paper Due\*\***

HW:

- Rodney – “African Slavery on the Upper Guinea Coast”  
(Course Den)
- Fage – “Slavery in West African History” (Course Den)
- Lovejoy – “Transformations in Slavery” (Course Den)
- Miers & Kopytoff – “Slavery in Africa” (Course Den)

**W: 8/31 – Slavery in West African Societies**

HW:

- Curtin – “The West African Coast in the Era of the Slave Trade” (Course Den)
- Snelgrave – “The Slaves Mutiny” (Collins p. 128)
- Honestus – “A Defense of the African Slave Trade”
- Get reading *Segu*!!

**M: 9/5 – Labor day – No Classes**

**W: 9/7 – The Atlantic Trade in West Africa**

HW:

- Curtin – “The West African Coast in the Era of the Slave Trade” (Course Den)
- Barbot – “Benin, 1680” (Collins p. 115)
- Dalzel – “Dahomey & Its Neighbors” (Collins p. 143)
- Park – “The Niger at Segu” (Collins p. 148)
- Keep reading *Segu*!

**M: 9/12 – The Slave-State Complex & Coastal Empires**

HW:

- Marise Conde - *Segu*

**W: 9/14 – Segu**

HW:

- Curtin – “The Commercial & Religious Revolutions in West Africa” (Course Den)
- Muhammad – “The Hijra & Holy war of Sheik Usman Dan Fodio” (Collins p. 166)
- *Segu Paper*

**M: 9/19 – Islamic Revolutions in the Sahel**

\*\* Segu Paper Due\*\*

HW:

- Study for Exam 1

**Unit 2: East & Central Africa**

**W: 9/21 – Exam 1**

HW:

- Feierman – “Economy, Society, & Language in Early East Africa” (Course Den)
- “Periplus of the Erythraean Sea” (Collins p. 1)
- Cosmas Indicopluestes – “Trade in Ethiopia, 547” (Collins p. 2)

**M: 9/26 – Early East Africa**

HW:

- Feierman – “Political Culture & Political Economy in Early East Africa” (Course Den)
- Ibn Battuta – “The East African Coast, 1331” (Collins p. 8)

- Duarte Barbosa - *The East Coast of Africa at the Beginning of the 16<sup>th</sup> Century* (Collins p. 37)
- Joao dos Santos – “The Wazimba, 1590” (Collins p. 55)

### W: 9/28 – Societies of the Great Lakes

HW:

- Feierman – “A Century of Ironies in East Africa”  
(Course Den)
- Bocarro – “From Tete to Kilwa” (Collins p. 89)
- Gamito – *The Maravi* (Collins p. 209)
- Speke – “Unyamwezi & Buganda” (Collins p. 252)

### M: 10/3 – Transformations in East Africa

HW:

- Vansina – “Equatorial Africa before the 19<sup>th</sup> Century
- Father Pinto – “The Kingdom of the Kazembe”  
(Collins p. 151)
- P.J. Baptista – “The Kazembe” (Collins p. 169)

### W: 10/5 – Kingdoms of the Savanna

HW:

- Rui de Aguiar – “King Affonso I” (Collins p. 25)
- Battell – “The Jaga” (Collins p. 44)



- Pigafetta & Lopez – “Paulo diaz de Novais in Angola”  
(Collins p. 53)
- Alvare II & Alvare III – Relations between Kongo & the  
Papacy” (Collins p. 84)
- Cavazzi – “Queen Ana Nzinga” (Collins p. 107)

#### **M: 10/10 – Kongo & Portugal**

HW:

- Vansina – “Upstarts & Newcomers in Equatorial Africa”  
(Course Den)
- Paul du Chaillu – “Trade in Gabon” (Collins p. 242)
- Charles Livingstone – “The Prazeros” (Collins p. 248)
- Begin Reading *Paradise*

#### **W: 10/12 – Slavery & Slave Traders in Central Africa**

HW:

- Edgar Canisius – “Rubber Collecting in the Congo”  
(Collins p. 272)
- *Paradise*

#### **M: 10/17 – The Rubber Terror**

HW:

- *Paradise*

#### **W: 10/19 – Paradise**

HW:

- *Paradise Paper*
- Thompson – “Southern Africa to 1795” (Course Den)
- Mbenwana – “On God and Ancestors” (Course Den)
- Fuze – “The Black People and Whence They Came”  
(Course Den)

### Unit 3: Southern Africa

#### **M: 10/24 – Nguni Kingdoms**

**\*\* Paradise Paper Due\*\***

HW:

- Thompson – “Southern Africa to 1795”
- Van Riebeeck & Wagenaar – “Of the Native Tribes of South Africa” (Collins p. 96)
- Sparrman – “The Boers” (Collins p. 140)
- Pringle – “Boer Meets Bantu” (Collins p. 183)

#### **W: 10/26 – Dutch Settlers**

HW:

- Reader – “Black & White Frontiers” (Course Den)
- Barrow – *The Subjugation of the Eastern Cape Khoekhoe*  
(Course Den)
- Begin Reading *Mhudi*

#### **M: 10/31 – The English**

HW:

- Thompson – “Southern Africa, 1795 – 1870” (Course Den)
- Flynn – “Shaka” (Collins p. 202)

- Moffat – “Mzilikazi” (Collins p. 224)
- *Mhudi*

**W: 11/2 – Shaka & Mzilikazi**

HW:

- Omer-Cooper – “Mfecane Aftermath” (Course Den)
- Julian Cobbing – “The Case against the Mfecane”  
(Course Den)
- Carolyn Hamilton – “The Case and Objects of Chaka”  
(Course Den)

**M: 11/7 – Mfecane?**

HW:

- Thompson – “Southern Africa, 1795 – 1850” (Course Den)
- Steenkamp – “The Great Trek” (Collins p. 216)
- Retief – “Manifesto” (Course Den)
- Owen – “Dingaan’s Killing of Piet Retief” (Course Den)
- *Mhudi*

**W: 11/9 – Great Treks**

HW:

- *Mhudi*

**M: 11/14 – Mhudi**

- Thompson – “Southern Africa, 1795-1850” (Course Den)

- “Statement of the Prophetess Nonkosi” (Course Den)
- Cetshwayo – “The Coming of the Anglo-Zulu War”  
(Course Den)

**W: 11/16 – Xhosa Cattle Killing & Anglo-Zulu War**

HW:

- Curtin – “The Anglo-Boer War & Its Aftermath”  
(Course Den)
- F.W. Reitz – “A Century of Wrong” (Course Den)
- D. Reitz – “A Boer Commando” (Course Den)
- Hobhouse – “Concentration Camps” (Course Den)
- Molema – “Africans in the South African War”  
(Course Den)

**November 21-25: Thanksgiving Break**

**M: 11/28 – South African War**

**W: 11/30 – Exam 2**