

# Africa through the Era of the Slave Trade

HIST 3318  
MW 11:00 – 12:15  
Pafford 107

## Instructor:

Dr. McCullers

[mmccullea@westga.edu](mailto:mmccullea@westga.edu)

TLC 3225

Office Hours MW 12:45-2:30

## Course Overview & Objectives:

This class examines the history of Sub-Saharan Africa from earliest times through the conclusions of the Trans-Atlantic and Indian Ocean Slave Trades in the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The course explores trade, state formation, and notions of personhood, belonging, and unfreedom related to coerced labor within Africa and in relation to other areas of the world.

Students who complete this course should:

- Demonstrate a clear understanding of pre-colonial African societies
- Demonstrate familiarity with the complexities of conditions of unfreedom variously known as “slavery”
- Analyze primary sources related to Africa during this period
- Craft an historical argument about slavery and slave trades in Africa based on primary source evidence
- Write clearly and persuasively in standard English

## Required Texts:

- Course Pack – available at the campus book store
- Randall Sparks, *Two Princes of Calabar: An Eighteenth Century Atlantic Odyssey* (Harvard UP, 2004).
- Alastair Hazell, *The Last Slave Market: Dr. John Kirk and the Struggle to End the East African Slave Trade* (Little, Brown, & Co., 2011).

## Grading & Assignments:

- Attendance – 5%
- Participation – 15%
- Reaction Papers – 20% (10% each)
- Primary Source Paper – 20%
- Exams – 40% (20% each)

**Regular and on-time attendance** is required in class. More than two absences will reduce your attendance grade by 10%. You will lose a further 5% for each absence. For example, a third absence will drop your attendance grade to a 90. A fourth absence will drop it to an 85.

**Participation** is not the same thing as attendance. Sitting in class asleep, on your phone, doing work for another class, etc. do not count as participation. Participation means coming to class having done the reading, paying attention, and participating meaningfully in discussion.

There will be **two reaction papers** due over the course of the semester. These are **2-page papers** in response to the two books we will read. These papers should be **your response to the main arguments** and perspectives of the book:

- What do you agree with and why?
- What do you disagree with and why?
- What did the author do well or poorly?
- What questions did the book raise for you?
- These papers should be critical in nature and should meaningfully engage with the text

Reaction papers **should NOT be summaries** of the book or statements of whether you liked it or not.

Each reaction paper is worth 10% of your total grade. Reaction papers are due on the following dates:

- *Two Princes of Calabar* – Wednesday, February 27
- *The Last Slave Market* – Wednesday, April 24

The main assignment for the class is a **5-page primary source paper**. This paper asks you to use the primary sources provided in the course to make your own argument about one of the following topics:

- Trade and State-formation
- Religion (Indigenous beliefs, Islam, and/or Christianity)
- Power and Hierarchy
- Definitions of slavery
- Personhood, belonging, and freedom
- Gender and Generation

You can define these topics how you like, but your paper must fit into one of these categories. Papers may focus on a specific region or they may be comparative. Papers must demonstrate continuity and change over time.

The objective of this assignment is for you to draw your own conclusions based on the primary source evidence provided to you in this class. You do not need secondary sources. If you have other primary sources you would like to incorporate, please bring them to me first. **THIS IS NOT A RESEARCH PAPER. DO NOT DO OUTSIDE RESEARCH.**

Papers are due at the time of the scheduled final exam: **Monday, May 6 at 11:00 am**

There will be **two in-class exams**. Exams are not cumulative. You will need a blue book for each exam. Exams are **Monday, March 4** and **Monday, April 29**

#### Complete List of Due Dates:

- **Wednesday 2/27** – Reaction Paper 1 (Due in class & drop box by 10:45am)
- **Monday 3/4** – Exam 1
- **Wednesday 4/24** – Reaction Paper 2 (Due in class & drop box by 10:45am)
- **Monday 4/29** – Exam 2
- **Monday 5/6** – Primary Source Paper (Due in drop box by 11 am)

## Policies:

- **Missed Work** - You are responsible for all missed work. I do not give out notes.
- **Technology** - Do not use your phone in class and only use your computer to take notes. If your use of technology is disruptive, you will be asked to put it away and/or leave the classroom. Inappropriate use of technology will negatively impact your participation grade.
- **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 always in force. 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 arrange 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.
- **Late Assignments** - I do not accept late work without a written excuse.
- **University Policies** - Please see the following link for a complete listing of University policies - <http://www.westga.edu/UWGSyllabusPolicies/>

## Schedule:

### Unit 1 – Early Empires & Islam

Monday 1/7 – Intro to Class & Early African History

- Homework: Harms ch. 1

Wednesday 1/9 – Early African & Human History; Intro to food domestication

- Homework: Harms ch. 2

Monday 1/14 – Food Domestication & State Formation

- Homework:
  - Harms Ch. 3
  - Francisco Alvarez, “The Land of Prester John”

Wednesday 1/16 – Christianity & Islam in Ancient Africa

- Homework:
  - Harms Ch. 4.
  - Ibn Battuta, “Mali, 1352”

Monday 1/21 – MLK

Wednesday 1/23 – Ancient West African Empires part 1

- Homework:
  - Antonius Malfante, “Tawat and the Western Sudan Trade, 1447;”
  - Leo Africanus: The Western Sudan in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century;
  - Al-Sadi, “Songhay and the Moroccan Invasion, 1591,”

## Monday 1/28 – Ancient West African Empires part 2

- Homework:
  - Harms, "Africa in the Age of Global War Capitalism;"
  - Harms Ch. 5;
  - De Azuara, the Discovery of Guinea, 1435

## Unit 2 – Slave States in West Africa

### Wednesday 1/30 – The Rise of the Atlantic World in West Africa

- Homework:
  - Rodney, "African Slavery on the Upper Guinea Coast;"
  - Fage, "Slavery in West African History;"
  - Lovejoy, "Transformations in Slavery;"
  - Miers & Kopytoff, "Slavery in Africa"

### Monday 2/4 – Defining & Debating Slavery

- Homework:
  - Harms Ch. 6;
  - John Barbot, "Benin, 1680;"

### Wednesday 2/6 – African Slaving Empires part 1

- Homework:
  - Dalziel, "Dahomey & Its Neighbors;"
  - Bay. Excerpts from Wives of the Leopard

## Monday 2/11 – African Slaving Empires pt. 2

- Homework:
  - Harms Ch. 6;
  - Law, "Monetary Values,"
  - Mungo Park, The Niger at Segu,
  - Caillie, "The Trans Saharan Caravan"

## Wednesday 2/13 – Commercial Networks & the Slave Trade

- Homework:
  - *Two Princes of Calabar* -Prologue & Ch. 1,
  - Captain Hugh Crow, Bonny 1800

## Monday 2/18 *Two Princes of Calabar* – Part 1

- Homework:
  - *Two Princes of Calabar* - Ch. 2

## Wednesday 2/20 – Slave Trade & African Society

- Homework:
  - *Two Princes of Calabar* - Ch. 3;
  - Snelgrave, "The Slaves Mutiny"

## Monday 2/25 – Middle Passage

- Homework:
  - *Two Princes of Calabar* - Chs. 4-6;
  - Honestus – "A Defense of the Slave Trade"

## Wednesday 2/27 – Abolitionism

- Homework: Study for Exam

## Unit 3 - Slaving Empires in Central, East, & southern Africa

### Monday 3/4 - Exam 1

- Homework:
  - Harms, "The Kongo Kingdom,"
  - Rui de Aguiar, "King Affonso I,"
  - Thornton, "Salve Antoniana"
  - Alvare II & Alvare III, "Relations between Kongo & the Papacy,"

### Wednesday 3/6 - Kongo & Ndongo

- Homework:
  - Harms - Angola,
  - Pigafetta & Lopez, "Paulo Diaz de Novais in Angola,"
  - Battell, "The Jaga,"
  - Cavazzi, "Queen Ana Nzinga"

### Monday 3/11 - The Slave Trade in West Central Africa

- Homework:
  - Harms, "The East African Coast" & "War Capitalism in the Indian Ocean World,"
  - Ibn Battuta, "The East African Coast, 1331,"
  - Barbosa, "The East African Coast at the Beginning of the 16<sup>th</sup> Century"

### Wednesday 3/13 - The East African Coast & Rise of the Swahili

- Homework:
  - Harms, "The Zambezi Valley & Zimbabwe Plateau,"
  - de Faria e Souza, "The Kingdom of the Monomotapa,"
  - Bocarro, "From Tete to Kilwa,"



Monday 3/18 – Spring Break

Wednesday 3/20 – Spring Break

Monday 3/25 – The Swahili Part 2 & Mozambique Coast

- Homework:
  - Harms, "The Lunda Empire," & "The Middle Congo River,"
  - Dos Santos, "The Wazimba,"
  - Father Pinto, "The Kingdom of the Kazembe,"
  - Baptista, "The Kazembe,"
  - Gamito, "The Maravi,"

Wednesday 3/27 -The Zambezi Valley & Congo Basin

- Homework:
  - Fynn, "Shaka, 1830,"
  - Moffat, "Mzilikazi, 1840"
  - Harms, "The Dutch at the Cape of Good Hope" & "The Great Trek"

Monday 4/1 The Nguni & Mfecane

- Homework:
  - Harms Ch. 8 – Economic & Political Upheavals in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century,
  - *The Last Slave Market* - Introduction & Prologue

#### Unit 4- Abolition

Wednesday 4/3 – Political Economy of Abolition

- Homework:
  - Buxton, "The Principles of Abolition,"
  - Livingstone, "The Prazeros,"
  - *The Last Slave Market* - Chs. 1 & 2

## Monday 4/8 – The Abolitionist Cause

- Homework:
  - Du Chaillu – “Trade in Gabon,”
  - *The Last Slave Market* - Chs. 3 & 4

## Wednesday 4/10 – The Ivory Trade & The Slave Trade

- Homework:
  - Canot – Slaving in Liberia,
  - *The Last Slave Market* - Chs. 5 & 6

## Monday 4/15 – Illegal Slaving & Indian Ocean Plantation Slavery

- Homework:
  - Wright – Strategies of Slaves & Women,
  - *The Last Slave Market* - Chs. 7 & 8

## Wednesday 4/17 – Historical Actors of the Slave Trade

- Homework:
  - *The Last Slave Market* - Chs. 9-12

## Monday 4/22 – Beggar on Horseback

- Homework:
  - *The Last Slave Market* - Chs. 13- Epilogue

## Wednesday 4/24 – Conclusions?

## Monday 4/29 – Exam 2

## Monday 5/6 – Primary Source Paper Due

