

# HIST-1700: HISTORY OF AFRICA

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## Cuyahoga Community College

**Viewing: HIST-1700 : History of Africa**

**Board of Trustees:**

January 2022

**Academic Term:**

Fall 2022

**Subject Code**

HIST - History

**Course Number:**

1700

**Title:**

History of Africa

**Catalog Description:**

This introductory survey of African history broadens students knowledge of African history, politics, peoples, culture, geography, religions, and kingdoms from the dawn of civilization through the middle of the Eighteenth century. Focus is on African historical geography and regional development, Ancient kingdoms, Africa's position within the religious revolutions of the Middle Ages, African in the golden age of war capitalism, and the height of the trans Atlantic slave trade, thus leaving Africa primed for colonial settlement.

**Credit Hour(s):**

3

**Lecture Hour(s):**

3

**Lab Hour(s):**

0

**Other Hour(s):**

0

## Requisites

**Prerequisite and Corequisite**

None.

## Outcomes

**Course Outcome(s):**

Critically examine and evaluate African history and its major trends through a refined and nuanced perspective. Demonstrate an awareness of the historical processes of cause and effect.

**Essential Learning Outcome Mapping:**

Critical/Creative Thinking: Analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information in order to consider problems/ideas and transform them in innovative or imaginative ways.

**Objective(s):**

1. Demonstrate through debates, discussion, and essays a nuanced and thoughtful view of the African people, the African continent, and African history.
2. Identify and discuss the major changes and transformations in how Africans lived during the ancient period, the middle ages, and during the period from the 15th century to the 1800's.
3. Assess through debates, discussion, and essays the influence of geography on trade, religion, and political structures in Africa.
4. Describe the impact of European and Islamic peoples on traditional cultures.
5. Analyze and assess the affects of the trans Atlantic slave trade on Africa, the New World plantation societies, and the European slave trading economies.

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**Course Outcome(s):**

Identify the various diverse aspects of studying African history, whether it be culture, religion, geography, race, gender, or politics. Illustrate an understanding for other's viewpoints.

**Essential Learning Outcome Mapping:**

Cultural Sensitivity: Demonstrate sensitivity to the beliefs, views, values, and practices of cultures within and beyond the United States.

**Objective(s):**

1. Exhibit an understanding of political, economic, cultural, physical, and social differences among the various African nations.
2. Demonstrate through debates, discussion, and essays a realization of the fact that Africa is not a country, but a continent with millions of people, with variegated cultures, and a long, rich, complex, and complicated history.
3. Recognize the role of social diversity in Africans' experiences shaping their own attitudes and values regarding appreciation, tolerance, and equality of others.
4. Describe and evaluate the roles of African women within various contexts.
5. Identify and discuss how Africans have contributed to human civilization especially in the areas of human origin, agriculture, trade, religion, and other aspects of international human experience.
6. Articulate the complexities of historical factors and structures such as ethnocentrism, slavery, and colonialism on a global scale.

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**Course Outcome(s):**

Demonstrate the ability to construct an integrated perspective on history. Perspective must be informed by credible primary and secondary sources.

**Essential Learning Outcome Mapping:**

Information Literacy: Acquire, evaluate, and use information from credible sources in order to meet information needs for a specific research purpose.

**Objective(s):**

1. Research and analyze a topic of interest in African history using diverse and credible sources.
2. Demonstrate an awareness of the historiography on the subject, with appropriate citations.
3. Interpret and analyze a primary source.
4. Compare and contrast, at minimum, two peer reviewed articles.
5. Identify and use only credentialed websites for research.
6. Final presentation must include an annotated bibliography.

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**Methods of Evaluation:**

1. Homework
2. Quizzes
3. Exams
4. Discussion Boards
5. Group projects
6. Essay reviews
7. Book reviews
8. Research paper
9. Journal on issues related to contemporary Africa as companion project
10. Map assignments

**Course Content Outline:**

1. Introduction to course, overview of Africa in historical perspective, and historical research methods
2. African Environments
  - a. Physical features of the continent
  - b. Challenges of the African environment
  - c. The African environment in global perspective
3. Africa and Human Origins
  - a. Early Hominins
  - b. The Multiregional model vs. the Out of Africa model
  - c. Humans

- d. The origins of "Race" and Social Darwinism
- e. Human Genome Project
- 4. Food Revolutions, Animal Domestication, and Metallurgy
  - a. The agricultural revolution
  - b. Foraging societies vs. farming societies
  - c. Herding on the African continent
  - d. The spread of ironworking
- 5. Early Frontier Communities
  - a. Political and religious culture in early African history
  - b. Early traditions, family, aesthetic expressions
  - c. Age Grades, gender roles, and ritual societies
  - d. Bantu expansion
  - e. African language families
- 6. Northeast Africa in Ancient times
  - a. Ancient Egypt
  - b. Building of the Pyramids
  - c. Nubia
  - d. Carthage and Rome in early Northern Africa
- 7. Religious Revolutions in the Mediterranean World
  - a. The spread of Christianity in Africa
    - i. Early Christianity in Egypt
    - ii. Early Christianity in the Maghreb
    - iii. Augustine of Hippo
  - b. The Rise and Expansion of Islam
    - i. Establishing the Islamic Caliphate
    - ii. Sectarian divisions emerge
    - iii. The Arab conquest of North Africa
  - c. The Rise of Berber Empires
    - i. The Fatimids
    - ii. The Almoravid empire
    - iii. The Almohad empire
- 8. The West African Sahel and Ancient Kingdoms
  - a. Empires, trade, and Islam in West Africa
  - b. The Ghana Empire
  - c. The Mali Empire
  - d. The Songhai Empire
  - e. Timbuktu
- 9. East Africa and the Indian Ocean
  - 1. The Swahili Coast
  - 2. The Zambezi Vally
  - 3. The Dutch at the Cape of Good Hope
  - 4. Zanzibar
  - 5. Madagascar
  - 6. The Omani Empire in East Africa
- 10. Slavery and the Creation of the Atlantic World
  - 1. Slavery in the Mediterranean and Europe
  - 2. Slavery in Africa prior to the trans Atlantic slave trade
  - 3. Origins of the trans Atlantic slave trade
  - 4. The Middle Passage
  - 5. The Atlantic Plantation Complex
  - 6. The Human Cost
    - a. Senegambia
    - b. The Gold Coast
    - c. The Kongo Kingdom
    - d. Angola
  - 7. The Atlantic system and the Industrial Revolution
  - 8. The African Diaspora
- 11. Eastern Africa in the early Nineteenth Century

1. Tippu Tip and the ivory trade
2. Muhammed Ali's modernization of Egypt
3. Ethiopia and the reform kings
12. Economic and Political Upheavals in the Nineteenth Century
  1. The search for "legitimate trade"
  2. The cash crop revolution in Western Africa
  3. The search for ivory in the inland regions
  4. Religious revolutions in the Western Sahel
    - a. The Sokoto Caliphate
    - b. The Yoruba Wars
    - c. The Mahdist Jihad
13. Political and Military Revolutions in Southern Africa
  1. Moshoshoe
  2. Shaka and the Zulu kingdom
  3. The Ngoni and Wars of displacement
  4. The "Voortrekkers"
  5. Mzilikazi's Ndebele Kingdom
  6. British expansion and founding of the Boer Republics.
14. Laying the foundation for Colonization
  1. European exploration into the African interior
  2. The Berlin Conference

## Resources

Harms, Robert. *Africa in Global History*. New York: Norton, 2018.

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Gilbert, Erik and Reynolds, Jonathon T. *Africa in World History*. Third Edition. Upper Saddle River: Pearson, 2012.

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Shillington, Kevin. *History of Africa*. Fourth Edition. London: MacMillan International, 2018.

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Conrad, David C. *Sunjata: A New Prose Version*. Indianapolis: Hackett, 2016.

---

Collins, Robert O. and Lyob, Ruth Eds. *Problems in African History: The Precolonial Centuries*. Fourth Edition. Princeton, Markus Wiener, 2013.

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Heywood, Linda. *Njinga of Angola: Africa's Warrior Queen*. Cambridge: Harvard Press, 2017.

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Curtin, Philip, . *Cross-Cultural Trade in World History*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1984.

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Davidson, Basil. *Africa in History*. Phoenix, 1992.

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July, Robert W. *A History of the African People*. Waveland Press, 1992.

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Khapoya, Vincent, ed. *The African Experience*. Fourth Edition. New York: Routledge, 2016.

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Oliver, Roland. *The African Experience: From Olduvai Gorge to the 21st Century*. Second Edition. New York: Routledge, 2018.

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Thornton, John. *Africa and Africans in the Making of the Atlantic World, 1400-1680*. Second Edition. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1998.

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Reader, John. *Africa: A Biography of a Continent*. NY: Knopf, 1998.

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July, Robert. *A History of the African People*. Fifth Edition. Long Grove: Waveland, 1988.

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Hannah, Nelly. *Ottoman Egypt and the Emergence of the Modern World, 1500 - 1800*. New York: American University in Cairo Press, 2014.

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Meredith, Martin. *Diamonds, Gold, and War: The Making of South Africa*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2007.

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Lovejoy, Paul. *Jihad in West Africa during the Age of Revolution*. Athens: Ohio University Press, 2016.

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Sheriff, Abdul. *Slaves, Spices, and Ivory in Zanzibar: Integration of an East African Commercial Empire into the World Economy, 1770 - 1873*. Athens: Ohio University Press, 1987.

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Palmer, Douglas. *Origins: Human Evolution Revealed*. London: Mitchell Beazley, 2010.

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Wilkinson, Toby. *The Rise and Fall of Ancient Egypt*. London: Bloomsbury, 2010.

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Davis, David Brion. *Inhuman Bondage: The Rise and Fall of Slavery in the New World*. New York: Oxford, 2006.

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Asante, Molefi Kete. *The History of Africa: The Quest for Eternl Harmony*. Third Edition. New York: Routledge, 2019.

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Gomez, Michael. *Reversing Sail: A History of the African Diaspora*. Second Edition. London: Cambridge University Press, 2019.

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Benjamin, Thomas. *The Atlantic World: Europeans, Africans, Indians and their Shared History, 1400–1900*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2009.

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Northrup, David. *Africa's Discovery of Europe*. Third Edition. London: Oxford University Press, 2013.

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Clancy-Smith, Julia. *North Africa, Islam and the Mediterranean World: From the Almoravides to the Algerian War*. New York: Routledge, 2001 .

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Lindsay, Lisa. *Captives as Commodities: The Transatlantic Slave Trade*. New York: Pearson, 2007.

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Eltis, David and Richardson, David. *Atlas Of The Transatlantic Slave Trade*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2015.

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Stilwell, Sean. *Slavery and Slaving in African History*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2014.

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Howard, Douglas A. *A History of the Ottoman Empire*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2017.

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Marcus, Harold G. *A History of Ethiopia: Updated Edition*. Berekley: Univ. of California Press, 2002.

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### Resources Other

1. <https://www.slavevoyages.org/>
2. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world/africa>
3. <https://www.youtube.com/c/BBCAfrica>
4. [https://blog.feedspot.com/african\\_history\\_podcasts/](https://blog.feedspot.com/african_history_podcasts/)

### Instructional Services

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