

HIST 3BB3
AFRICA AND THE AFRICAN DISPORA

Department of History
McMaster University
Fall 2007



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| Instructor: Dr. B. Ibhawoh | Office: CNH 604. Ex.24153 / TSH 721. Ex.24729 |
| Class Time: W12.30 / F3.30 | Office Hours: W.11.30-12.20 / F2.20-3.20 |
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Course Overview

This course traces the voluntary and involuntary movements of people of African ancestry across their continental homeland, their dispersion around the world to Europe, the Middle East, Asia and the Americas and their subsequent return to Africa. The course also explores the political and socio-cultural experiences of diasporic communities. We open with an examination of the concept of Diaspora and its meaning in various cultural and historical contexts. The course then proceeds both chronologically and thematically to examine Ancient African civilizations through a discussion of early trade contacts; slavery in Europe, Africa and the Western Hemisphere; resistance, abolitionist movements and emancipation; colonial encounters and independence. The course extends to examine the development of modern, organized movements within Africa and diasporic communities.

The objective of the course is to explore the universality of persons of African descent across time and space, and to understand the role of African peoples within a global historical and geographic context. The course is also intended to provide students with an understanding of African historiography and the ability to conduct independent research in African history. Although this course focuses on Africa, our approach will be comparative and cross-cultural drawing on the histories of other racial and ethnic diasporas. This course is based upon a combination of lectures, tutorial readings and discussions directed by students on a rotating basis. It will also draw on primary and secondary historical sources, literary works and short film clips about Africa.

Required Texts

- HIST 3BB3 Courseware
- Mario Azevedo ed. Africana Studies: A Survey of Africa and the African Diaspora.
- Afua Cooper, The Hanging of Angelique

Recommended Texts

- Joseph E. Harris, Global Dimensions of the African Diaspora
- Isidore Okpewho, Carole Boyce Davies, Ali A. Mazrui, The African Diaspora: African Origins and New World Identities
- Joseph E. Harris, The African Diaspora

Web Resources

- Torture and the Truth: Angélique and the Burning of Montreal
<http://www.canadianmysteries.ca/sites/angelique/indexen.html>

Course Requirements

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| Tutorial | 20% - (Participation 10/Presentation 10) |
| Midterm Exam | 20% - October 19 |
| Term Paper | 30% - Due November 2 |
| Final Exam | 30% - TBA |

Course Policies

WebCT

This course will use WebCT (Web Course Tools) to make announcements, post lecture outlines and tutorial comments, and facilitate the tracking of student grades. You must be officially enrolled in the course in order to access this website. For further instructions, see the WebCT login page at <http://www.ltrc.mcmaster.ca/webct/index.shtml>

Tutorial attendance and participation

Students are expected to do all assigned reading as examination will cover all course materials. Tutorials will be based on group discussions on WebCT which will be presented in class. Each group tutorial group discussions offer a forum to examine topics and issues in greater detail than is possible during lectures. Groups are expected to analyze the readings and pose questions for the class to discuss. For each reading, you should determine the author's argument and the evidence presented to support that argument. Groups are however encouraged to go beyond the class readings. Each group must post their final presentation and related questions (not more than 3 pages) on WebCT by **7pm on the Thursday** before their class presentation. Tutorial participation is a required part of the course and participation in both WebCT and class discussions will be worth 20% of your final mark. Marks will be given for attendance at tutorials, evidence of preparation and understanding of the material, clarity of thought and expression, frequency and quality of discussion/questions. It is strongly recommended that you come to class with written notes on the assigned readings.

Term Papers:

Research papers should be on a topic on any aspect of this course and topics must be approved by the instructor. The study questions at the end of each chapter in Mario Azevedo ed. Africana Studies should guide your selection of essay topics. Papers should have a central thesis and should be based on scholarly sources indicated in the references and bibliography. Endeavour to use current sources and both primary and secondary sources where possible. Papers should be no more than 13 pages, typed originals in 12-point font, double-spaced. The student should keep a back up electronic and paper copy to guard against loss or computer malfunction. Assignments are to be handed to the instructor in class. Assignments by fax or e-mail are not acceptable. Assignments submitted after the due date will be reduced by 5 percent per day (including weekends) unless an extension has been granted PRIOR to the due date. For a basic guide on how to write scholarly papers in history, I strongly recommend Rampolla, A Pocket Guide to Writing History. Papers are due on **November 2**

Mid Term Test and Final Exam

Students will take a midterm test during the term and a final two hour exam at the end of the term. These exams will consist of essay questions, short answer questions and perhaps a map quiz. The final exam questions will require students to think analytically about the course material and to integrate information from readings, lectures and tutorial discussions. Midterm exam, **Oct. 17 - 20%**; Final Exam – **TBA - 30%** of your final grade.

Academic Integrity

Statement of Academic Integrity and Dishonesty:

McMaster University and the Department of History state unequivocally that it demands scholarly integrity from all its members. Academic dishonesty, in whatever form, is ultimately destructive of the values of higher learning; furthermore, it is unfair and discouraging to those students who pursue their studies honestly. Academic dishonesty consists of misrepresenting by deception or by other fraudulent means and can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: "Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty"), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university. It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various

kinds of academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, specifically Appendix 3, located at: <http://www.mcmaster.ca/univsec/policy/AcademicIntegrity.pdf>

Course Schedule and Tutorial Readings

1. September 12-14

Introduction - Africa and its Diaspora in History

- Eric Gilbert and Jonathan Reynolds, "Historical Notions of Africa," [Africa in World History: From Prehistory to the Present](#). (This reading is central to our historiographical discussion)
- R. Hunt Davis, "Africa and the Genesis of Humankind," in [Africana Studies](#), Chap. 3.

2. September 19-21

The Diaspora as Concept and Method

- George Shepparson "Diaspora: Concept and Context" in Joseph Harris, [Global Dimensions of the African Diaspora](#).
- Judith Byfield, "Introduction: Rethinking the African Diaspora," [African Studies Review](#).
- Kristin Mann, "Shifting Paradigms in the Study of the African Diaspora and of Atlantic History and Culture," in [Rethinking the African Diaspora](#).

3. September 26-28

Contact and Dispersal before the 15th Century

- Eric Gilbert and Jonathan Reynolds, "Africa and the Early Christian World" in [Africa in World History: From Prehistory to the Present](#).
- Constance Hilliard, "Hellenized Egypt and Nubia," [Intellectual Traditions of Pre-Colonial Africa](#).
- Constance Hilliard, "Byzantine and Romanized Carthage-Numidia," [Intellectual Traditions of Pre-Colonial Africa](#).
- Kathy Carter, "Black Ancestors," [Ancestors](#).
- *Film Clip: Different But Equal (Traces the early history of Africa)*

4. October 3-5

Africans in the Mediterranean World

- Richard Pankhurst, "The Ethiopian Diaspora in India..." in [The African Diaspora in the Indian Ocean](#).
- Joseph Harris, "Africans in Asian History" [Global Dimensions of the African Diaspora](#),

5. October 10-12

The Great Dispersal: The Atlantic Slave Trade

- Joseph Inikori, "Slavery in Africa and the Atlantic Slave Trade" in [The African Diaspora](#).
- M. Alpha Bah, "Legitimate Trade, Diplomacy and the Slave Trade", in [Africana Studies](#) Chap. 4

Primary Document

- Basil Davidson, Affonso of Congo, "Evils of the Slave Trade" in [The African Past](#).
- "Olaudah Equiano 1745-97), in [Pan African History](#).
- Olaudah Equiano, (Excerpts from) [The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano or Gustavus Vassa the African](#).
- *Film Clip: The Bible and the Gun (examines the slave trade in Africa).*

6. October 17-19 Mid Term Exam: October 19

Diasporic Africans and Slavery

- Alex Haley, "Black History: Oral History and Genealogy" in [The Oral History Reader](#).
- Raymond Gavins, "Diaspora Africans and Slavery" in [Africana Studies](#), Chapter 5
- Afua Cooper, [The Hanging of Angelique](#)

- “Slavery in Canada and the United States” (Interview with Prof. Harvey Whitfield, Vermont Public Radio Pod cast) http://www.vpr.net/xml/podcasts/vt_edition/2007/vted_060607.mp3

7. October 24-26

European Exploration and Conquest of Africa

- Mario Azevedo, “European Exploration and Conquest of Africa” in Africana Studies Chap. 6.
- Kings Phiri, “Afro-American Influence in Colonial Malawi” in Global Dimensions of the African Diaspora.

8. October 31- Nov. 2 Term paper Due Nov. 2

The Quest for Freedom and Equality/ The Return Movements

- Marsha Jean Darling, “Civil War to Civil Rights: The Quest for Freedom and Equality” in Africana Studies Chapter 7
- Akintola Wyse, “The Sierra Leone Krios” in Global Dimensions of the African Diaspora.

Primary Documents

- Harriet Hernandez, a South Carolina Woman Testifies Against the Ku klux klan, 1871 in Major Problems in African American History.
- Constance Hilliard, “James C. Minor of Liberia: Letters,” Intellectual Traditions of Pre-Colonial Africa.

9. November 7-9

African and Diasporic Emancipation Movements

- Julius E. Nyang’oro, “Africa’s Road to Independence,” in Africana Studies Chapter 9
- Michael Williams, The Pan African Movement, in Africana Studies Chapter 10.
- “Marcus Garvey 1887-1940” in Pan African History.
- *Film Clip – The Rise of Nationalism*

10. November 14-16

African Culture in the Diaspora: Music and Religion

- Eddie S. Meadows, “African-American Music,” in Africana Studies, Chap. 15.
- Gordon Buffonge, “Freedom and Resistance in the work of Bob Marley” in Africa and the African Diaspora.
- Mario Azevedo and Gregory Davis, “Religion in the Diaspora” Africana Studies, Chap. 23

11. November 21-23

Women and Gender

- Mario Azevedo, “The African-American Family” Africana Studies Chapter 21
- Marsha Jean Darling, “Lifting as we Rise: Black Women in America” Africana Studies Chap. 26.

12. November 28-30

Contemporary African and Diasporic Worlds / Course Review

- Alphine W. Jefferson, “Contemporary Diaspora and the Future” Africana Studies Chap. 12
- Rhoda E. Howard-Hassmann, “Getting to Reparations: Japanese Americans and African Americans, Social Forces.

