

West Virginia University, Morgantown
West African History After 1885

Course No: History 434

Department: History

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Course Description

This course is a survey of the history of West Africa from the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade to the current period. Some of the major historical events covered are the scramble for Africa and the imposition of colonial rule; the rise and triumph of African nationalism; and the post independence period. Some of the themes that this course will address are colonial economic, social and administrative systems; the decolonization movement; Civil Wars, disease, structural adjustment programs and the democratic struggles in the early twenty first century.

Students enrolled in this online course are required to do the following:

1. Complete assigned readings each week.
2. Complete an assigned quiz each week.
3. Post comments in the discussion thread each week.
4. Submit a book report and a term paper.
5. Complete a final exam.

The due dates for all assignments are strict. No extensions or make-ups will be granted.

Topics to be studied

Monday, January 14:

Introduction (No Quiz, No Assigned Readings.)

Tuesday, January 22:

The Abolition of Slavery in West Africa

Required Reading: Book Chapter – Reform in West Africa: The Abolition of the Slave Trade. Available on Ecampus.

Class discussion begins 8AM, Tuesday and ends 8PM Friday

Quiz: Tuesday January 22, 8AM to Tuesday January 22, 8PM

Monday, January 28:

Scramble and Partition of Africa

Required Reading: Article – The European Partition of Africa: Origins and Dynamics. Available on E-Campus.

Class discussion begins 8AM, Monday and ends 8PM Thursday

Quiz: Monday, January 28, 8AM to Monday, January 28, 8PM

Monday, February 4:

West African Response to Colonial Rule

Required Reading: Book Chapter: Collaboration or Resistance to Colonial Rule. Available on Ecampus.

Class discussion begins 8AM, Monday and ends 8PM Thursday

Quiz: No Quiz Assigned for today.

Monday, February 11:

British Colonial Administrative System

Required Reading: Book Chapter: Colonial Rule. Available on E-Campus.

Class discussion begins 8AM, Monday and ends 8PM Thursday

- Quiz: Monday February 11, 8AM to Monday February 11, 8PM
- Monday, February 18: French Colonial Administrative System
Required Reading: Francophone Sub-Saharan Africa 1880-1995, pp. 57-88
Class discussion begins 8AM, Monday and ends 8PM Thursday
Quiz: Monday February 18, 8AM to Monday February 18, 8PM
- Monday, February 25: Government and Politics in Francophone West Africa
Required Reading: Francophone Sub-Saharan Africa 1880-1995, pp. 133-160
Class discussion begins 8AM, Monday and ends 8PM Thursday
Quiz: Monday February 25, 8AM to Monday February 25, 8PM
- Monday, March 4: Decolonization in West Africa
Required Reading: Ends of Empire: Decolonization in Africa. Students should identify a scholarly article on decolonization, read it and post on the discussion forum what he or she has learnt from the article.
Class discussion begins 8AM, Monday and ends 8PM Thursday
Quiz: No Quiz
- Monday, March 11: Conflicts and Wars in Contemporary West Africa
Required Reading: Themes in West Africa's History, pp. 265-285
Class discussion begins 8AM, Monday and ends 8PM Thursday
Quiz: Monday March 11, 8AM to Monday March 11, 8PM
- Monday, March 18: **No class discussion, No Quiz. Read Chinua Achebe's "Things Fall Apart" and write a 3 Page book report. Report is due this Friday, March 22 by 5PM.**
- Monday, March 25: **Spring Break. No Class discussion, No Quiz, No assigned reading.**
- Monday, April 1: Democracy and Dependence in Francophone West Africa
Required Reading: Francophone Sub-Saharan Africa 1880-1995, pp. 180-210
Class discussion begins 8AM, Monday and ends 8PM Thursday
Quiz: Monday April 1, 8AM to Monday April 1, 8PM
- Monday, April 8: Disease in West African History
Required Reading: Themes in West Africa's History, pp. 186-207
Class discussion begins 8AM, Monday and ends 8PM Thursday
Quiz: Monday April 8, 8AM to Monday April 8, 8PM

- Monday, April 15: Structural Adjustment Programs
Required Reading: Themes in West Africa’s History, pp.227-264
Class discussion begins 8AM, Monday and ends 8PM Thursday
Quiz: Monday April 15, 8AM to Monday April 15, 8PM
- Monday, April 22: New Religious Movements in West Africa
Required Reading: Themes in West Africa’s History, pp. 286-312
Class discussion begins 8AM, Monday and ends 8PM Thursday
Quiz: Monday, December 3, 8AM to Monday, December 3, 8PM.
- Monday, April 29: Continuing Quest: Development in Africa
Required Reading: Book chapter: Development and Disappointment. Available on Ecampus.
Class discussion begins 8AM, Monday and ends 8PM Thursday
Quiz: No Quiz
- Wednesday, May 1: Term Paper Due
- Monday, May 6: **Final Exam (Available online from 8AM to 11PM)**

Special Projects to be Included in Course

- A. There is a three-page book report assigned for this course. This report is due on Friday, March 22, 2012 at 5PM. This will replace your class discussion for the week. The book to read and write a report on is Chinua Achebe’s “Things Fall Apart”. The font size for paper must be 12 pts with margins set at 1.00” for all sides. Font type must be Times New Roman. I can only read papers in Microsoft Word. Papers must be submitted on the due date. 1Point is subtracted for every day that the paper is late.
- B. Class Discussions: Students are required to do all assigned readings before the beginning of class. Class discussions constitute a significant portion of the class grade. Discussions are important for exchanging ideas. The discussion thread opens at 8AM on Monday and closes at 8PM on Thursday. Students cannot post to the thread after 8PM on Thursday. The discussion thread opens with lead questions. Students are required to join in the discussion by responding to the questions asked. Every student must post a one-page response to the discussion questions; and two responses of about half a page each to posts made by fellow students. The one page response should be between 200 and 300 words and the half page responses should be between 100 and 200 words. In all, each student is required to make a minimum of three posts each week. The initial post in response to the questions raised, and two other posts in response to other students. The three posts must be on three different days. Use complete sentences and correct grammar when writing your posts. No extensions or make-ups are allowed.
- C. Term Paper: Each student must complete a five-page term paper on one of the topics discussed in the class. The five pages do not include the bibliography and cover page. Graduate students taking the class must complete a ten-page term paper. Term paper is due on Wednesday, May 1, 2013 at 9PM. The font size for paper must be 12 pts with margins set at 1.00” for all sides. Font type must be Times New Roman. I can only read

papers in Microsoft Word. Papers must be submitted on the due date. 3 Points are subtracted for every day that the paper is late.

Methods of Student Evaluation

Class Attendance – 20 Points (Based on your contributions in the discussion thread. The more intelligent your posts, the better your grade.) Every student is required to participate in class discussions. If you must miss a class discussion, you must contact the instructor ahead of time and obtain permission. If it is an emergency such as a medical condition or the death of an immediate family member (i.e. spouse, sibling, parent, child), you must provide a verifiable written excuse. Our weekly class discussions are an opportunity for you to provide an analysis of the assigned reading, receive clarification from other students or the instructor and to learn from one another.

Class Quizzes – 20 Points (quizzes would be given at the beginning of every class session and are based on assigned readings. They are available on Ecampus from Monday at 8:00AM to Monday at 8:00PM). One exception is the week of MLK holiday when the quiz is on Tuesday rather than Monday. Quizzes test your ability to remember important dates, names, places and events. You have only 1 minute to answer each question. There are 10 quiz questions every week. The quiz is open-book and you are only allowed one attempt.

Book Report – 10 Points

Term Paper – 20 Points

Final Exam – 30 Points (Multiple choice questions, online and timed.)

Class Requirements

Access to a computer connected to the internet.

Microsoft Word & Microsoft Power Point

Ability to use WVU E-Campus.

Email Address

Required Books:

1. Emmanuel Kwaku Akyeampong (ed.), Themes in West Africa's History. Ohio University Press, 2006
2. Patrick Manning, Francophone Sub-Saharan Africa 1880-1995. Cambridge University Press, 1998.
3. Chinua Achebe, Things Fall Apart. Anchor, 1994.

Assessment of Outcomes

Student performance on examination and papers.

Class discussions and quizzes

Academic Honesty:

Work presented by students must be their own work. Plagiarism is absolutely forbidden. Students caught plagiarizing will receive a failing grade and I will also report them to the university.

