



Hunan University HIS 13: African Civilization and Culture

Professor: To be announced
Total contact hours: 54 hours
Credit: 4

Course Description

This course provides an understanding of the African experience throughout history with a general overview of centers of African Civilization from antiquity through contemporary times. The major centers covered include ancient Kemet (Egypt), Nubia, Axum, Ghana, Mali, Songhai, Kilwa, Sofola, Malinda, Monomotapa, etc. The course also provides introductory knowledge of the fundamental cultural commonalties that African peoples share in the mist of linguistic and other kinds of diversity. The course also examines the influence that African Civilization has exerted on other cultures as well as the impact of cross cultural contacts on the African experience.

Required Textbook

Africa: Volume 1: African History Before 1885 by Toyin Falola 20, 468 p, paper
ISBN-10:0-89089-768-9, ISBN-13: 978-089089-768-3

Africa: Volume 2: African Cultures and Societies Before 1885 by Toyin Falola 2000, 356p, paper
ISBN-10:0-89089-769-7, ISBN-13: 978-0-89089 -769-0

Grading

- Paper 1 10%
- Paper 2 30%
- Midterm 30%
- Final Exam 30%

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| A+ 96-100 | A 90-95 | A- 85-89 |
| B+ 82-84 | B 78-81 | B- 75-77 |
| C+ 71-74 | C 66-70 | C- 62-65 |
| D 60-61 | F < 60 | |



Course Schedule

The course has 24 class sessions in total. All sessions are 2 hours and 15 minutes in length.
Note: the course outline and required readings are subject to change.

Class 1:

Completion of classmate introduction discussion
Introduction and Overview

Class 2:

Introduction of Paper 1

Class 3:

Africa time periods

Class 4:

Ancient Civilization: Osei Tutu

Class 5:

Ancient Civilization: Imhotep

Class 6:

Paper 1 Workshop

Class 7:

Brief introduction of historians (Cheikh Anta Diop, John Henrik Clarke, W.E.B. Dubois, Basil Davidson, Toyin Falola)
(Paper 1 due)

Class 8:

Nile Valley Civilization

Class 9:

Nile Valley Civilization (Cont.)

Class 10:

Land of Burnt Faces

Class 11:

Land of Burnt Faces (Cont.)

Class 12:

Review for Midterm
Midterm Exam



Class 13:
Review of Midterm

Class 14:
Rift Valley

Class 15:
East Africa

Class 16:
Monomotapa

Class 17:
Atlantis

Class 18:
Sudanic

Class 19:
Sudanic (Cont.)

Class 20:
Central African Civilizations

Class 21:
Central African Civilizations (Cont.)

Class 22:
Civilization Paper Workshop

Class 23:
Final Review

Class 24:
Final Exam
(Paper 2 due)



Attending Policy

Regular and prompt attendance is required. Under ordinary circumstances, you may miss two times without penalty. Each absence over this number will lower your course grade by a third of a letter and missing more than five classes may lead to a failing grade in the course. Arriving late and/or leaving before the end of the class period are equivalent to absences.

Policy on “Late Withdrawals”

In accordance with university policy, appeals for late withdrawal will be approved ONLY in case of medical emergency and similar crises.

Academic Honesty

Hunan University expects all students to do their own work. Instructors will fail assignments that show evidence of plagiarism or other forms of cheating, and will also report the student's name to the University administration. A student reported to the University for cheating is placed on disciplinary probation; a student reported twice is suspended or expelled.

General Expectations:

Students are expected to:

- Attend all classes and be responsible for all materials covered in class and otherwise assigned;
- Complete the day's required reading and assignments before class;
- Review the previous day's notes before class and make notes about questions you have about the previous class or the day's reading;
- Participate in class discussions and complete required written work on time;
- Refrain from texting, phoning or engaging in computer activities unrelated to class during the class period;
- While class participation is welcome, even required, you are expected to refrain from private conversations during the class period.

Special Needs or Assistance

Please contact the Administrative Office immediately if you have a learning disability, a medical issue, or any other type of problem that prevents professors from seeing you have learned the course material. Our goal is to help you learn, not to penalize you for issues which mask your learning.