Anthropology 410, Fall 2010
AFRICAN ARCHAEOLOGY
Tuesday-Thursday, 12:00-1:50pm, Gerlinger 248

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Course Description
Modern Africa is home to an extraordinary diversity of peoples and cultures. In this class, we explore the foundations, development and fluorescence of African societies over the last 12,000 years. We will cover topics including the adoption of agricultural lifeways; the origins of village communities; Saharan and Indian Ocean trading networks; the unique political structures of African states and empires; the development of prehistoric democracies; and the impacts of the slave trade on African society.

Requirements: Your final grade for this course will be based on the following:
- Midterm Exam (30%)
- Final Exam (30%)
- Research Paper Outline and Bibliography (10%)
- Research Paper (30%)

Late assignments or exams will NOT be accepted without prior permission. If you have a documented disability and may need accommodation in this class, please contact me in advance. Please also request the Counselor for Students with Disabilities to provide a letter verifying your disability.

I take academic integrity very seriously; please review the University’s Academic Honesty Policy posted on the blackboard website and contact me if you have any questions.

Readings: All course readings are available as PDF files on the course blackboard site.

Important Dates to Remember
October 12: Deadline for choosing paper topic
October 26: Midterm Exam
November 4: Paper outline and bibliography due in class
December 2: Research paper due in class
December 9: Final Exam
Lecture Topics and Readings

September 28: Introductions and Course Overview, Geography of Africa
Readings: McCann 1999, excerpt from *Green Land, Brown Land, Black Land*

September 30: Sahara- Holocene Foragers and Pastoralists
Readings: Holl and Dueppen 1999, “Iheren-I: Research on Tassilian Pastoral Iconography”
Sereno et al. 2008, “Lakeside cemeteries in the Sahara: 5000 years of Holocene population and environmental change”
Smith 1995, excerpt from *The Emergence of Agriculture*

October 5: Sahara- Sedentary Communities
MacDonald et al. 2009, “Dhar Néma: From early agriculture to metallurgy in southeastern Mauritania”

October 7: Sahara- Egypt and Nubia
Readings: Wengrow 2006, excerpt from *The Archaeology of Early Egypt: Social Transformations in North-East Africa, 10,000 to 2650 BC*

October 12: West Africa- Mixed Economies and Early Villages
***FINAL DEADLINE FOR CHOOSING PAPER TOPIC***
Readings: Watson 2005, “Under the rocks: Reconsidering the origin of the Kintampo Tradition and the development of food production in the savanna-forest/forest of West Africa”

October 14: West Africa- Savanna Urbanism, States and Empires
Readings: McIntosh and McIntosh 1993, “Cities without citadels: understanding urban origins along the Middle Niger”
Skinner 1989, excerpt from *The Mossi of Burkina Faso*

October 19: West Africa- Forest Urbanism, States and Empires
Readings: Connah 2001, excerpt from *African Civilizations*

October 21: Trans-Saharan Trade- Linking the Sahara to West Africa
Readings: Insoll 2003, excerpt from *The Archaeology of Islam in Sub-Saharan Africa*
Insoll and Shaw 1997, “Gao and Igbo-Ukwu: Beads, interregional trade, and beyond”

October 26: MIDTERM EXAM

October 28: Central Africa- Copper and Iron Elites
Readings: de Maret 2005, “From Pottery Groups to Ethnic Groups in Central Africa”
November 2: East Africa- Holocene Fishers/Foragers; Early Agriculture and Pastoralism
Readings: Harrower et al. 2010, “General/specific, local/global: comparing the beginnings of agriculture in the Horn of Africa (Ethiopia/Eritrea) and southwest Arabia (Yemen)”
Lane et al. 2007, “The transition to farming in eastern Africa: New faunal and dating evidence from Wadh Lang’o and Usenge, Kenya”

November 4: East Africa- Swahili States and Indian Ocean Trade
***PAPER OUTLINE AND BIBLIOGRAPHY DUE IN CLASS***
Readings: Connah 2001, excerpt from African Civilizations
LaViolette and Fleischer 2005, “The archaeology of sub-Saharan urbanism: cities and their countrysides”
Kusimba 1999, excerpt from The Rise and Fall of Swahili States

November 9: East Africa- Ethiopian States
Readings: Connah 2001, excerpt from African Civilizations

November 11: South Africa- Foragers, Villages, and the Central Cattle Pattern
Reid 2005, “Interaction, marginalization, and the archaeology of the Kalahari”

November 16: South Africa- Shona States, Historical Period

November 18: Madagascar
Debates I: Iron in Africa
MacEachern 2010, “Thoughts on É. Zangato and A.F.C. Holl’s ‘On the iron front’”

November 23: Debates II: Slave Trades from the African Perspective
Readings: Lovejoy 2000, excerpt from Transformations in Slavery

November 25: NO CLASS- Thanksgiving

November 30: Debates III: African Political Systems
Readings: Fortes and Evans-Pritchard 1940, excerpt from African Political Systems

December 2: Modeling African Societies
***RESEARCH PAPER DUE IN CLASS***

FINAL EXAM current scheduled for December 9 (Thursday), 8:00 am