

**HISTORY 275: Introduction to African History, Southern and Eastern Africa**  
**SPRING 2019 (3 credit hours; HI 275/AFS 275)**  
**Monday & Wednesday: 11:45-1:00**

North Carolina State University

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Office: Withers 465; 919-515-2483; Class Times: MW, 8:30-1:00; F, 8:30-10:20

Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday 10:30-11:15 or by appointment

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course is a broad and general introductory survey of the history of southern and eastern Africa, from the ancient period to the modern. We will cover general history and background on Africa, including ancient African civilizations; Great Zimbabwe and the Swahili & Arab Empires of East Africa; the arrival of Europeans; Colonization and de-Colonization; challenges faced by Africa today. No prior knowledge or coursework is required or expected. The course will not require a standard textbook but instead will engage with Africa via memoirs and documentaries.

**PLEASE NOTE:**

\*\* The class is taught at a basic introductory level, so if you already know a great deal about Africa, then this class might not be a good fit for you.

\*\* This class is a history class, which means that the focus on the content and approach will be a historical one. Some approaches from other disciplines (anthropology; archaeology) will be incorporated, but the class primarily focuses on history. If you are interested in the material or approaches used in Anthropology or Africana Studies, then this class might not be a good fit for you.

\*\* Some of the required material and content of the books and required films will be disturbing and graphic. If you are unable or unwilling to process visually and intellectually disturbing material, then this class might not be a good fit for you.

\*\* If you are unable or unwilling to approach different cultures and societies seriously and respectfully, and respectfully engage with and listen to your colleagues' opinions and ideas, even if you disagree with them, then this class might not be a good fit for you.

\*\* It is imperative that you respect others in the classroom. That means sitting **quietly** when others are speaking, arriving to class on-time, and expressing your ideas thoughtfully and without personal attacks. Classroom participation is not only encouraged but required for success in the class, and that means that all ideas and opinions are welcomed.

\*\* This class requires a considerable amount of reading, and you cannot fall behind. You will need to cover a great deal of material within the relatively short period of the semester. If you are unable or

unwilling to read several hundred pages of material, keep on top of watching required documentaries, and keep ahead of the test and quiz schedule, then this class might not be a good fit for you.

### **REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS**

\* **Tears of the Desert: A Memoir of Survival in Darfur**, by Halima Bashir and Damien Lewis (price varies)

\* **Dreams in a Time of War** by Ngugi wa Thiong'o (price varies)

\* **The Last Resort**, by Douglas Rogers (price varies)

**Note on audiobooks:** at least one (Dreams in a Time of War) of these books is available as an audiobook. For any of the books, however, you may choose whatever format (text or audio) you prefer, but keep in mind that you will need to retain the information to perform well on the quizzes and participate in discussion. The feedback I have received from other students is that Dreams in a Time of War can be confusing and difficult to follow at times and that it is not well-suited to the audiobook format. Consider this when selecting the format.

**Note on video assignments:** part of your required course assignments include watching documentaries. I have worked hard to locate videos that are available for free and that are accessible on the internet. **The availability of these videos might change at any time.** In the past, some of the earlier links to the videos have been removed for copyright infringement. If this happens, then please be aware that the cost and/or accessibility of these documentaries might change, and it might be necessary to pay for access to video context. I will do my best to avoid this, but it might be unavoidable.

### **Optional text:**

\* **History of Africa**, by Kevin Shillington -- this is a textbook for those of you who might like to have one on-hand

### **GENERAL UNIVERSITY GUIDELINES**

More specific information for this course follows below, but for quick reference on university guidelines associated with these policies, please review the following links:

Attendance: <http://policies.ncsu.edu/regulation/reg-02-20-03>

Academic integrity/Plagiarism: [http://history.ncsu.edu/ug\\_resources/plagiarism\\_honor\\_code](http://history.ncsu.edu/ug_resources/plagiarism_honor_code)

University Honor Code: <http://policies.ncsu.edu/policy/pol-11-35-01>

Course rights and responsibilities: <http://oucc.ncsu.edu/course-rights-and-responsibilities>

Disability: <http://policies.ncsu.edu/regulation/reg-02-20-01>

### **CHASS CAREER SERVICES:**

Explore career options related to your major, make decisions about your major or minor, build resumes and cover letters, prepare for interviews, develop internship/ job search strategies, maximize

career fairs, and more. Make an appointment with your career contact, Jane Matthews (A-H) or Woody Catoe (I-Z), through ePACK. Career Development Center, 2100 Pullen Hall. [careers.ncsu.edu](http://careers.ncsu.edu)

### **PLAGIARISM AND ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

Plagiarism is a serious offense and can lead to a failing grade or even expulsion. Students are advised to be vigilant about attributing quotations or phrases to their proper sources. A good guideline is to use direct quotations sparingly. Students also should avoid paraphrasing the works of others so closely that their writing represents little more than a rewording of passages from texts consulted. Examples of plagiarism might include copying another's writing without quotation marks or attribution; paraphrasing or summarizing the work of others without attribution; claiming another student's work as one's own; and a failure to cite sources for information not commonly known. Students may engage in general discussions with other classmates about assignments, but they may not collaborate on the writing or research of the assignment.

During exams, students may not seek any form of external assistance, including but not limited to using electronic devices, personal notes, copies of the texts, or guidance from another student.

**\*The expectation is that your work will be entirely your own. This expectation covers everything from copying from another student's exam, to appropriate use of citations, to the expectation that a student complete his/her work individually unless given permission to work in a group. Your work also must be unique to the assignment; in other words, you may not recycle papers or assignments from different classes.\***

Please refer to the Code of Student Conduct for information on processes and penalties for plagiarism. For further help in understanding what constitutes plagiarism, please see the American Historical Association's Statement on Standards of Professional Conduct

### **DROP-ADD**

- Policies The History Department's policies on course restrictions and drop/add are available here: <http://history.ncsu.edu/images/uploads/8-5History->
- Dropping and adding a class is a student's responsibility. It is up to the student to check MyPack Portal to confirm whether or not they are in the course. The CHASS Dean's office will not approve late withdrawals for students who claim that they thought they dropped the class.

### **STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

Reasonable accommodations will be made for students with verifiable disabilities. In order to take advantage of available accommodations, students must register with Disability Services for Students at 1900 Student Health Center, Campus Box 7909, 515-7653. For more information on working with students with disabilities, please see the Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities Regulation.

## **SUPPORTING STUDENTS IN DISTRESS**

As members of the NC State Wolfpack community, we each share a personal responsibility to express concern for one another and to ensure that this classroom and the campus as a whole remains a safe environment for learning. Occasionally, you may come across a fellow classmate whose personal behavior concerns or worries you. When this is the case, I would encourage you to report this behavior to the NC State Students of Concern website: <http://studentsofconcern.ncsu.edu/>. Although you can report anonymously, it is preferred that you share your contact information so they can follow-up with you personally.

## **ELECTRONIC COURSE MATERIALS**

**Class website:** I do not use Moodle for this course. Instead, I post information and notes on a class blog at <https://historyabc.wordpress.com>. This website is designed for use by students enrolled in the course and \*not\* for those outside the course. The website will be the primary means for communicating information to students regarding assignments, course details, and academic assistance.

**PowerPoint:** In class, I offer note-taking assistance and communicate course material via the use of technology-based material including Power Point slides and videos. **The Power Point presentations are my intellectual property and may not be photographed or distributed.** If I see that this policy is violated, then I will stop using the Power Point slides. Most videos are available for free on the internet.

## **CLASS EVALUATIONS**

Online class evaluations will be available for students to complete during the last 2 weeks of the semester and become unavailable before finals begin. Students will receive an email message directing them to a website where they can login using their Unity ID and complete evaluations. All evaluations are confidential; instructors will not know how any one student responded to any question, and students will not know the ratings for any instructors.

Evaluation website: <https://classeval.ncsu.edu/>

Student help desk: [classeval@ncsu.edu](mailto:classeval@ncsu.edu)

## **COURSE GER LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

### **General Objectives and Outcomes for History Students**

[http://www.grad.ncsu.edu/program\\_review/ObjectivesOutcomes.aspx?ID=1053](http://www.grad.ncsu.edu/program_review/ObjectivesOutcomes.aspx?ID=1053)

Humanities Category Objectives: <http://oucc.ncsu.edu/gep-hum>

Each course in the Humanities category of the General Education Program will provide instruction and guidance that help students to:

1. Engage the human experience through the interpretation of human culture and
2. Become aware of the act of interpretation itself as a critical form of knowing in the humanities; and
3. Make academic arguments about the human experience using reasons and evidence for supporting those reasons that are appropriate to the humanities.

### **Objectives for This Course**

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

1. demonstrate a general knowledge of Modern World History. Means of learning and evaluation : a.) Reading assignments and class discussions that cover the material and themes; b.) textbook quizzes and midterm/final exams
2. apply classroom and reading assignment material to broader themes and current events analytically and thoughtfully. Means of learning and evaluation: a.) final essay; b.) classroom discussion sessions
3. improve reading comprehension and analysis, especially as they apply to historical research and writing. Means of learning and evaluation: a.) supplementary reading assignments and response papers; b.) classroom discussion sessions
4. expand knowledge of historical trends and ideas and how they unfold across the globe, both on large and small scales. Means of learning and evaluation: a.) reading assignments (textbook and supplementary reading; b.) classroom lectures and discussion

**Course organization:** This course will focus on themes and general trends; we will consider global history using case studies or examples to evaluate the general themes of the course. Class lecture will follow textbook reading assignments loosely, but lectures are designed to supplement or expand upon textbook reading, not mirror it exactly or replace it. Textbook reading assignments are designed to fill in the knowledge gaps that class lecture will not cover.

### **NC STATE UNIVERSITY POLICIES, REGULATIONS, AND RULES**

Students are responsible for reviewing the PRRs which pertain to their course rights and responsibilities. These include: <http://policies.ncsu.edu/policy/pol-04-25-05> (Equal Opportunity and Non-discrimination Policy Statement), <https://oied.ncsu.edu/divweb/policies/> (Office for Institutional Equity and Diversity), <http://policies.ncsu.edu/policy/pol-11-35-01> (Code of Student Conduct), <http://policies.ncsu.edu/regulation/reg-02-50-03> (Grades and Grade Point Average), <https://policies.ncsu.edu/regulation/reg-02-20-15> (Credit-Only Courses), <https://policies.ncsu.edu/regulation/reg-02-20-04> (Audits), and <https://policies.ncsu.edu/regulation/reg-02-50-03> (Incompletes).

### **GENERAL COURSE INFORMATION**

**NOTE ON ELECTRONIC POLICY:** All electronic devices are strictly prohibited in class, unless I explicitly state otherwise. That means no phones, laptops, iPads, etc. For every occasion on which I see you using a cell phone or other electronic device during class time, your final class average will be lowered by **five** (5) points. Electronic devices should at all times be turned off and put away -- that means NOT VISIBLE to you, me, or anyone else.

If you need to use a laptop for note-taking, you must provide a DSO letter in support of this need. Also, you must sit in the FIRST ROW of the classroom.

### **ATTENDANCE POLICY:**

Attendance is mandatory and required for a successful completion of the course. Per University regulations, excused absences must fall into one of two categories: sanctioned anticipated situations and documented emergency situations. Anticipated situations (e.g., participation in official University functions, court attendance, religious observances, or military duty) must be submitted in writing at the beginning of the semester or one week prior to the anticipated absence. Emergency absences (e.g., student illness, injury or death of immediate family member, must be documented by the Student Organization Resource Center 515-3323) within one week of returning to class. Please consult the following website for further information on University attendance regulations: <https://policies.ncsu.edu/regulation/reg-02-20-03>.

Missed discussion days, provided a valid excuse is presented, may be made up with a 2-3 page essay in lieu of attendance. Missed exams, provided a valid excuse is presented, must be made up during scheduled office hours within a single calendar week of the missed exam. **Textbook quizzes may \*not\* be made up.** I have included a “dropped” quiz grade to allow for missed quizzes without penalty to your grade. If you take all the quizzes, then your lowest grade is dropped. If you miss a quiz, then that become your dropped grade.

**If you miss class, you are fully responsible for acquiring the material that you missed in class. You must get the notes from a classmate. I do not distribute class notes or Power Point presentations.**

Please keep in mind that material for the midterm and final exams comes entirely from class lecture. Students who perform best in this class attend class and take notes.

### **Participation Rubric**

Excellent participants will thoroughly read and consider all of the class readings, engage their fellow students in respectful conversation, and offer considered comments from the readings. One of the following assessments will be made of students’ preparation and participation on a weekly basis. The weekly assessments will be averaged to determine the final participation grade.

A+ (100%) Student’s participation is outstanding in both quality and quantity. Student demonstrates a full mastery of the course material.

A (95%) Student is well prepared, attentive, always responds when called upon and volunteers often with pertinent answers or questions. Student demonstrates a strong facility with the course material and complex structures, but makes minor mistakes.

B (85%) Student is usually prepared, responds when called on and volunteers on occasion. Student demonstrates a basic familiarity with assigned material, but falters with complex structures.

C (75%) Student shows evidence of being unprepared on occasion, has trouble when called on and does not volunteer often. Student demonstrates some familiarity with assigned material, but occasionally falters on basic structures.

D (65%) Student is unprepared, inattentive, never volunteers, or comes to class late. Student demonstrates occasional familiarity with assigned material, but regularly falters on basic structures.

F (0%) Student exhibits a lack of concern for the class, sleeps in class, or disturbs the class. Student fails to show familiarity with assigned material.

## **GRADING POLICY**

A letter scale will be used for grading, with pluses and minuses awarded. (The exception: grades given for class discussion sections). Grades range from A+ to an F.

Grades will be distributed accordingly:

### **I: Book and Movie Quizzes: total 30%**

#### **Six quizzes and discussions total; one dropped grade**

Short quizzes consisting of short answer questions will be given for the assigned readings and documentaries.

You are expected to remain in class for and participate in the class discussions of the assigned reading and documentaries. If you take the quiz but do not attend the discussion session, then you lose 50% of your quiz grade. If you attend discussion but fail to participate, then you also risk losing points toward your final Book/Movie Quiz average. Active participation is a **basic** expectation and requirement for the course. **MISSED QUIZZES CANNOT BE MADE UP.**

Participation in the post-quiz discussion is expected and required in order to earn full points on the quizzes. Aside from simply not being physically present in the class discussions, if you remain silent, disengaged, or actively undermine class discussion, your quiz grade will be lowered.

### **III: Two Course Exams (midterm and final): total 70%. Final Exam: 4/29/19 at 8:00AM each worth 35%**

Course exams will cover class lecture material.

The exams will NOT be open note.

The exams each will cover approximately half the course content and will not be cumulative.

Exams will consist primarily of a mixture of multiple choice and short answer questions.

If you **must** miss the midterm exam, then

1. You must provide an official University-issued excuse note
2. You miss the course exam, then you will need to take the make-up during office hours within one week of the missed exam.

3. **NOTE:** make-up exams are more difficult than in-class exams

### **Letter Grading Scale:**

A+: 100-97	C+: 79.9-77
A: 96.9-93	C: 76.9-73
A-: 92.9-90	C-: 72.9-70
B+: 89.9-87	D+: 69.9-67
B: 86.9-83	D: 66.9-63
B-: 82.9-80	D-: 62.9-60

F: <60

## **A NOTE ON NOTES**

It is your responsibility to take careful and thorough notes during class lectures. **I will not provide you with notes or study guides**, so your ability to prepare for exams will depend on your ability to take good and organized notes. The class blog is designed to be a tool for studying but not a replacement for taking your own notes or as a comprehensive source of exam material.



## **COURSE AND ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE (subject to change with appropriate notification)**

### **Week 1: January 7-9**

Introduction to the Course; overview of African geography & climate; stereotypes & misperceptions of Africa; African social structures & society.

### **Week 2: January 14-16**

Ancient Africa: ancient civilizations of the Nile river valley and northeast Africa

**Watch Nubia: The Forgotten Kingdom** (45 minutes) — no specific quiz on this, but there will be questions on the midterm related to the documentary

<http://topdocumentaryfilms.com/nubia-forgotten-kingdom/>

### **Week 3: January 21-23**

January 21st: No Class

Ancient Africa, continued

### **Week 4: January 28-30**

Medieval to Modern Egypt/Sudan; Ottoman and British occupation

### **Week 5: February 4-6**

**Monday February 4th : FILM DAY: THE DEVIL CAME ON HORSEBACK**

Part I: <http://www.dailymotion.com/video/x2f93wa> (40 minutes long)

Part II: [http://www.dailymotion.com/video/x2f96do\\_the-devil-came-on-horseback-part2\\_school](http://www.dailymotion.com/video/x2f96do_the-devil-came-on-horseback-part2_school) (46 minutes long)

**Wednesday, February 6th: quiz/discussion on *The Devil Came on Horseback***

### **Week 6: February 11-13**

Medieval to Modern Egypt/Sudan; Ottoman and British occupation, continued

**Wednesday, February 13th: quiz/discussion on *Tears of the Desert***

### **Week 7: February 18-20**

medieval African societies of the East African coastline; Horn of Africa; Swahili culture  
Great Zimbabwe and medieval African kingdoms of East Africa

**Week 8: February 25-27**

medieval African societies of the East African coastline; Horn of Africa; Swahili culture  
Great Zimbabwe and medieval African kingdoms of East Africa, continued

**Week 9: March 4-6**

European imperialism in Africa: Scramble for Africa & Belgian Congo

**Wednesday, March 6th: MIDTERM EXAM**

**Week 10: March 11-13**

**SPRING BREAK**

**Week 11: March 18-20**

**Monday, March 18th: FILM DAY:** Watch BBC **KENYA WHITE TERROR**.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XV0udfKrzTQ>

**Wednesday, March 20th: quiz/discussion on *Kenya: White Terror***

**Week 12: March 25-27**

Case Study: Kenya

**Wednesday, March 27th: quiz/discussion on *Dreams in a Time of War***

**Week 13: April 1-3**

African Response to Europeans; British East Africa

South Africa

Watch History Channel's *MIRACLE RISING SOUTH AFRICA*: [https:// www.youtube.com/watch?v=IKDrRdfvUg8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IKDrRdfvUg8) (1hour,32minutes)

No Specific Quiz on this material! The Final Exam (Second Course Exam) will include questions based on this documentary.

**Week 14: April 8-10**

Case Study: Zimbabwe

**Week 15: April 15-17**

**Monday, April 15th FILM DAY**

***Mugabe and the White African* (1 hour, 32 minutes)**

**Wednesday, April 17th: quiz/discussion on *Mugabe and the White African***

**Week 16: April 22-24**

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Case Study: Zimbabwe

**Wednesday, April 24th: quiz/discussion on *The Last Resort***

**FINAL EXAM: Monday, April 29th at 8:00AM**