AFRICAN HISTORY (HY 327)

History/Political Science
Spring, 2002
3 Hours
Dr. Duncan R. Jamieson
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Office Hours: MWF, 10:50 a.m.-12:05 p.m., and by appt.

COURSE GOAL
To review the history of Africa from the rise of human life to the present day. Emphasis will be placed on the three phases of African history–pre-colonial, colonial and post-colonial.

DISABILITY
If you have a documented learning difference/disability (and it is on file with Classroom Support Services), please notify me as soon as possible. Also, please notify Classroom Support Services that you are in this class so that whatever accommodations deemed appropriate can be made.

EVALUATION
There are two exams, two book reviews and a research paper/presentation required.

There are two 100 point reviews, one of The Great Trek and one on Modern Africa. The student should address what each book is about and what new knowledge has been learned from reading it. What did the book teach you about African history. What parts (if any) did you find confusing? What should the author have covered in more detail? What would you have liked the author to cover that wasn’t included? To address the subjects adequately will probably take four to six pages per paper.

There is a 100 point research paper that will be required, due during the final weeks of the semester. In pairs (one group will be three if there’s an odd number of students) students will do a presentation on the history of a sub-Saharan African nation. Students will choose a current country and research its history for a twenty-thirty minute presentation. Students will look at the history of their country from its earliest times through the period of colonization to the present, post-colonial organization. The country chosen (South Africa, for example), may not have existed a few to several hundred years ago, granted, but the land was there, and people lived on it. Who were they; what did they do; how did they get there; what interaction did they have with other Africans, Moslems, or Europeans? What has shaped their nation (population increase, natural resource extraction, famine, war, civil war, mass migrations)? How does the country get along with its neighbors? What is the country’s place in the world community? What form of government[s] have been tried?

Pairings and times for presentations will be arranged in the first few weeks of class. Once these are arranged, students will choose countries for the paper.
Once the oral presentation has been completed, the students will submit a copy of the research paper which formed the basis for the presentation. All papers must be word processed, double spaced. Papers are expected to be proof read and spell checked. Failure to follow these instructions will result in a lowered grade. All papers will be graded on content, grammar and style. The papers will be due after the last presentations have been completed. Date to be determined.

SCHEDULE:
- **Great Trek** review: Thursday, February 21
- First Exam: Thursday, March 7
- **Modern Africa** review: Thursday, April 18
- Second Exam: Thursday, May 9, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

There are an additional 50 points for attendance and participation (it is not necessary to speak, but it is necessary to be "present"), for a total of 550 points.

Please note that there is often, although not always, a positive correlation between class attendance and "participation" and the student's ability to earn a better than average grade.

The grading scale is as follows:

- A = 93%
- A- = 90%
- B+ =87%
- B = 83%
- B- = 80%
- C+ =77%
- C =73%
- C- = 70%
- D+ = 67%
- D = 63%
- D- =60%
- F =less than 60%

**GRADING PHILOSOPHY:**

A Range Grades demonstrating an ability to understand facts and interpretations relative to course material as well as the ability to synthesize this information within one's total education.

B Range Grades demonstrating an ability to understand facts and interpretations relative to course material.

C Range Grades demonstrating an ability to understand facts relative to course material.

D Range Grades demonstrating a partial ability to understand facts relative to course material.

F Range Unacceptable Work

**TEXTS:**
- Etherington, Norman. *The Great Treks*
- Davidson, Basil. *Modern Africa*