

AFAS 365: ANCIENT AFRICAN CIVILIZATIONS

Summer Session I 2017, Course Number: 283-2172-5W1 AFAS 365 101

Africana Studies Department

University of Arizona

William A. White, Instructor

OFFICE HOURS: (@succinctbill via Skype) every Thursday from 11:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.

ALL REQUIRED READINGS HAVE BEEN SCANNED AND ARE AVAILABLE ON D2L

COURSE TEXTS (Recommended):

Gilbert, Erik and Jonathan T. Reynolds

2011 *Africa in World History* (Third Edition). Pearson/ Prentice Hall.

Visona, Monica Blackmun, Robin Poynor, and Herbert M. Cole

2007 *A History of Art in Africa* (Second Edition). Pearson/ Prentice Hall.

ADDITIONAL REQUIRED TEXTS (available as PDFs in Content in D2L)

Belcher, Stephen.

1999 *Epic Traditions of Africa*. Indiana University Press, Bloomington. xi-26.

Hale, Thomas A.

1998/2007 *Griots and Griottes*. Indiana University Press, Bloomington. 1-17, 59-81.

Niane, Djibril Tamsir, et al.

1966/2006 *Sundiata: An Epic of Old Mali*. Longman Pub Group.

FILMOGRAPHY (available via web links in below)

1992 *The Glories of Ancient Benin*. Simcorp.

2001 *Nubia and the Mysteries of Kush*. Films Media Group.

2007 *Africa: A History Denied*. Time Life.

2009 *The Lost Libraries of Timbuktu*. BBC.

2012 *Black Athena: The Fabrication of Ancient Greece*. Bernal.

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Section I: Instructor Information

Instructor: William A. White

E-Mail: wawhite@email.arizona.edu

Office Hours: I will be available via Skype every Tuesday and Thursday from 11:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. Arizona time. My Skype name is @succinctbill. Here's how you can get your own Skype account (<https://support.skype.com/en/faq/FA12413/how-do-i-create-a-new-account-for-skype>)

Section II: Course Description and Objectives

Course Summary: This course will survey the development of various ancient civilizations that emerged on the African continent prior to 1500CE. It starts with the assumption that civilization and human development in the early history of Africa resulted from a dynamic process that involved on climate change, migration, technological creations and innovations, sedentary (agricultural) and pastoral (herding) lifestyles, shifting cosmologies (or world views), social stratification, and long distance trade. Other important themes in this class are the confluence of knowledge production, religion, and art; as well as, ancient Africa's significant yet often unacknowledged contributions to global culture and scholarship.

This course is scheduled to be online; therefore there will be no "face-to-face" meetings per se. However, unlike traditional online courses where your assignments, readings and activities are placed on a course management program like D2L and where there is little if any "real-time" interaction with your instructor, our class will conduct "optional" Live Online Sessions. Attending each Live Online Session is highly encouraged but not required. You will not hurt your grade if you choose not to or cannot attend the "Live Online" sessions. These optional live sessions will be held using appear.in (<https://appear.in/>) or Skype (<https://www.skype.com/en/>) depending upon what works best for this class. If you have an iPhone, iPad or Android device, please consider downloading the Skype App so that you have the option of attending our Live Online Sessions using that device or your computer. An App is not necessary for appear.in. Live Sessions are configured so that you can

access them from your laptop, desktop, tablet or other mobile device. The links to all Live Sessions will be emailed to you prior to each broadcast.

There will be three Live Online Sessions. For attending, students will receive 10 points for each session.

Thematically, content for this course is divided into three units: History, Art, and Epic and Literary Traditions. The first two units include required reading and films. The final unit contains only readings. Final grades will be based on students' scores on four essays and one written final exam. The writing assignments for this course are designed to push students to produce efficient, precise analytical essays that draw upon quotes and examples from readings and other peer-reviewed sources to support their arguments. Be sure to carefully proofread your writing before submitting. The instructor will provide feedback on drafts if contacted for help in a timely manner (i.e. not the night before an assignment is due).

Course Objectives:

- **Develop a critical and informed perspective on African culture, society, and civilization before 1500CE**
- **Improve research writing skills**
- **Practice developing and supporting academic arguments that are based on historical, anthropological, and archaeological data**
- **Develop and refine college-level academic study and research skills**
- **Exposure to new ideas and human cultures**

Information Technology Disclaimer IMPORTANT

This course is entirely taught online, which means you will need internet connection and a device that allows you to fully participate in class activities. Learning how to use devices and software is one part of this class. It is up to you to learn how to operate the technology necessary to complete this class. I will help as much as possible, but I am not available 24-hours each day. I understand technical difficulties can and will happen, but it is up to you to properly submit assignments, access Live Sessions, and interact with me online. This means it is your responsibility to have

the proper equipment (i.e. a computer or tablet and high-speed internet connection) for the duration of this course.

All written assignments must be submitted as Microsoft Office files (.doc or .docx). PDF, Apple Pages, Open Office or any other document formats will not be accepted. You can download a free copy of Microsoft Office through the University of Arizona bookstore (<http://uabookstores.arizona.edu/technology/campuslicensing/default.asp>).

Also, ***all assignments must be submitted via D2L*** dropboxes under the “Assignments” tab. Unless there is an extreme emergency, I will not accept assignments emailed to me.

You will need a desktop or laptop computer or a quality tablet that properly runs Microsoft Office applications (iPad, Microsoft Surface, or Samsung Galaxy tablet) are essential. You will need access to a high-speed Internet connection; unfortunately, dial-up will not work well with our course content.

To fully access all of our course activities in the various forms in which they will be offered, you will need the following programs, all of which are free downloads: (*be sure to check to ensure you have the most updated versions of each program listed*)

QuickTime - <http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/>

Flash - <http://adobe.com/> on the lower right hand side you will see “Download” click on the link that says “Adobe Flash Player” “Adobe Shockwave Player” and “Adobe Reader”

Skype - <http://www.skype.com> download for your operating system and create a free account. You will need this to contact me during office hours.

I also STRONGLY suggest that you use the most current version of one of the following Web Browsers:

Chrome

Firefox

Safari

Internet Explorer is not the most stable. A majority of the issues most students have is a result of using IE for our “Live” sessions or not using the most recent version of your chosen Web Browser.

Each browser above is a free download, cross platform and can be found with a simple Google Search.

Section III: Assignments and Grading

Assignments

This class has two different types of assignments—1) Required quizzes and writing assignments and 2) optional Live Online Sessions.

Required Writing Assignments:

Weekly Online Quizzes: 50 Points Possible (5 @ 10 points each)

Each week there will be a short on-line quiz posted on D2L covering the week’s Live Sessions and readings. Every Friday, except for the last week of class, I will post quizzes at 10 AM under the “Quiz” heading on the D2L page. Quizzes will remain open until the following Monday at 10:00 AM. Quiz #5 will only be available for one day only (Monday July 3, 2017). You must complete the quizzes on-line and because there is so much flexibility associated with this grade item, you may not make up quizzes for any reason.

Position Papers: 400 points possible (4 @ 100 points each)

These are 700 to 750-word research papers related to some of the major topics covered in each thematic block. **Word limits are strictly enforced.** *I will automatically deduct 20 points from any paper that fails to meet or exceeds this limit.* You must use materials from required readings and films supplemented by other texts to support your answer.

For these essays your goal is to choose a position and defend it using information in course content or other quality resources (i.e. reputable news articles, peer-reviewed journal articles, documentary films produced by scientific organizations like the Smithsonian Institute or a national museum).

The first writing assignment is a position paper that you can rewrite and resubmit after receiving your initial grade and comments. ***You must properly cite all sources and references*** you access for while writing your position papers and provide a complete works cited page. You must turn in your paper via Dropbox on the class D21 Website where Turnitin will evaluate it for plagiarized material.

Final Exam: 100 points possible (1 @ 100 points)

This assignment asks you to write short answers to questions based on concepts taught in this class. You will be presented with 15 concepts, definitions, events, or topics discussed in class, but you will only have to write a short answer for 10 of these items. Each answer will be worth 10 points for a maximum total of 100 points.

A correct answer to any of these questions will contain two parts: 1) a definition and 2) a statement of significance. *Each answer will be a short paragraph of 4 to 6 grammatically correct sentences with relevant references.* Basically, you must tell me what each concept is about AND explain why this concept is important for our understanding of ancient African civilizations. For example, to properly answer a question based on a cultural group you will clearly tell me: 1) what this group is, where, and when it lived AND 2) explain why this culture group matters for our understanding of African civilization prior to 1500. At the end of the test, you will be asked to provide references for your answers.

As is the case with the Position Papers, your answer will be graded on technical writing (grammar, spelling, punctuation, and proper references) and your comprehension of course content. You will have 24 hours to finish the exam. The exam will open at 8:00 A.M. Arizona time and will close the next day at 8:00 A.M. Arizona time. You must upload a Microsoft Word document with your exam answers to D2L before 8:00 A.M. on the due date.

Optional Assignments:

Live Online Sessions- Optional- 50 points possible (5 sessions @ 10 points each)
Three (3) Live Online Sessions will be hosted online. Each session will be approximately 50 minutes long. A link will be emailed to you prior to the live session. I will record attendance to these sessions based on the email addresses and

screen names of those logged into the Skype chat or appear in room during that particular session.

In the Online Sessions, I will cover the major themes of the readings and films. I will also discuss what I expect from upcoming assignments. These Online Sessions are an excellent way to learn exactly what I wish to see in your work. They will also include a discussion of technical writing methods and academic research hacks—topics that will serve you well throughout your academic career.

Students will also have time to interact with each other, ask questions, and engage in dialogue with me online.

Attending these Online Sessions is optional, but attendees will be rewarded with points for joining us. Attending each session will be worth 10 points that will be awarded in its entirety (i.e. you get all the points for attending the sessions).

AFAS 365 YouTube Channel

This course also has an associated YouTube channel

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=98vE_cByLJU&list=PLQPf4mDsT6Q_6MSiPI0QzcJp-yhUDbJr1

Several videos have been uploaded that will help you better understand the course structure and how to succeed in the class. You are not required to watch each video (between 4 and 12 minutes long) but are encouraged to watch them before sending me emails with questions.

Grading

Your course grade is based on a 550-point scale but there is a maximum of 600 points possible. The Online Sessions are not required and are somewhat like extra credit. No Extra Credit Opportunities Will Be Available.

A	>90%	600-495
B	89-80%	494-440
C	79-70%	439-385
D	69-60%	384-330

F <60% 329 and below

Late Assignment Policy

- Because there is already significant flexibility built into your grade, *you may not make up any Online Session for any reason*. Either you attend and get the points or you're not there and do not receive them.
- You may submit the first three Position Papers up to 3 days late after the official due date regardless of the reason why the paper is late (see the Assignment Schedule below). *I do not care why your paper is late. Late papers automatically receive a 30% penalty*. I will not accept the first three papers after the 3-day grace period has expired except for edited drafts of Position Paper #1 (read below).
- You have three weeks to make edits and address any comments on your first Position Paper and resubmit it for a higher grade any time before June 29, 2017. Edited versions of Position Paper #1 will not be accepted after June 29th and your initial grade will be your final grade for that assignment.
- *The fourth Position Paper and Final Exam cannot be submitted late for any reason* because those assignments are so close to the end of the class.

Assignment Schedule

**All assignments are based on Arizona time*

**All assignments due by 10:00 A.M.*

<u>Important Dates:</u>	<u>Date Assigned:</u>	<u>Date Due:</u>
Live Online Session 1	Thurs 6/8/2017 @ 10AM Arizona time	
Position Paper 1	Thurs 6/08/2017	Wed 6/14/2017
<i>Position Paper 1</i>	<i>Accepted as Late until 6/17/2017 for 30% grade reduction</i>	
Position Paper 1 can be edited and resubmitted for a grade improvement until 6/29/2017		
Quiz 1	Friday 6/9/2017	Mon 6/12/2017
Position Paper 2	Thurs 6/15/2017	Wed 6/21/2017
<i>Position Paper 2</i>	<i>Accepted as Late until 6/24/2017 for 30% grade reduction</i>	

Live Online Session 2	Thurs 6/15/2017 @ 10AM Arizona time	
Quiz 2	Friday 6/16/2017	Mon 6/19/2017
Position Paper 3	Thurs 6/22/2017	Wed 6/28/2017
<i>Position Paper 3</i>	<i>Accepted as Late until 7/1/2017 for 30% grade reduction</i>	
Live Online Session 3	Thurs 6/22/2017 @ 10 AM Arizona time	
Quiz 3	Friday 6/23/2017	Mon 6/26/2017
Position Paper 4	Tues 6/27/2017	Mon 7/3/2017
<i>Position Paper 4 cannot be turned in late</i>		
Live Online Session 4	Thurs 6/29/2017 @ 10 AM Arizona time	
Quiz 4	Friday 6/30/2017	Mon 7/3/2017
Quiz 5	Mon 7/3/2017 (Available for Monday only)	
Live Online Session 5	Wednesday 7/5/2017 @ 10 AM Arizona time	
Final Exam	Opens Wednesday 7/5/2017 at 8:00 A.M. to Thursday 7/6/2017 at 8:00 A.M	

The Final Exam cannot be turned in late

Position Paper #4 and the Final Exam cannot be submitted late

Edits to Position Paper #1 must be submitted by 8:00 A.M. on Thurs 6/29/2017

Section IV: Classroom Expectations

Live Session Guidelines

The following guidelines govern acceptable behavior in the Live Online Sessions and any Skype meetings:

- 1. Students and instructors agree to avoid any behaviors or actions that disrupt the learning atmosphere and academic environment of the online classroom**
- 2. Students and instructors agree to always (even when disagreeing) act respectfully towards instructors and fellow students**

- 3. Students and instructors agree to avoid threats and/or violent behavior**
- 4. Students and instructors agree to approach materials with tolerance and an open mind**
- 5. Students and instructors agree to abide by all applicable University, State, and Federal rules and regulations**

I will ask students displaying unacceptable behavior to stop and if the behavior continues, we will ask them to leave the online classroom or Skype meeting room. Any student leaving the classroom for unacceptable behaviors will lose participation points for that online session.

Safe Spaces:

The Live Online Sessions are open spaces for the discussion of topics that some may find controversial or sensitive. Active participation is both encouraged and expected. Please contribute to the discussion, ask stupid questions, and feel free to disagree with your instructor, fellow students, and any of the course content in a respectful manner. Finally, the university takes threatening and/or disruptive behavior very seriously. Please see the appropriate sections of the Student Code of Conduct for discussions of threatening and disruptive behavior.

The Arizona Board of Regents' Student Code of Conduct, ABOR Policy 5-308, prohibits threats of physical harm to any member of the University community, including to one's self. See: <http://policy.arizona.edu/threatening-behavior-students>.

Email: Please compose emails in a professional manner, using proper forms of address and formality and include "AFAS 365" or "Ancient African Civilizations" in the subject line of your message. Use email to set up an appointment for a Skype meeting or to ask a brief question. Please do not email questions that require lengthy answers. If you have this kind of question please ask your questions via Skype during office hours.

Please do not email questions about your grades.

Notification of Objectionable Materials: Some portions of the course content students may consider offensive, but such materials and subjects are important for the learning process. Students are not excused from interacting with such materials, but they are certainly encouraged to express well-formed opinions that express those objections and their reasons for them. **These potentially objectionable subjects include, but are not limited to, human evolution, human skeletal remains, slavery, and visual depictions of violent events.**

Section V: Weekly Topics and Readings

Week One (June 5—11): Environment and Prehistory

Read:

Gilbert & Reynolds' *Africa in World History*: Preface & Chapters 1—4

Watch:

Africa: A History Denied

http://www.dailymotion.com/video/x1uhp0_lost-civilizations-africa-a-history_travel

Live Online Session 1: Thursday 6/8/2017 @ 10AM Arizona time

Position Paper 1—Open: Thursday 6/8/2017 Due: Wednesday 6/13/2017

Quiz 1— Open: 6/9/2017 Closed: Monday 6/12/2017

Week Two (June 12—18): History

Read:

Gilbert & Reynolds' *Africa in World History*: Chapters 5—9

Watch:

The Glories of Ancient Benin

<http://sabio.library.arizona.edu/record=b6794315~S9> (click "FIND on the Web")

Nubia and the Mysteries of Kush

<http://sabio.library.arizona.edu.ezproxy2.library.arizona.edu/record=b6209068~S9>
(click "FIND on the Web")

Live Online Session 2: Thursday 6/15/2017

Position Paper 2—Thursday 6/15/2017 Due: Monday 6/21/2017

Quiz 2—Open: Friday 6/16/2017 Closed: Monday 6/19/2017

Week Three (June 19—June 25): Art History

Read:

Visonà et al.'s *A History of Art In Africa*:

Introduction (pg. 14-19)

Maghreb & Sahara (pg. 22-40)

Aspects of African Culture (pg. 39, 58, 78, 152, 198, 234 & 449)

Egypt, Nubia & Ethiopia (pg. 44-70)

Mali, Ghana, Songhai (pg. 104-112)

Yoruba (pg. 228-238)

Dahomey (pg. 256-264)

Benin (pg. 272-287)

East Africa (pg. 430-463)

South Africa (pg. 464-486)

The Diaspora (pg. 498-541)

Watch:

Black Athena <http://www.freedocumentary.tv/black-athena-the-fabrication-of-ancient-greece/>

Live Online Session: Thursday 6/22/2017 @ 10AM Arizona time

Position Paper 3—Opens: Thursday 6/22/2017 Due: Wednesday 6/28/2017

Quiz 3—Open: Friday 6/23/2017 Closed: Monday 6/26/2017

Week Four (June 26—July 2): Epic and Literary Traditions

Read:

Belcher's *Epic Traditions of Africa*: Introduction & Chapter One (pg. xi-26)

Hale's *Griots and Griottes*: Introduction and Chapter Two (pg. 1-17, 59-81)
Niane's *Sundiata* (pg. vii-96)

Watch:

The Lost Libraries of Timbuktu

<http://digital.films.com.ezproxy1.library.arizona.edu/play/JSHDA5?aid=18623>

(click "FIND on the Web")

Live Online Session: Thursday 6/29/2017

Position Paper 4—Opens: Tuesday 6/27/2017 Due: Monday 7/3/2017

Quiz 4—Open: Friday 6/30/2017 Closed: Monday 7/3/2017

Week Five (July 2–July 6): The Final

Live Online Session: Wednesday 7/5/2017 @ 10 AM Arizona time

**Final Exam—Open Wednesday 7/5/2017 at 8:00 A.M. Due: Thursday 7/6/2017
by 8:00 A.M. Arizona time**

Section VI: University of Arizona Course Policies:

The UA's policy concerning Class Attendance and Administrative Drops is available at:

<http://catalog.arizona.edu/2013-14/policies/classatten.htm>

Should you decide to drop this class, you must complete the required procedures *before* the drop deadline. Responsibility for dropping the course on time is yours, not ours. Students who do not formally withdraw and/or complete the minimum course requirements will receive a grade of "E".

Absence from an exam or in-class exercise will result in a score of zero unless you obtain permission to be absent *in advance* from the instructor or teaching assistant.

Exceptions granted will be for a *documented* emergency such as a sudden illness, traffic accident or bereavement.

The UA policy regarding absences on and accommodation of religious holidays is available at

<http://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/policies-and-codes/accommodation-religious-observance-and-practice>.

Absences pre-approved by the UA Dean of Students (or Dean designee) will be honored.

See: http://uhap.web.arizona.edu/chapter_7#7.04.02

Academic Honesty: Students must follow The Fundamental Values of Academic Integrity: Honesty, Fairness, Respect, Responsibility and Trust. I expect all students to be aware of the sections of *University of Arizona Code of Academic Integrity* concerning cheating and plagiarism. Cheating and plagiarism are serious violations of the code. Any detected cases of plagiarism in writing assignments or cheating on an exam will result in a failing grade in the class and will be automatically referred to the Dean of Students for further disciplinary action. Plagiarism is the use of another person's work without attribution (this also holds for web sources and your textbook!).

Any incident of Plagiarism and/or Academic Dishonesty will result in a zero for the assignment and a full letter grade reduction for the course.

The University Libraries have some excellent tips for avoiding plagiarism available at:

<http://www.library.arizona.edu/help/tutorials/plagiarism/index.html>.

Students are encouraged to share intellectual views and discuss freely the principles and applications of course materials. However, graded work/exercises must be the product of independent effort unless otherwise instructed. Students must adhere to the UA Code of Academic Integrity as described in the UA General Catalog. See:

<http://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/codeofacademicintegrity>

<http://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/academic-integrity/students/academic-integrity>.

Disabled Student Services: It is the University's goal that learning experiences be as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience physical or academic barriers based on disability, please let me know immediately so that we can discuss options. You should contact Disability Resources (520-621-3268) to establish reasonable accommodations. I rely on the DRC to determine appropriate accommodations.

For additional information on Disability Resources and reasonable accommodations, please visit <http://drc.arizona.edu/>.

If you have need for reasonable accommodations, please contact me to discuss both your needs and how those needs may affect your ability to participate fully in my course requirements and activities.

Please be aware that the accessible table and chairs in this room should remain available for students who find that standard classroom seating is not usable.

According to Section D (6) (a) of the University's Intellectual Property Policy (which is available at http://www.ott.arizona.edu/uploads/ip_policy.pdf), faculty own the intellectual property for their course notes and course materials. The instructor holds the copyright to his/her lectures and course materials, including student notes or summaries that substantially reflect them. Student notes and course recordings are for individual use or for shared use on an individual basis. *Selling class notes and/or other course materials to other students or to a third party for resale is not permitted without the instructor's express written consent.* Violations to the instructor's copyright are subject to the Code of Academic Integrity and may result in course sanctions. Additionally, students who use D2L or UA email to sell or buy these copyrighted materials are subject to Code of Conduct Violations for misuse of student email addresses.

Additional Resources for Students

-UA Non-discrimination and Anti-harassment policy:

<http://policy.arizona.edu/sites/default/files/Nondiscrimination.pdf>

UA Academic policies and procedures are available at:

<http://catalog.arizona.edu/2013-14/policies/aaindex.html>

Student Assistance and Advocacy information is available at:

<http://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/student-assistance/students/student-assistance>

Confidentiality of Student Records

See: <http://www.registrar.arizona.edu/ferpa/default.htm>

Africana Studies at the University of Arizona

This course addresses a number of issues that are central to the interdisciplinary field of Africana Studies. The Africana Studies program at the University of Arizona is dedicated to investigating the historical and contemporary experiences of people of African descent around the world. It offers B.A. and minor programs that help program participants understand how the African experience is shaped by gender, class, age, and nationality. For more information on advising, curriculum, internships, scholarships, and study abroad programs, please visit

<http://africana.arizona.edu/>