HTST 691.90/791.90
Reading Course: African History
Winter 2018

Instructor: Dr. T. Stapleton
Office: SS632
Phone Number: 403-220-6418
Email: timothy.stapleton@ucalgary.ca
Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday, 9am – 9:50am (and by appointment)

This course examines major works dealing with the history of Sub-Saharan Africa from around the
beginning of the Later Iron Age (c. 500-1000 CE) to the current post-colonial era. As this is a
historiographical course, there will be a strong emphasis on sources and methods used by historians,
and the broader context in which historians work.

For each section of the course (see below), each student must select one book and prepare an oral
review of about 15 to 20 minutes for presentation at the relevant meeting. Each student in the course
must select a different book for each section so some coordination will be required. A seminar will
begin with the students presenting their oral book reviews and then continue into a general discussion
of the theme for that week. Each student will develop three of his/her oral reviews into three written
reviews (1000 words each) for submission to the instructor. Furthermore, each student will complete a
historiographical essay (around 5000 words) on a specialized topic related to the course material. The
historiographical essay will require reading and research beyond the books listed below. The essay topic
will be discussed with the course instructor before submission.

Day/Time: Tuesdays, 9am to 10:50am
Location: SS 639

Evaluation:
Oral Presentations and Seminar Participation: 30%
Written Book Reviews: 30% (10% for each of three)
Historiographical Essay: 40%

Deadlines:
Students may submit their written book reviews at any point during the course. The essay will be
submitted no later than one week after the final session.

Background Reading:
Students are encouraged to consult one or two of the following general overviews of African History:

Curtin, P., Feilerman, S., Thompson, L and Vansina, J. *African History: From Earliest Times to
Gilbert, Erik and Reynolds, Jonathan T., *Africa in World History: From Prehistory to the Present*, Upper

### Outline

**Week 1** – 9 January - Course Introduction; Discussion of Expectations; African Historiography

**Week 2** – 16 January - Pre-Colonial West and Central Africa

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Publisher</th>
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**Week 3** – 23 January - Pre-Colonial East and Southern Africa

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<tr>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Publisher</th>
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</thead>
</table>

**Week 4** – 30 January - The Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade

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<tr>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Publisher</th>
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</thead>
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**Week 5** – 6 February - Islam and Christianity in Africa


**Week 6** – 13 February - Colonial Conquest


**Reading Week – 19 February**

**Week 7** – 27 February - The Colonial Era: State, Economy and Social Change
Week 8 – 6 March - Africa and the World Wars
Byfield, Judith; Brown, Carolyn; Parsons, Timothy and Sikainga, Ahmad Alawad (eds.), *Africa and World War II*, Cambridge University Press, 2015.

Week 9 – 13 March - African Urban and Food History
**Week 10** – 20 March - Decolonization and the Cold War

**Week 11** – 27 March - Post-Colonial Africa: The Cold War Era
Week 12 – 3 April - Post-Colonial Africa: Post-Cold War Conflicts

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**Important Departmental, Faculty, and University Information**

*Department Twitter @ucalgaryhist*

**Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources:**

- Have a question, but not sure where to start? The Arts Students Centre (ASC) is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at Social Sciences 102, call 403-220-3580, or email artsads@ucalgary.ca. For detailed information on common academic concerns, you can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at [http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate](http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate).
- For program planning and advice, contact the Arts Students Centre (ASC) in SS 102, call 403-220-3580, email artsads@ucalgary.ca, or visit [http://arts.ucalgary.ca/advising](http://arts.ucalgary.ca/advising).
- For registration issues, paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at 403-210-ROCK (7625), visit the office in the MacKimmie Library Block (MLB) or their website at [http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/](http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/).
Writing:

This course will include written assignments. Faculty policy directs that all written assignments (including, although to a lesser extent, written exam responses) will be assessed at least partly on writing skills. Writing skills include not only surface correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc.) but also general clarity and organization. Research papers must be properly documented.

Writing Support:

Students are also encouraged to use Writing Support Services and other Student Success Centre Services, located on the 3rd floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library (TFDL). Writing Support Services assist with a variety of assignments, from essays to lab reports. Students can book 30-minute one-on-one appointments online, sign up for 15-minute drop-in appointments, and register for a variety of writing workshops. For more information on this and other Student Success Centre services, please visit www.ucalgary.ca/ssc.

Copyright:

The University of Calgary has opted out of the Access Copyright Interim Tariff proposed by the Copyright Board. This means that instructors in all University of Calgary courses will strictly adhere to Copyright Act regulations and the educational exceptions permitted by the Act for both print and digital course material. What this simply means is that no copyrighted material may be placed on course D2L or web sites without the prior permission of the copyright holders. In some cases, this may mean that instructors will require you to purchase a print course pack from the University of Calgary bookstore or that you will have to consult books on reserve at the library. For more information on the University of Calgary’s copyright policy, see http://library.ucalgary.ca/copyright.

Red Box Policy:

Essays and other assignments may be handed in to the red box located outside of the History Department office (Social Sciences, Room 656). Please include the following information on your assignment: 1) course name and number, 2) instructor, 3) your name and 4) your student number. Assignments received after 4:00 p.m. will be date stamped with the date of the next business day. We do not time stamp any papers. Please do not bring your paper into the office to be stamped. The box is emptied promptly at 8:30 a.m. and at 4:00 p.m. Monday to Friday.

Departmental Grading System:

The following percentage-to-letter grade conversion scheme has been adopted for use in all Canadian Studies, History, and Latin American Studies courses.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Grade Point Value</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90-100</td>
<td>A+</td>
<td>4.00</td>
<td>Outstanding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85-89</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>4.00</td>
<td>Excellent—superior performance showing comprehensive understanding of subject matter.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-84</td>
<td>A-</td>
<td>3.70</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77-79</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>3.30</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>73-76</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>Good—clearly above average performance with knowledge of subject matter generally complete.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-72</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>2.70</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>67-69</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>2.30</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>63-66</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>2.00</td>
<td>Satisfactory—basic understanding of the subject matter.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60-62</td>
<td>C-</td>
<td>1.70</td>
<td>Receipt of a grade point average of 1.70 may not be sufficient for promotion or graduation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>56-59</td>
<td>D+</td>
<td>1.30</td>
<td>Minimal pass—marginal performance; generally insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50-55</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0-49</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Fail—unsatisfactory performance or failure to meet course requirements.</td>
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Plagiarism:

Plagiarism occurs when one submits or presents one’s work in a course, or ideas and/or passages in a written piece of work, as if it were one’s own work done expressly for that particular course, when, in fact, it is not. As noted in *The History Student’s Handbook* ([http://hist.ucalgary.ca/sites/hist.ucalgary.ca/files/history_students_handbook_2015.pdf](http://hist.ucalgary.ca/sites/hist.ucalgary.ca/files/history_students_handbook_2015.pdf)), plagiarism may take several forms:

- Failure to cite sources properly may be considered plagiarism. This could include quotations, and wording used from another source but not acknowledged.
- Borrowed, purchased, and/or ghostwritten papers are considered plagiarism, as is submitting one’s own work for more than one course without the permission of the instructor(s) involved.
- Extensive paraphrasing of one or a few sources is also considered plagiarism, even when notes are used, unless the essay is a critical analysis of those works.
The use of notes does not justify the sustained presentation of another author's language and ideas as one's own. Plagiarism is a serious academic offence and written work that appears to contain plagiarized passages will not be graded. All such work will be reported to the Faculty of Arts' associate deans of students who will apply the penalties specified in the *University of Calgary Calendar*.

**Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI):**

At the University of Calgary, feedback provided by students through the Universal Student Ratings of Instruction survey provides valuable information to help with evaluating instruction, enhancing learning and teaching, and selecting courses ([www.ucalgary.ca/usri](http://www.ucalgary.ca/usri)). Your responses make a difference. Please participate in USRI surveys.

**Academic Accommodations (implemented July 1, 2015):**

The student accommodation policy can be found at: [ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy](http://ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy).

Students needing an Accommodation because of a Disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities [ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy](http://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy).

Students needing an Accommodation based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to the course instructor.

**Campus Resources for Mental Health:**

The University of Calgary recognizes the pivotal role that student mental health plays in physical health, social connectedness and academic success, and aspires to create a caring and supportive campus community where individuals can freely talk about mental health and receive supports when needed. We encourage you to explore the excellent mental health resources available throughout the university community, such as counselling, self-help resources, peer support or skills-building available through the SU Wellness Centre (Room 370, MacEwan Student Centre, [https://www.ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/services/mental-health-services](https://www.ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/services/mental-health-services)) and the Campus Mental Health Strategy website ([http://www.ucalgary.ca/mentalhealth/](http://www.ucalgary.ca/mentalhealth/)).

**Other Useful Information:**

- Faculty of Arts Representatives: 403-220-6551, arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca, arts4@su.ucalgary.ca.
• Emergency Evacuation Assembly Points: http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints.
• Student Union Information: http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/.
• Graduate Student Association: http://www.ucalgary.ca/gsa/.
• Student Ombudsman Office: http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds