

History 3396 - (Section 05525)
Africa and the Indian Ocean World

Professor K. Klieman

Fall 2006

T/Th 2:30-4:00 (Room 7 AH)

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Office Hours: Wed. 3-5

and by appointment

This class will focus on the history of the Western Indian Ocean from approximately the 4th century to the 19th century C.E., with a particular focus on the ways that Africans participated in and contributed to the cultural, economic, and religious worlds that developed during this period of time. We will focus on the impact that Indian Ocean Trade networks had on both littoral and interior peoples of the African continent, as well as the experiences of Africans who traveled to regions surrounding the Indian Ocean (Iraq, Arabia, India) through both voluntary travel (as traders) and forced migration (as captives in a global system of slave trading).

Until very recently, the Indian Ocean was neglected as a coherent unit of study by Western historians. This is somewhat strange, considering that it was the center of global economic power before the rise of Europe. It also, along with the Mediterranean Sea, delimited the classical Islamic World of 7th to 15th century. Accordingly, in order to understand this history - and the role that Africans played in it - we must also understand the rise, expansion, and economic successes of the various Islamic Empires that ruled the world while Medieval Europe was in its "Dark Ages." We will also need to understand the nature of Islamic systems of slavery, and how they differed from those that developed in the West. It is not until the last few weeks of class that we will focus on the arrival of Europeans; a study of their impact will help explain how the Indian Ocean went into decline as the center of the global economy. Finally, we will study the ongoing role of Africans of the Indian Ocean as religious specialists in various "Arab" lands and modern-day India.

Class Requirements:

Quizzes (Weekly 10 total, 2 dropped)	20
Map Quiz	5
Short Paper (6 pages)	15
Midterm	15
"Africans in India" Map Assignment	5
Longer Paper (8-10 pages)	20
Final Exam	20

Required Books: (To be purchased)

- Risso, Patricia. *Merchants and Faith: Muslim Commerce and Culture in the Indian Ocean* (Boulder, Colorado: Westview Press, 1995).
- Middleton, John. *African Merchants of the Indian Ocean: Swahili of the East African Coast* (Longrove, Ill: Waveland Press, 2004).
- Jayasuriya, Shihan de Silva and Richard Pankhurst. *The African Diaspora in the Indian Ocean* (Trenton, NJ: Africa World Press, 2003)
- Ghosh, Amitav. *In An Antique Land: History in the Guise of a Traveler's Tale* (New York: Vintage, 1994)

Additional Required Readings: see complete list at end of syllabus. These will be placed on E-Reserve or handed out in class....

Xtra-Credit Opportunities: You can do a class presentation of an article (40 min at least) for 10 additional points (added to final grade); you can also watch films on Africa or go to cultural events: 2.5 each, total of five points possible total. Details will be handed out.....

Class Regulations:

- You need to bring your books to class. If there is reading assigned for that day, bring that book!
 - There are no make-ups for weekly assignments. You either do them and turn them in **in class** on the day they are due or you don't. Don't ask me for a make-up on these - do extra credit.
 - Missed exams will only be excused with doctor's notes or other formal documentation.
 - Late Papers will be marked down one grade for each school day they are late (I won't count weekend days). I will not accept them after the third school day.
 - Do not put papers under my door. Turn them into the history office and have them dated and signed by one of the History office employees. If I receive them under door they will get a "0" grade.
 - Papers need to be double-spaced, normal margins, not bold or specialized font, size 12 font. Any attempts to "fatten" your paper will be immediately recognized by me. I will hand it back to you and take off a whole grade if you do this.
 - Regarding the research paper- if you do not have the minimum of pages required I will take off a full grade. 6 pages means 6 pages - go to the bottom of the page. Study and read enough to make the minimum. If you have trouble doing this, notify me and come see me so we can work on it together.
 - University Policy on academic honesty will be strictly reinforced. Plagiarism and "cheating" will not be tolerated, and can lead to a failing grade in the course and/or suspension from the University. If you are not clear about what plagiarism and/or "cheating" is, ask the professor, or see the university handbook.
 - Attendance: you are expected to be in class for each meeting. Skipping classes will drastically affect your grade.
 - Respect one another! In discussions and questions/answer sessions, we must create an environment where all students feel free to ask questions, express their views. If this isn't allowed to happen, destructive myths and stereotypes continue to exist, nothing will be learned. It's ok to disagree; if you do, state it clearly, and we can go on to a lively, informative, and educational discussion or debate. Avoid personal attacks; avoid the use of racist, sexist, or offensive language. Either of these types of behaviors can shutdown the learning process of individuals, and will not be tolerated in class! If you don't know what constitutes racist, sexist, offensive languages (many people honestly don't!) come see the professor in office hours to discuss.
 - Last day to drop course w/o counting toward cap: Sept. 5
 - Last day to drop w/o getting a grade: Sept. 18
 - "Q" grade eligibility begins: Sept. 19
 - Last day to drop class/"Q" grade eligibility ends
- If you are failing as this date approaches I'm going to encourage you to drop. If you don't do it, but you end up wanting to drop the class after this, you have to go to the Dean's office and get a petition before I will drop you.
- Last but not least:
Please make me aware if you are having extreme troubles understanding the readings or class materials. Don't sit quiet all semester and suffer. No matter how confused you are I will work with you. If you are truly trying but keep getting bad grades, come see me and tell me. We can fix it.

Reading and Lecture Schedule:

Please Note – this syllabus subject to change at the discretion of the Professor

Week 1:

Aug. 22 – Intro to Class

Aug. 24– The Four Ancient Language Families/Cultures of Africa

Reading: Ehret, *African Civilizations*, ch. 1 and 2 (pg. 3-55)

Week 2

Aug. 29 – Nubian Civilizations/The Rise of Egypt

Aug. 31- Egyptian Culture and History

Reading: Hilliard, *Intellectual Traditions of Pre-Colonial Africa*

-The Old Kingdom: The Resurrection of Osiris

-Queen Hatsheput: Expedition against Punt (Somalia)

- Anonymous: Love Poems

- Pharaoh Akhenaten and Queen Nefertiti: The Great Hymn to the One God Aten

Map Quiz!

Week 3

Sept. 5 – Film – Egypt: The Habit of Civilizations

Sept. 7 – The Civilizations of Axum and Nabata

Reading: Casson, L. *The Periplus Maris Erythraei*, pg 11-21, pg 51-63, 94-144.

Reading: Benjamin, "Of Nubians and Nabateans: Implications of Research on Neglected Dimensions of Ancient World History" pg. 361-382 in *Journal of Asian and African Studies*, 36:4, 2001.

Week 4

Sept. 12 – The Rise of Islam: Ideological Foundations

Reading: Understanding Islam (Peter Brown)

Reading: "Abraham" (*Time Magazine*, Sept. 30, 2002, 64-75)

Film: The Five Pillars of Islam

Sept. 14 – Islam as a World System: Economic and Political Bases of its Expansion

Reading: Risso, ch. 1 and 2 (pg. 1-30)

Week 5

Sept. 19 – Discuss Ghosh, *In and Antique Land*

Have first two sections read - "prologue" and "Lataifa" (pg. 13-106)

Sept. 21- Slavery in Islamic Cultures

Readings: John Hunwick, "African Slaves in the Mediterranean World: A Neglected Aspect of the African Diaspora" in Joseph Harris, *Global Dimensions of the African Diaspora*.

Week 6

- Sept. 26 – Early African Resistance to Slavery : The Zanj Revolt in Iraq, 869 C.E.
Read: Segal, R. ch. 4 “The Practice of Slavery,” p. 35-65 in *Islam's Black Slaves: The Other Black Diaspora*
- Sept. 28 - Discuss Ghosh, *In an Antique Land*
Read sections “Nashawy” and “Mangalore” (pg. 107-288)
Papers Due (6 pages)

Week 7

- Oct. 3 - Finish Ghosh, *In and Antique Land*
Read “Going Back” and Epilogue (pg. 289-384)
Read Review of Ghosh, “ Old World Orders: Amitav Ghosh and the Writing of Nostalgia” by Gaurav Desai in *Representations*, 85, Winter 2004, p. 125-148.
- Oct. 5 – Muslim Merchants in the Middle Era (c.1000-1500)
The Rise of the Swahili City States in East Africa
Read: Risso, ch. 3, (pg. 31-54)
Read Horton, “The Swahili Corridor” pg. 86-93 in *Scientific American* Sept. 1987

Week 8

- Oct. 10 – Swahili Trade in the Indian Ocean
Read Horton and Middleton, ch. 3 and 4 (pg. 47-88) of *The Swahili, Landscape of a Mercantile Society* (Blackwell, 1998)
- Oct. 12- **No Class – Professor at Conference**

Week 9

- Oct. 17 – Swahili Culture Past and Present
Read entire book by Middleton, *African Merchants of the Indian Ocean*
- Oct. 19- **Midterm: Bring Bluebook to class (don't write name on it)**

Week 10

- Oct. 24 –Sufism as a Cross-Cultural Link: Africa and the Indian Ocean World
Readings: TBA
- Oct. 26 - Trade and Contacts in the Indian Ocean, 1500-1800
Read Risso, ch. 4 (pg. 55-76) and part of ch. 5 (pg. 77-87)

Week 11

- Oct 31 – The African Diaspora in the Indian Ocean/Africans in India
Read Edward Alpers, "The African Diaspora" pg. 19-52 in Jayasuriya and Pankhurst book
Read Basu, "Slave, Soldier, Trader, Faquir: African Histories in Western Gujerat" pg. 223-250 in Jayasuriya and Pankhurst Book
- Nov. 2 - Film: From Africa to India: Sidi Music in the Indian Ocean Diaspora
Read chapter by Pankhurst (pg. 189-222) in Jayasuriya and Pankhurst book
This will be base for you mapping assignment – to be done in groups of two

Week 12

- Nov. 7 – The Portuguese Arrival: Impact and Implications
Read: Prestholdt, "Portuguese Conceptual Categories and the 'Other' Encounter on the Swahili Coast," pg. 383-406 in *Journal of Asian and African Studies* 36:4 (2001).
- Nov. 9 – The Impact of the British and French in the Indian Ocean
Read Risso, chapter 5 (87-97) and ch. 6 (99-106)
Read Houbert, pg. 123-129 in Jayasuriya and Pankhurst Book
***Turn in "Africans in India" Mapping Assignment**

Week 13

- Nov. 14 - Indians in Africa: Migration and Settlement to 1900
Reading: TBA
- Nov. 16 –Zar Possession Cults in Africa and the Middle East
Read: I.M. Lewis, "Introduction: Zar in Context: the Past, Present, and Future of An African Healing Cult," p 1-16 in *Women's Medicine: The Zar-Bori Cult in Africa and Beyond*.
Read Giles, "Zar Possession cults on the Swahili Coast: A Re-Examination of Theories of Marginality" in *Journal of the International African Institute*, 57:2 (1987), 234-258.

Week 14

- Nov. 21 – No Class –
Nov. 23 – No Class – Thanksgiving

Week 15

Nov. 28 – Zar as Psychotherapy/Zar in the Middle East: Oman, Kuwait, and Iran

Oman: Read Al-Adawi, et al, "Zar: Group Distress and Healing"

Kuwait: Read Ashkanani, "Zar in a Changing World: Kuwait"

Iran: Reading TBA

***Turn in Longer Paper (8 pages)**

Nov. 30 – TBA/Review for Final Exam?

Final Exam: Tuesday Dec. 12, 2-5, Same Classroom; Bring Bluebook!

**List of Reserves for Dr. Klieman
History 3396 (Section 05525): Africa and the Indian Ocean World**

- Ehret, C. *The Civilizations of Africa: A History to 1800* (University Press of Virginia, 2002), chapter 1 and 2 (p 3-55)
- Hilliard, C. *Intellectual Traditions of Pre-Colonial Africa* (McGraw-Hill, 1998), pgs. 14-25; 41-60.
- Casson, L. *The Periplus Meris Erythraei: Text with an Introduction, Translation, and Commentary* (Princeton University Press, 1989), pgs. 11-21; 51-63; 94-144.
- Benjamin, J. "Of Nubians and Nabateans: Implications of research on Neglected Dimensions of Ancient World History," in *Journal of Asian and African Studies*, 36:4 (2001), pg. 361-382.
- "Abraham" *Time Magazine*, Sept. 30, 2002, pg. 64-75.
- Hunwick, John, "African Slaves in the Mediterranean World: A Neglected Aspect of the African Diaspora" in Joseph Harris, *Global Dimensions of the African Diaspora* in Joseph Harris, (ed.) *Global Dimensions of the African Diaspora*, p. 289-323.
- Segal, R. *Islam's Black Slaves: The Other Black Diaspora*, (Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, 2001), pg. 35-65.
- Desai, Gaurav, "Old World Orders: Amitav Ghosh and the Writing of Nostalgia," in *Representations* 85 (Winter 2004), p. 125-148.
- Horton, M. "The Swahili Corridor," in *Scientific American*, Sept. 1987, pg. 86-93.
- Horton, M. and J. Middleton, *The Swahili: Landscape of a Mercantile Society* (Blackwell, 1998), pg. 47-88.
- Prestholdt, J. "Portuguese Conceptual Categories and the "Other" Encounter on the Swahili Coast, in *Journal of Asian and African Studies*, 36:4 (2001), pg. 383-406.
- Lewis, I.M. "Zar in Context: The Past, Present, and Future of An African Healing Cult," in *Womens' Medicine: The Zar-Bori Cult in Africa and Beyond* (Edinburgh University Press, 1991), p. 1-16.
- Giles, L. "Possession Cults on the Swahili Coast: a re-examination of theories of marginality," in *Africa* 57:2 (1987), p. 234-258.
- Al-Adawi, S., R. G. Martin, A. Al-Salmi, and H. Ghassani, "Zar: group distress and healing," in *Mental Health, Religion, and Culture*, 4:1 (2001), p. 47-61.
- Ashkanani, Z. "Zar in a Changing World: Kuwait," in *Womens' Medicine: The Zar-Bori Cult in Africa and Beyond* (Edinburgh University Press, 1991), p. 219-229.