

**STUDENT WARNING:** This course syllabus is from a previous semester archive and serves only as a preparatory reference. Please use this syllabus as a reference only until the professor opens the classroom and you have access to the updated course syllabus. Please do NOT purchase any books or start any work based on this syllabus; this syllabus may NOT be the one that your individual instructor uses for a course that has not yet started. If you need to verify course textbooks, please refer to the online course description through your student portal. This syllabus is proprietary material of APUS.

## American Public University System

*The Ultimate Advantage is an Educated Mind*

**School: Department of History and Military History**  
**Course Number: HIST 571**  
**Course Name: History of Africa**  
**Credit Hours: 3**  
**Length of Course: 16 weeks**  
**Prerequisite: None**

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### Instructor Information

**Instructor:** APUS Faculty

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### Course Description (Catalog)

This course will analyze various aspects of African Civilizations including the conflicts and historical development of various pre-colonial African kingdoms to the rise the Slave Trade. In addition, emphasis will focus on the development of the plantation economy in the West, changes in the conduct of the slave trade and its impact on African economic, social, and political history.

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## Course Scope

HIST 571: This course will analyze various aspects of African Civilizations including the conflicts and historical development of various pre-colonial African kingdoms to the rise the Slave Trade. In addition, emphasis will focus on the development of the plantation economy in the West, changes in the conduct of the slave trade and its impact on African economic, social, and political history.

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## Course Objectives

After successfully completing this course, you will be able to

1. Analyze African history from the ancient period to c. 1800.
2. Distinguish the diverse cultures and civilizations of Africa
3. Deconstruct the historical roots of current events in Africa.
4. Analyze the worth and wealth of various African cultures and societies.
5. Appraise the connections between Africans and other peoples of the world and the ways in which those connections changed over time.

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## Course Delivery Method

This course delivered via distance learning will enable students to complete academic work in a flexible manner, completely online. Course materials and access to an online learning management system will be made available to each student. Course papers are due by Friday evening; initial Forum posts are due by Thursday evening; forum responses are due by Sunday evening. Assigned faculty will support the students throughout this sixteen-week course.

### SOFTWARE REQUIREMENTS

- Microsoft Office 2003 or newer versions (MS Word, MS Excel, MS PowerPoint)
- Word documents created in Office 2007 have the default file extension of **.docx**, which is not supported by APUS and some internet browsers. To ensure the Word documents you create in Office 2007 can be opened by all, you must save

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them with the **.doc** extension using the "Save As" feature prior to submitting for grading.

- Adobe [Acrobat Reader](#) (for PDF files)
- To view streaming media and audio, individuals should have the following installed on their machines (all are free downloads):
  - [Real Audio](#)
  - [Windows Media Player](#)
  - [Quick Time](#)

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## Course Resources

### Required Course Textbooks

- *Africa in World History: From Prehistory to the Present*, Third Edition, by Erik Gilbert and Jonathan T. Reynolds
- *Africa and Africans in the Making of the Atlantic World, 1400 - 1800*, Second Edition, by John Thornton
- *African History: A Very Short Introduction*, by John Parker and Richard Rathbone

### Web Sites

In addition to the required course texts, the following public domain web sites are required viewing for the course. Please contact your instructor if the links do not work for any reason. Please abide by the university's academic honesty policy when using Internet sources as well. Note web site addresses are subject to change.

Site Name	Web Site URL/Address
Week 1  Africa Before the Europeans	<a href="http://vasc.alexanderstreet.com.ezproxy1.apus.edu/view/1795346">http://vasc.alexanderstreet.com.ezproxy1.apus.edu/view/1795346</a>
Week 3  Time Life's Lost Civilization: Ancient	<a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qWSkkt4sS24">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qWSkkt4sS24</a>

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Africa History Denied	
<p>Week 5</p> <p>BBC Series 1 Lost Kingdoms of Africa (Nubia)</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Ancient Egypt Great Builders of Egypt History Channel</p>	<p><a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zmFd91I-hIs">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zmFd91I-hIs</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rod11Qpr2X0">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rod11Qpr2X0</a></p>
<p>Week 6</p> <p>Western Africa Kingdoms (Ghana, Mali, and Songhay)</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Islam: Empire of Faith. Part 1: Prophet Muhamma d and the Rise of Islam</p>	<p><a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eqB5LYNPes4">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eqB5LYNPes4</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yX3UHNhQ1Zk">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yX3UHNhQ1Zk</a></p>
Week 7	<p><a href="http://search.alexanderstreet.com.ezproxy1.apus.edu/history/view/w">http://search.alexanderstreet.com.ezproxy1.apus.edu/history/view/w</a></p>

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<p>Shackles of Memory: The Atlantic Slave Trade</p>	<p><a href="http://ork/1784785?play=1">ork/1784785?play=1</a></p>
<p>Week 9</p> <p>Kingdoms of Africa: Kingdom of Asante</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Kingdoms of Africa: West Africa</p>	<p><a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SOExG1wMnw4">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SOExG1wMnw4</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j1h_flyXLdw">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j1h_flyXLdw</a></p>
<p>Week 10</p> <p>Episode 6 (Segment 2): The Atlantic Slave Trade</p> <p>AND</p> <p>The Middle Passage Document ary by Steven Spielberg</p>	<p><a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xIT5AYdEQVw">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xIT5AYdEQVw</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yvhKeJ6m3rY">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yvhKeJ6m3rY</a></p>
<p>Week 14</p> <p>The Spice</p>	<p><a href="http://search.alexanderstreet.com.ezproxyl.apus.edu/history/view/ork/1785276">http://search.alexanderstreet.com.ezproxyl.apus.edu/history/view/ork/1785276</a></p>

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Route: The Discovery of the Sea Lane to Africa and Asia	
Week 15  BBC Series 2 Lost Kingdoms of Africa (The Zulu Kingdom)	<a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5dfYTyCcrdU">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5dfYTyCcrdU</a>

### Additional Resources

- Equiano, Olaudah. *The Interesting Narrative of the Live of Olaudah Equiano, or Gustavus Vassa, the African*. Available at <http://www.gutenberg.org/files/15399/15399-h/15399-h.htm>
- *The Chicago Manual of Style*, 16th ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2010.
- Turabian, Kate L. *Manual for Writers of Term Papers*, 8th Edition. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. *Purchase Optional*. There is also a Turabian Quick Reference in Resources.
- [Turabian Citation Guide Online](http://www.press.uchicago.edu/books/turabian/turabian_citationguide.html)  
[http://www.press.uchicago.edu/books/turabian/turabian\\_citationguide.html](http://www.press.uchicago.edu/books/turabian/turabian_citationguide.html)
- Marius, Richard, and Melvin E. Page. *A Short Guide to Writing about History*, 7th ed. New York: Longman, 2009.
- [Course Guide](http://apus.campusguides.com/HIST571) available at <http://apus.campusguides.com/HIST571>.

### Web Sites

In addition to the required course texts, the following public domain web sites are useful. Please abide by the university's academic honesty policy when using Internet sources as well. Note web site addresses are subject to change.

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Site Name	Web Site URL/Address
Africa South of the Sahara – this website provides a bibliography with links to sources of information on ancient African civilizations.	<a href="http://www-sul.stanford.edu/depts/ssrg/africa/history/hisking.html">http://www-sul.stanford.edu/depts/ssrg/africa/history/hisking.html</a>

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### Evaluation Procedures

Describe how you will evaluate your students for each graded activity.

Work	Number Assigned	Points Each	Total Points	Percent of Grade
Forums	17	25	425	38.6
Short Essays	4	100	400	36.4
Final Paper Bibliography	1	75	75	6.8
Final Paper	1	200	200	18.2

### Grading:

Forum grades will be determined in the following manner:

- 50%: Initial post: timeliness, pertinence to forum topic, writing quality (spelling, grammar, etc.), quality of analysis, citations provided, and whether it meets the minimum required length of 250 words.
- 50%: Responses: timeliness, writing quality, whether the response contributes to furthering class discussion and learning, and minimum of responses to classmates. Simple responses such as “Good job” or “I agree” do not count toward the minimum number of responses.

Short Essays will be graded in the following manner:

- 10%: Spelling, grammar, and style

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- 10%: Citations. This includes selecting appropriate sources, providing properly formatted footnotes, and providing a properly formatted bibliography
- 80%: Writing quality. This includes meeting minimum length of 5 pages, not excessively exceeding maximum length of 6 pages (not including cover and bibliography pages), having a clear thesis, supporting your thesis, quality of analysis, and relevance to topic.

Final Paper Bibliography will be graded in the following manner:

- 50%: quality of abstract. The abstract of your paper should be 1-2 pages that includes your working thesis and major points you plan to include in your paper.
- 50%: quality of bibliography. It should include at least 8 sources, no more than 2 academically acceptable online sources. **Note that e-books or journal articles accessed through the campus library do not count as online sources.**

**Final Paper will be graded in the following manner:**

- 10%: Spelling, grammar, and style
- 10%: Citations. This includes selecting appropriate sources, providing properly formatted footnotes, and providing a properly formatted bibliography
- 80%: Writing quality. This includes meeting minimum length of 12 pages, not excessively exceeding maximum length of 15 pages (not including cover and bibliography pages), having a clear thesis, supporting your thesis, quality of analysis, and relevance to topic.

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## Course Outline

Please see the [Student Handbook](#) to reference the University's [grading scale](#).

<u>Week</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Learning Objectives</u>	<u>Readings</u>	<u>Assignment</u>
1	Overview of African History to colonial era	CO1, 2, 5	Parker: Introduction – Chapter 4 <a href="#">Africa Before the Europeans</a>	Forum 1: Introduction
2	Overview of African	CO2, 3, 5	Parker: Chapters 5 – 7	Forum 2



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	History: effects of historical roots			
3	Pre-historical Africa in context	CO 1, 2, 3, 4	Gilbert: Preface – Chapter 2 <a href="#">Time Life's Lost Civilization: Ancient Africa History Denied</a>	Forum 3: Forum: Topic Selection
4	Food, technology, and migration	CO 1, 2, 3, 4	Gilbert: Chapters 3 – 4	Forum 4 Short Essay 1 due Sunday 11:55 PM US Eastern
5	Early history and Christianity	CO 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	Gilbert: Chapters 5 – 6 AND one of the following: <a href="#">BBC Series 1 Lost Kingdoms of Africa (Nubia)</a> OR <a href="#">Ancient Egypt Great Builders of Egypt History Channel</a>	Forum 5
6	Islam	CO 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	Gilbert: Chapters 7 – 8 AND one of the following: <a href="#">Western Africa Kingdoms (Ghana, Mali, and Songhay)</a> OR <a href="#">Islam: Empire of Faith</a>	Forum 6
7	Slavery and the opening of the Atlantic world	CO 1, 3, 5	Gilbert: Chapter 9 Thornton: Introduction – Chapter 1 <a href="#">Shackles of Memory: The Atlantic Slave Trade</a>	Forum 7 Short Essay 2 due Sunday 11:55 PM US Eastern
8	Slavery and commerce	CO 1, 3, 5	Thornton: Chapters 2 – 4	Forum 8 Final Paper Bibliography due Sunday 11:55 PM US Eastern
9	West and west-central Africa	CO 1, 3, 5	Gilbert: Chapter 10 AND one of the following: <a href="#">Kingdoms of Africa:</a>	Forum 9

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			<a href="#">Kingdom of Asante</a> OR <a href="#">Kingdoms of Africa: West Africa</a>	
10	African diaspora	CO 1, 3, 5	Thornton: Chapters 5 – 6 Equiano: Chapter 2 <a href="#">The Atlantic Slave Trade</a> documentary <a href="#">The Middle Passage</a> documentary	Forum 10
11	African diaspora	CO 1, 2, 3, 5	Thornton: Chapters 7 – 8	Forum 11 Short Essay 3 due Sunday 11:55 PM US Eastern
12	Africans, religion, and the Atlantic world	CO 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	Thornton: Chapter 9 – end of text	Forum 12
13	North Africa and the Soudan	CO 1, 3, 5	Gilbert: Chapter 11	Forum 13
14	East Africa	CO 1, 3, 5	Gilbert: Chapter 12 <a href="#">The Spice Route: The Discovery of the Sea Lane to Africa and Asia</a>	Forum 14 Short Essay 4 due Sunday 11:55 PM US Eastern
15	Southern Africa	CO 1, 3, 5	Gilbert: Chapter 13 <a href="#">BBC Series 2 Lost Kingdoms of Africa (The Zulu Kingdom)</a>	Forum 15
16			No reading assignment; finish your research papers	Forum 16 Final paper due Sunday 11:55 PM US Eastern

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## Policies

Please see the [Student Handbook](#) to reference all University policies. Quick links to frequently asked question about policies are listed below.

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[Drop/Withdrawal Policy](#)

[Plagiarism Policy](#)

[Extension Process and Policy](#)

[Disability Accommodations](#)

### **Writing Expectations**

Quality writing means that your writing is clear, concise, addresses the question or issue posed, and provides thoughtful analysis. You should always proofread your work to avoid misspellings, typographical errors, and other simple mistakes. You should also avoid the use of passive voice, slang, undefined acronyms, contractions, and informal language as much as possible.

### **Citation and Reference Style**

Attention Please: The Department of History and Military Studies requires conformity with the traditional University of Chicago Style Manual and its Turabian offshoot. Citations will follow traditional footnote attribution. Do not use endnotes or parenthetical (MLA) variation. **Do not use parenthetical (APA / MLA) variations. Students in History and Military Studies classes cannot use Wikipedia or encyclopedias – this includes online encyclopedias.**

### **Late Assignments**

Students are expected to submit classroom assignments by the posted due date and to complete the course according to the published class schedule. As adults, students, and working professionals, I understand you must manage competing demands on your time. Should you need additional time to complete an assignment, please contact me before the due date so we can discuss the situation and determine an acceptable resolution. Late assignments may be assessed a penalty of 25% during the first week after the due date, 50% during the second week after the due date. Assignments will not be accepted more than 2 weeks past the due date without prior approval. In no event will assignments be accepted after the end of course unless you are on an approved extension.

### **Netiquette**

Online universities promote the advancement of knowledge through positive and constructive debate – both inside and outside the classroom. Forums on the Internet, however, can occasionally degenerate into needless insults and “flaming.” Such activity and

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the loss of good manners are not acceptable in a university setting – basic academic rules of good behavior and proper “Netiquette” must persist. Remember that you are in a place for the rewards and excitement of learning which does not include descent to personal attacks or student attempts to stifle the Forum of others.

- **Technology Limitations:** While you should feel free to explore the full-range of creative composition in your formal papers, keep e-mail layouts simple. The Sakai classroom may not fully support MIME or HTML encoded messages, which means that bold face, italics, underlining, and a variety of color-coding or other visual effects will not translate in your e-mail messages.
- **Humor Note:** Despite the best of intentions, jokes and especially satire can easily get lost or taken seriously. If you feel the need for humor, you may wish to add “emoticons” to help alert your readers: ;-), :), ☐

### **Disclaimer Statement**

Course content may vary from the outline to meet the needs of this particular group.

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### **Online Library**

The Online Library is available to enrolled students and faculty from inside the electronic campus. This is your starting point for access to online books, subscription periodicals, and Web resources that are designed to support your classes and generally not available through search engines on the open Web. In addition, the Online Library provides access to special learning resources, which the University has contracted to assist with your studies. Questions can be directed to [librarian@apus.edu](mailto:librarian@apus.edu).

- **Charles Town Library and Inter Library Loan:** The University maintains a special library with a limited number of supporting volumes, collection of our professors’ publication, and services to search and borrow research books and articles from other libraries.
- **Electronic Books:** You can use the online library to uncover and download over 50,000 titles, which have been scanned and made available in electronic format.
- **Electronic Journals:** The University provides access to over 12,000 journals, which are available in electronic form and only through limited subscription services.
- **Tutor.com:** AMU and APU Civilian & Coast Guard students are eligible for 10 free hours of tutoring provided by APUS. [Tutor.com](#) connects you with a professional tutor online 24/7 to provide help with assignments, studying, test prep, resume

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writing, and more. Tutor.com is tutoring the way it was meant to be. You get expert tutoring whenever you need help, and you work one-to-one with your tutor in your online classroom on your specific problem until it is done.

**Request a Library Guide for your course (<http://apus.libguides.com/index.php>)**

The AMU/APU Library Guides provide access to collections of trusted sites on the Open Web and licensed resources on the Deep Web. The following are specially tailored for academic research at APUS:

- Program Portals contain topical and methodological resources to help launch general research in the degree program. To locate, search by department name, or navigate by school.
- Course Lib-Guides narrow the focus to relevant resources for the corresponding course. To locate, search by class code (e.g., SOCI111), or class name.

If a guide you need is not available yet, please email the APUS Library:  
[librarian@apus.edu](mailto:librarian@apus.edu).

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### Turnitin.com

Faculty may require assignments be submitted to Turnitin.com. Turnitin.com will analyze a paper and report instances of potential plagiarism for the student to edit before submitting it for a grade. Typically the course professor will establish a Turnitin.com access code for his/her classes. If the code has not been established, those who wish to use Turnitin.com may ask their professor to establish the code.

### Selected Bibliography

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