Early African History
-- a multimedia approach

Northeastern University, Winter 1998
Sequence 2, MWTh 9:15
Prof. Patrick Manning

cross-listed:
AFR 1191 -- Key 65625
HST 1620-- Key 60335

* Human evolution
* Language, art and economy of early Africa
* Ancient Egypt
* Early Africa in world history
* Archaeology of African civilization --
  Nubia, Axum, Nok, Zimbabwe
* Medieval empires -- Ghana, Mali, Songhai
Students will explore early life in Africa via lecture, discussion, video, CD-ROM, field trips, and by producing multimedia term projects.

course syllabus and supplements on the World Wide Web at http://www.whc.neu.edu/whc/Teaching/AFR1191

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Texts:
Graham Connah, *African Civilizations*
D. T. Niane, *Sundiata, an Epic of Old Mali*
Readings packet to be purchased at Gnomon Copy
(includes articles marked below with *)

Course Assignments:
- Participation: 10%
- Quizzes: 10%
- Map Work: 10%
- Multimedia Project: 40%
- Commentary on Multimedia Projects: 10%
- Final Exam: 20%

Multimedia Project:
The main project in this course will be the development (by each individual student or by groups of students) of a multimedia teaching module on a topic in early African history. In preparing the project, students will work in the African-American Studies computer lab, and may also use other multimedia facilities available at the university. The project, in final form, may be in videotape, on a
computer disk, on World Wide Web files, or on paper -- the essential requirement is that it utilize more than one medium to convey information about an important issue in early African history.

Possible topics for multimedia projects:
- Early human evolution
- Recent human evolution
- African languages
- Development of agriculture
- Iron production
- Egypt and sub-Saharan Africa
- Bantu migrations
- Family and social life
- Early African commerce
African states: Egypt, Nubia, Axum, Zimbabwe, Ghana, Mali, Songhai, Kilwa, Benin
COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1. Overview  (January 5, 7, 8)

Week 2. Early human evolution  (January 12, 14, 15)
   Reading:  *Y. Coppens, "East Side Story: The Origin of Humankind,"  
             Scientific American (May 1994)  
             *R. Blumenschine, "Scavenging and Human Evolution,"  
             Scientific American (October 1992)

Week 3. Africa in Multiple Media (January 21, 22)
   Map 1 due in class

Week 4. Later human evolution  (January 26, 28, 29)
   Project Proposal due
   Reading:  *A. Wilson & R. Cann, "The Recent African Genesis of  
             Humans" Scientific American (April 1992)  
             *A. Thorne & M. Wolpoff, "The Multiregional Evolution of  
             Humans" Scientific American (April 1992)  
             D. Phillipson, African Archaeology, 1-33

Week 5. Language, art and economy (February 2, 4, 5)
   Quiz 1
   Reading:  *L. Cavalli-Sforza, "Genes, Peoples and Languages"  
             Scientific American (November 1991)  
             Phillipson, African Archaeology, 34-116

Week 6. Ancient Egypt; Early Africa in world history  (February 9, 11, 13)
   Preliminary Project due
   Reading:  Phillipson, African Archaeology, 117-157  
             Connah, African Civilizations, 1-66  
             *C. Ehret, "East Africa in World History"

Week 7. Archaeology of African civilization  (February 16, 18, 19)
   Map 2 due
   Reading:  Phillipson, African Archaeology, 158-207  
             Connah, African Civilizations, 67-97

Week 8. Medieval empires  (February 23, 25, 26)
   Quiz 2
   Reading:  Niane, Sundiata  
             Connah, African Civilizations, 97-213  
             Phillipson, African Archaeology, 208-240
Week 9.  Presentation of course projects  (March 2, 4, 5)
  
  Final project due
  
  Reading:  Connah, African Civilizations, 214-32

Week 10.  Review and critique  (March 9, 11, 12)
  
  Commentary on projects due

Week 11.  Final Exam (essay)
5. L. Cavalli-Sforza, "Genes, Peoples and Languages" *Scientific American* (November 1991)
6. C. Ehret, "East Africa in World History"