Early African History
-- learning and teaching about Africa --

Northeastern University, Winter 2000
Sequence 2, MWTh 9:15, 209 RY
Prof. Patrick Manning

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

* Human evolution
* Language, art and economy of early Africa
* Ancient Egypt and Nubia
* 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/manning/AFR1191

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Course Project: Teaching Materials on Early African History

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 use library and 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 6)

Week 2. Early human evolution (January 10, 12, 13)
   Reading: Newman, Peopling of Africa, pp. ix - 21, 202-205
   Connah, African Civilizations, 1-23, 227-232

Week 3. Learning and teaching about Africa (January 19, 20)
   Map 1 due in class
   Reading: Newman, Peopling of Africa, 22-39
   *C. Ehret, "East Africa in World History"

Week 4. Later human evolution (January 24, 26, 27)
   Project Proposal due
   *D. Philippson, African Archaeology, 1-33

Week 5. Language, art and economy (January 31, February 2, 3)
   Quiz 1
   Reading: Newman, Peopling of Africa, 40-59
   *L. Cavalli-Sforza, "Genes, Peoples and Languages" Scientific American (November 1991)

Week 6. Ancient Egypt; Early Africa in world history (February 7, 9, 10)
   Preliminary Project due
   Reading: Newman, Peopling of Africa, 63-103
   Connah, African Civilizations, 1-66

Week 7. Archaeology of African civilization (February 14, 16, 17)
   Map 2 due
   Reading: Newman, Peopling of Africa, 137-183
   Connah, African Civilizations, 67-97
Week 8. Medieval empires (February 21, 23, 24)

*Quiz 2*

Reading: Niane, *Sundiata*


Connah, *African Civilizations*, 97-213

Week 9. Presentation of course projects (February 28, March 1, 2)

*Final project due*


Week 10. Review and critique (March 6, 8, 9)

*Commentary on projects due*

Week 11. *Final Exam (essay)*
Reading Packet

AFR 1191 -- Early African Civilization
Winter 1996
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5. L. Cavalli-Sforza, "Genes, Peoples and Languages" Scientific American (November 1991)
6. C. Ehret, "East Africa in World History"
7. D. W. Philipppson