HUM 2420: AFRICAN HUMANITIES 3 CR FALL 2010

S. MCCLUNG –Office LRC 311 –Phone (813) 253-7742; cell 416-2129 (after 6 & FSS)
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OFFICE HOURS: M-W: 9:00-9:30; 10:45-11:00 (in Rm 301); 12:15-12:45; 3:15-4:00
Tues: 9:00- 9:30; 10:45- 11:00 (in Rm 301); 12:15-1:00; 2:00-3:30
Thurs: 9:00- 9:30; 10:45- 11:00 (in Rm 301); 12:15 -2:30

METHODOLOGY: HANDOUTS/ VIDEOS/ CLASS DISCUSSIONS/ LECTURES/ READINGS
TEXTS: four required texts below (all on reserve in the library)
Achebe, THINGS FALL APART Willet, AFRICAN ART
Witt, THE HUMANITIES AFRICAN ART Virginia Museum

*INSTRUCTOR WEBSITE: information via HCC home page- go to “current student”-
“directory”- “Faculty websites”-my name- the course # is on left side of my webpage. My
website contains weekly notes / syllabus/ study lists/ test and quiz information. (you may
also try to access via the direct address: www. hccfl.edu/faculty-info/smcclung.aspx)

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course is a historical survey of the African Humanities: the
visual arts, music, dance, literature, religion, and philosophy from the prehistoric era to the
present day. Emphasis will be on the cultural values revealed in works of art and artifact.
(This course focuses on ancient/ traditional African artistic and cultural achievements, and it
deals lightly with contemporary/political Africa).

OBJECTIVES: The student will:
1) know the essential physical and climatic characteristics of the African continent.
   (Geography)
2) understand and be able to explain the major religious beliefs and customs of Africa
   before and after the introduction of Christianity and Islam. (Religion and Philosophy)
3) understand and be able to explain the family and social structures. (Sociology, political
   science)
4) understand and be able to analyze the works of literature, and be able to determine how
   the works express the values of the cultures. (Literature: poetry, myths, epics, short story,
   novel)
5) understand and be able to analyze and explain the use of art and artifact to express the
   values of the various cultures of Africa. (The Arts: painting, sculpture, architecture, textiles,
   music, and dance)
6) be aware that African societies differ greatly in scale and complexity of organization, and
   be aware of regional traditions (i.e. western Sudan vs. Congo basin); the student will be
   able to identify similarities and differences in the cultural groups, and the cultural values of
   each.
7) be aware of major urban state societies, including the ancient/medieval empires; will be
   able to explain the reason for their greatness and their decline
8) be able to integrate ideas and analyze the differences as well as the similarities between
   the African cultures and his own, as well as to synthesize his learning into an increased
   awareness of a global culture. (higher order thinking skills)
9) (The student will become comfortable critically discussing works of art and literature, and will engage in higher-level critical thinking activities in and out of class).

REQUIREMENTS:  

**Tests and quizzes begin at the start of class and there are NO late entries** (if you are late, you missed the test or quiz. Manage your time to avoid this situation). Do not leave the room or answer/bring out cell phones and do not have papers, books visible. Extra credit opportunities are available on all tests. (You must have a 58 average in order to take the final exam). If you need to take the exam in the test center at the time of the scheduled exam, you must e-mail me two days in advance (i.e. Thurs. for Mon. test; Mon a.m. for Wed. test)

**TESTS:** Five tests are offered- the lowest grade (or no grade) will be dropped. The remaining four tests will count 60% of the grade (15% ea). **No Make-ups.** The tests contain 1) Objective information: Multiple choice,/T/F, map 2) Image identification and discussion, and 3) in-class and/or take home essay. Bring scantron.

**QUIZZES:** **FIVE QUIZZES,** are based on assigned out-of-class readings (see class schedule for dates and readings). Four quizzes will count toward 40% of the grade (10% each). **No makeup.** You may drop your lowest/missed score. Be careful that you do not miss more than one quiz.

GRADING: 10-point scale (A= 90-100) (B= 80-89).

ATTENDANCE: Note that you cannot make up a test or quiz. It is in your best interest not to miss an exam, quiz, or class. If you have an extreme situation and miss more than one exam/quiz you must present written justification (jury summons, military papers, etc.) for the missed test days and possibly make arrangements for an “incomplete” in order to finish the course. Aside from test and quiz days, attendance is not required. Roll is taken once, usually at the start of class. It is your responsibility to keep up with the class. If you are absent from a class, arrange to get notes from a classmate and check the “notes” on-line on my website. Some of the videos used in class may be available in the library.

The college’s policy regarding academic honesty and plagiarism apply.

ACCOMMODATION: If, to participate in this course, you require an accommodation due to physical or learning impairment, you must contact the office of Service to Students with disabilities located in Faculty#109 or call 813-253-7757 (voice line).

CLASSROOM:  
No food or drinks in the classroom except for capped water set on the floor. If you need to leave the room to answer a cell phone or for other reasons, **do not** return to the class for the rest of that class period (in other words, enter once and leave once during a class period—see me if you have a situation requiring bathroom trips, etc). If you enter late, please be respectful of other students. Please remember that side-talk interferes with other students’ ability to hear and concentrate. Please be respectful of other students who are speaking.
HUM 2420  TENTATIVE ACTIVITY  
Readings Prior ---we meet every M-W  
HO=Handout;   W= Willet; VM= Va. Museum; Witt =”The Humanities”

8/25 W-Introduction to course / Egypt  
Egypt// Nubia - Kush  
(Rock Painting)  
Witt – CH 2  
W- p105-109  
W- ch.3 – pages TBA

9/20 M**TEST # 1- covering material since start of class

Great Zimbabwe  
W- 126-129, VM 52   
HO
The African Continent  
W-  8-12, Witt: 370-373
“Traditional Africa”: Families/ Religion/ Social /Econ.   
HO, Witt 384-388

10/4 M*Quiz #1 on READING: Witt 390 "Sundiata” & 384 -optional study guide @ website  
Medieval Kingdoms of Mali (Timbuktu)   
VM 46
Video// "Sundiata" & World Monomyth  
The Bamana /Fulani people Witt: Lit.405-408 , art 419 / VM 66
West African Societies: The Yoruba   
VM  38, 88, 24, 26
W: 86,135, 79,80, 140, 71,70, 82, 160,163, 161, 196,210-213
Witt 373-376, 402, 408-412, 423
African Survival in New World  
Witt-436

10/13 W** TEST # 2 on material since test 1

West Africa con’t:  
Benin  
W: 96, 98, 123-125, 78, 98, 99, 165, 166, 100, 101, 186  
Witt: 379-381   
VM 14

11/1 M **QUIZ#3 on READING: Part 2,3  Achebe, “Things Fall Apart”  
Discussion of Part 2 &3
11/1Last Day to Withdraw without grade

The Akan / Ashanti  
VM 12, 34, 36  
Witt- 423-424
HCC/s trip to Ghana  
W: 108, 109, 131, 192, 250
The Slave Trade/ Colonialism  
Witt:  376-378

11/8 M** TEST # 3 covering material since test 2 (except Achebe novel)

The Congo River Basin Cultures  
VM 10, 22, 28, 30, 86 & HO
Kongo / Luba/ Kuba  
W: Kongo 227, 151, 159
W: Kuba: 188, 102, 152, 187, 174
W: Luba: 204, 205, 206, 207, 146,

11/22 M** QUIZ #4-reading– Willett Ch. 6 "Understanding African art” pp 150-194
African Art, Music, and Dance // Review   
Witt 425-427--- Videos
Ethiopia / (& ancient Axum)  
Lecture- Handout - video
The East Coast / The Pastoralists / Masai  
W- 16, Lecture- Handout – Video

12/2** TEST # 4 - covering material since test 3
12/6 Prep for Final & The West African Cultural Root and Its Survival – Witt p 436----- Bring text

12/8** Comprehensive final exam (TEST #5) and Quiz 5 – The exam/quiz are optional if you are satisfied with previous 4 test/quiz grades. If you missed a test you must sit for this last exam. ***  
QUIZ 5 on READING: “The Gelede Festival” Witt p 428-434 and Willett, Ch 5 Sculpture p 130-149.