HUM 2420: AFRICAN HUMANITIES 3 CR Spring 2010

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OFFICE HOURS: Mon-Wed: 9-9:30; 10:45-11:00 (Rm 301) 12:15-12:45; 3:15-4pm
Tues-Thurs: 9-9:30; 10:45-11:00 (Rm 301) 12:15-1:15

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**

NO MAKE-UP TESTS! TESTS BEGIN AT THE START OF CLASS- IF YOU ARE LATE, YOU MISSED THE TEST! Five tests are offered- the lowest grade (or no grade) will be dropped. The remaining four tests will count 60% of the grade (15% each). The tests MAY contain three different parts: 1) image identification and discussion 2) objective (multiple choice, T/F, map) and 3) essay (in-class and/or take home). Do not leave the room during the test, answer cell phones, or have paper or books visible. Bring a scantron. Opportunity for extra credit on all unit tests. You must have a 58 average to take the final exam. If you need to take the exams in the test center at the time the tests are given, you must e-mail me 2 days prior to the test date.

**QUIZZES / RESPONSE PAPERS**

Four QUIZZES, two with REACTION PAPERS, are based on assigned out-of-class readings (see class schedule for dates, readings, and responses). Four quizzes will count toward 40% of the grade (10% each). ONE quiz make-up only on day of final. Two 350-word reaction papers are due at the start of class (as part of quizzes 1 and 4, quizzes 2 and 3 do not require a paper). The papers will be your (intellectual) reaction to the readings, and yes, grammar counts! If you take the quiz, but do not bring the paper, it will be accepted up to 5 days late with penalty. If you miss taking a quiz, the paper may be submitted when the one quiz is taken on the last day. Be careful that you do not miss more than one quiz.

**Optional research report:** one research presentation may be substituted for quiz #4 (10%)- about 5 or 10 minutes of sharing with the class and one to two page written report. An outline of the planned topic is due 1 week in advance. Check with the instructor to verify that the topic would cover an area and/or subject not addressed in class.

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

**ATTENDANCE:** Note that you cannot make up a test and that you can make-up only one quiz. It is in your best interest not to miss an exam, quiz, or class. If you miss the final test and you needed to take it (or you miss two tests), you must present written justification (jury summons, military papers...) and make arrangements for an “incomplete” to take the test at a later date. Aside from test and quiz days, no attendance required. If you are absent from a class, arrange to get notes from a classmate and check the “notes” on-line through my HCC web page. Some of the videos may be available in the library. The college’s policy regarding academic honesty and plagiarism apply.

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”

1/11 Introduction to course / Egypt
    Egypt/ Nubia - Kush        W- p105-109
    (Rock Painting)             W- ch.3 – pages TBA

1/18 MLK Holiday- no class

2/3 W**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

2/15 President’s Day- no class

2/17 W*Quiz #1 & PAPER 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

3/3 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

3/10 W**Quiz #2 (no paper) on READING: Part 1 of Achebe, “Things Fall Apart“- discussion Part I

3/17 W**QUIZ#3 (no paper) on READING: Part 2,3  Achebe, “Things Fall Apart”
    Discussion of Part 2 &3

3/18 TH- Last 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

3/29-4/3 Spring Break- no class

4/5 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,

4/12 M** QUIZ #4-reading- and PAPER: Willet 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

4/28 W** TEST # 4 - covering material since test 3

5/5 W** Comprehensive final exam (*TEST #5) – The exam is optional if you are satisfied with previous 4 test grades. If you missed a test you must sit for this last exam. Quiz make-up at this time.