

H342C Survey of the History of Islam in Africa

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Office Hours: Tuesdays 10 a.m. to 12 noon.or by appointment

The primary purpose of this course is to examine the development of Islam in Africa using both primary and secondary source material. Hence, the course begins with an exploration of how and when Islam entered Africa and how the religion shaped African societies prior to the colonial period. Issues such as Islamic mysticism, Sufism, eschatology and state formation will be treated.

Course Format-Grades will be based on participation in discussions and written assignments. Punctuality and regular attendance is required and students who miss three or more classes will have their grades dropped by a letter grade for each unexcused absence. Students must keep up with the assigned reading and participate fully in classroom discussions. Questions will be provided for discussion, but students should develop and ask questions related to the discussion at hand. Each student will be evaluated based on class participation and written assignments. These assignments will assume the form of typed-written weekly critical essays of between one and three pages that of the student's own choosing based upon the readings and discussions. In addition, students must submit two longer critical essays. The first of these essays must be between five and ten pages in length. The first long essay is due March 1. The second essay is of the same length as the first and must be submitted by May 5. In addition, students are required to participate in a group project entailing the presentation of one of the books on the reading list.

Grading:

Class Participation:	10%
Weekly Critical Response papers:	20%
Class presentations:	20%
Mid-Term Critical Essay:	25%
Final Paper:	25%

Required Texts:

Balewa, *Shaihu Umar: Slavery in Africa*

Boyd, *The Caliph's Sister; Nana Asma, 1735-1865, Teacher, Poet and Islamic Leader.*

Hamdun and King, *Ibn Battuta in Black Africa*

Levtzion and Pouwels, *The History of Islam in Africa*

Levtzion and Spaulding, *Medieval West Africa*

Ruete, *Memoirs of an Arabian Princess from Zanzibar*

Jan. 18: Introduction of course. Review Syllabus. Discussion concerning pre-Islamic Arab milieu.

Assignment for Jan. 20: Read the "The Mufiallaqa" of fiAntara ibn Shadd and come to class prepared to discuss what it reveals about what characteristics were held in great esteem in the pre-Islamic Arabian peninsula.

Sample Draft Syllabus

Jan. 20- *al-Jahiliyya wa al-fiAṣabiyya*-Discussion concerning “Tribal Humanism,” 7th century C.E. Meccan society, and the Prophet Muhammad’s revelation.

Assignment for Jan. 23: pp, 1-31 in Esposito.

Jan. 23: *al-Khūlafāʾ al-Rashidīn*-Discussion concerning the nascent Muslim community at Medina, the Ridda Wars, and the four Orthodox Caliphs: Abu Bakr as-Siddiq(reigned 632-634 C.E.), Umar ibn al-Khattab (634-644), Uthman ibn Affan (644-656), Ali ibn Abi Talib (656-661).

Assignment Jan. 25: read pp. 32-50 in Esposito.

Jan. 25- *al-Futuh al-Islāmiyya*- Discussion on the early Muslim conquests and sectarianism within Islam.

Assignment for Jan. 27: read pp. 1-34 in “Islam in Africa.”..

Jan. 27: *Al-Maghrib*-Discussion concerning Islam’s arrival on the African continent:

Assignment for Jan. 30: Write first critical essay.

Jan. 30: *Wadi al-Nil* -Submit first critical essay. Discussion concerning Islam’s initial appearance in Egypt and Nubia How did Islam initially enter these regions? What were the factors affecting the spread of Islam in this area during this early period.

Assignment for Feb.1: Read pp. 37-54 in “Islam in Africa.”

Feb. 1- *al-Baʿr al-Aḥmar wa al-Muḥiṭ al-Hindī* -Did the manner of Islam’s arrival in the Red Sea littoral and Indian Ocean region differ from that in North Africa? If so how and why?

Assignment for Feb. 3: Read pp. 63-68 in “Islam in Africa,” and pp. and the introduction in *Medieval West Africa*.

Feb. 3-*Bil al-Sūd*. Islam’s arrival in sub-Saharan West Africa.

Assignment for Feb. 6-Read pp. 9-22 in *Medieval West Africa*.

Feb. 6- *Irtifaʿi Mamlakat Ghana*. Submit second essay. Discussion concerning the rise of the Empire of Ghana.

Assignment for Feb. 8: read pp. 23-38 in *Medieval West Africa*

Feb.8- *Taʿthir al-Islām ala bil al-Sudan*. The Medieval Western Sudan: Was Islam responsible for the ascendancy of Ghana ?

Assignment for Feb. 10: Read :pp.50-65 in *Medieval West Africa*.

Feb. 10: *al-Murabiʿūn*. The Almoravids and the end of Ghana and the beginning of the rise of Mali.

Assignment for Feb. 13: read pp. 66-101 in *Medieval West Africa*

Feb..13- *Izdih* ♦ *Mali*: The empire of Mali. What was the most influential force that can be said to have aided in the spread of Islam in the region?

Assignment for Feb. 15- Read chapter pp, 68-76 in “Islam in Africa,”

Feb. 15: Saqu† Mali wa Ta†awwur Songhay– The End of Mali and the Beginning of Songhay.

Assignment for Feb.17: come prepared to participate in group discussion concerning the book, *Ibn Battuta in Black Africa*

Feb. 17: Group presentation: *Ibn Battuta in Black Africa*..

Feb. 20: *Nihayat Hiqba*: Submit third paper. The Empires of Songhay and Kanem-Bornu. What caused the medieval empires to collapse?.

Assignment for Feb. 22: Read chapter 4 in “Islam in Africa.”

Feb. 22-

Tathir al Jula. Teachers, Traders and Scholars in the Bilad al Sudan.

Assignment for Feb. 24: Read chapter 5 in “Islam in Africa.”

Feb. 24- *Al-Sudan al-Sharqi*.The Eastern Sudan in the pre-colonial period. How does the historical experience in the Eastern Sudan differ from that of the Western Sudan?

Assignment for Feb. 27: Article on “Black Slaves in the Mediterranean World: Introduction to a Neglected Aspect of the African Diaspora,” and the Slave Trade in the Western Sudan during the 19th Century,” in the Human Commodity. Begin reading *Shaiu Umar: A Novel About Slavery in Africa*.

Feb. 27-Tijarat al Raqiq: Submit the fourth paper. The Slave Trade.

Assignment for March 1: continue reading *Shaiu Umar* and complete writing the Mid-term paper in order to submit it on March 1.

March 1-Submit the mid-term paper. Lecture on Islam’s position in relationship to slavery and African’s involvement in the trade.

Assignment for March 3- Read chapter 6 in the History of Islam.

March 3-Jihad fi’l bilad al-Sudan. Jihad in Western Africa.

Assignment for March 13: come prepared to discuss *Shaiu Umar* in class presentation. Excerpts from Uthman Dan Fodio’s poems and proclamations as they appear in Robinson’s *Sword of Truth*.

March 13 Presentation of *Shaiu Umar*.

Assignment for March 15: Read, “The 13th Century in Muslim Eschatology : Mahdist Expectations in the Sokoto Caliphate.”

March 15- The Formation of an Islamic State: The Sokoto Caliphate.

Assignment for March 20: Begin reading *One Woman's Jihad: Nana Asma'U, Scholar and Scribe*. Be prepared to discuss it in the context of the Sokoto Caliphate and the Fula jihads on March 27.

March 20: The Sokoto Caliphate continued.

Assignment for March 22: continue reading *One Woman's Jihad*.

March 22-The Sokoto Caliphate continued. The importance of Muslim eschatology in the formation of the Caliphate.

Assignment for March 24: Continue reading "One Woman's Jihad."

March 24- Lecture on The Sokoto Caliphate on the eve of colonialism. and the End of the Sokoto Caliphate.

Assignment for March 27: Complete "One Woman's Jihad."

March 27-Submit fifth critical paper and come prepared to discuss "One Woman's Jihad in Class."

Assignment for March 29: Read chapter 7 in *The History of Islam in Africa*.

March 29- Islam in the Nilotic Sudan.

Assignment for March 31: Begin reading, *Memoirs of an Arabian Princess from Zanzibar*.

March 31-Lecture on the Mahdiyya

Assignment for April 3: Read chapter 20 in the "History of Islam in Africa."

April 3: Submit sixth paper. *Al-Tasawwuf*. Sufism in Africa.

April 5. Sufism in Africa continued.

Assignment for April 7:Read chapter 21 in the *History of Islam in Africa* continue reading and "An Arabian Princess."

April 7: Does Lewis and Horton's argument resonate that Islam was accepted in Africa because of the degree of similarity between the African and Islamic cosmologies.

Assignment for April 10-Submit 6th critical paper. Read chapter 11 in the *History of Islam in Africa*.

April 10-Islam in Ethiopia and the Horn of Africa.

Assignment for April 12: Read chapter 12 in the *History of Islam in Africa*.

April 12: East Africa.

Assignment for April 17: Read chapter 13 in the *History of Islam in Africa*.

April 17: East Africa continued.

Assignment for April 19: Read chapter 18 in the History of Islam in Africa.

April 19: The Role of Women.

April 21: Class presentation of “An Arabian Princess.”

Assignment for April 24: Read chapter 15 in “*the History of Islam in Africa*.”

April 24: Southern Africa.

Assignment for April 26: read chapter 16 in *The History of Islam in Africa*.

April 26: Colonialism and African Islam.

April 26: The Mad Mullah of Somalia.

Assignment for April 28: Read chapter 19 in the History of Islam.

April 28: Islamic Education in the face of colonialism

Assignment for May 1: Read chapter 22 in the *History of Islam*.

May 1: Submit last critical essay. The Arts and Material culture of Islam in Africa and the impact of colonialism on this culture.

May 3: Postcolonial African Islam.

May 5-Submit final paper. Discussion on African Islamic Revivalism in the 21st century.