

# **DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY AND ARCHAEOLOGY**

## **ARKY 399 ETHNOHISTORY OF AFRICA Fall 2018**

**Instructor:** Dr. Diane Lyons

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**Lectures:** Tuesday/Thursday 2:00-3:15 CHE 106

**Office Hours:** Wednesday 1:30-2:30 pm or by appointment or email

**Prerequisite:** None

### **Course Description**

This course explores the methods and approaches used by archaeologists to document the ethnohistory of African peoples. Examples are drawn primarily, but not exclusively, from Saharan and sub-Saharan Africa. Emphasis will be placed on the use of material culture, genetics, oral histories, linguistic histories, and written documents including those produced by African people and by Islamic, Asian and European travelers to Africa in the recent past.

### **Learning Objectives**

By the end of the course students should be able to

- Discuss some of the methods archaeologists and ethnoarchaeologists use to document African ethnohistory
- Explain the colonial background and contemporary importance of African ethnohistory in breaking down colonial imaginaries
- Be able to conduct individual research and present this in a paper and informal presentation
- Describe the general ethnohistory of certain African societies and regions over the past 500 years

### **Exam and quiz schedule**

Map Quiz: Thursday September 20

### **70% of final grade**

10% of final grade

Exam 1: Tuesday October 4

25% of final grade

Exam 2: Thursday November 8

25% of final grade

Final quiz: Thursday December 6

10% of final grade

**Exam format:** long and short answer questions. The final quiz is multiple choice.

### **Paper and presentation**

Paper (20% of final grade)

### **30% of final grade**

Due Thursday October 25

Lightning Presentation & Participation (10% of final grade) Thursday October 25

Lightning Presentations continued

October 30

Paper Option (30% of final grade)

Due Thursday October 25

**NOTE: If the class is over 20 people, students have the option of writing a 10 page paper with 10+ sources instead of doing the paper and presentation.**

The instructor will draw names randomly so everyone doing the presentation must have their presentations ready for October 25. Participation grade: you must ask at least 2 questions per session (not per paper), the more questions the better but the instructor will make sure that no one monopolizes the question times.

If you are doing the paper and the presentation the paper assignment is linked to the lightning presentation.

**For all paper options: Students will select an appropriate topic that must be approved by the instructor no later than week 4.**

**Paper with presentation:** 7-8 page double-spaced 12pt font normal margins followed by a bibliography (8-10 paper sources).

**Paper without presentation:** 10 pages double-spaced 12pt font normal margins followed by bibliography (10+ paper sources)

**Lightning presentation:** what did you look at, what was interesting, surprising or fabulous! You will have exactly 2 minutes to present, followed by 2 minutes of discussion! You can use up to 3 power point slides, but this is optional. All students must be present (sign-in requirement) and ask questions in the discussion. **Failure to participate in both class discussions will result in a 5% grade deduction!**

**Attendance will be taken.**

**Mark Distributions are determined as follows:**

**Grading Scheme**

|            |    |            |    |
|------------|----|------------|----|
| 96.0-100   | A+ | 66.0-70.99 | C+ |
| 91.0-95.99 | A  | 61.0-65.99 | C  |
| 86.0-90.99 | A- | 56.0-60.99 | C- |
| 81.0-85.99 | B+ | 53.0-55.99 | D+ |
| 76.0-80.99 | B  | 50.0-52.99 | D  |
| 71.0-75.99 | B- | below 50.0 | F  |

Students do not need to pass every course component in order to pass the course, however, students must complete all elements of the course in a diligent manner in order to complete the course.

Students are responsible for their own note taking. Notes posted on D2L are minimal outlines and are not a substitute for in-class note taking (I do not publish images from classroom powerpoint presentations).

**Missed exams and quizzes.** Students who are unable to take a scheduled exam must contact the instructor by phone, email or in person in advance of the scheduled exam, except in the case of unforeseen circumstances, to make necessary arrangements for a

rewrite. **Normally the make-up exam is written prior to the class following the exam at a time convenient for the instructor.**

The use of notes, computers, cell-phones and other electronic devices are not allowed in exams and quizzes. While students can bring beverages to an exam, do not bring crunchy and smelly lunches or snacks: these are distracting to other students.

**Students are not allowed to tape, video-record or photograph lectures without written permission from the instructor.**

### **Preliminary Course Outline**

Readings provide background material for the lectures and are available to download in pdf format from the Taylor Digital Library online journals. A list of online readings is provided on d2l for each week. Students are responsible for attending class, taking notes in class and doing the readings.

**Note: the following schedule may be modified with the pace of the class but exam, quizzes, and assignment dates remain as posted. Exams are non-cumulative and include short and long-answer questions.**

#### **Week 1: September 6**

Introduction to the course, assignments, history and colonial imaginary

#### **Week 2: September 11, 13**

Africa as “people without history”: the colonial imaginary and its fallout.

#### **Week 3: September 18, 20**

Introduction to geography, climate, people and language groups in Africa.

***Map Quiz (10% of final grade) Thursday class***

#### **Week 4: September 25, 27**

Revisionary history: the Kalahari Debate and the ethnohistory of hunter-gatherers in Southern Africa (Rock art, ethnography, historical linguistics, and archaeology)

#### **Week 5: October 2, 4**

Genetics and physical anthropology: contributions to African ethnohistory.

***Exam 1: 25% of final grade (Thursday class)***

#### **Week 6: October 9, 11**

historical linguistics and ethnoarchaeology continued; Using ethnographic studies to interpret the ethnohistory of eastern Bantu

#### **Week 7: October 16, 18**

Ethnohistory of African pyro-technologies (iron, glass and pottery) and what it tells us of African technological traditions.

**Week 8: October 23, 25**

Oral history and archaeology

*Paper is due on Thursday October 25 in class (20%)*

*Lightning Sessions: Begin on Thursday October 25 in class (10%)*

**Week 9: October 30, November 1 (Lightning Sessions Continue October 30**

**Tuesday class)**

Ethnohistory in Ritual: Landscape, shrines and monuments examples from North, Central and southern Africa.

**Week 10: November 6, 8**

Trans-Saharan trade and the lure of Timbuktu

*Exam 2: 25% of final grade (Thursday class)*

**TERM BREAK NOVEMBER 11-17.**

**Week 11: November 20, 22**

The Atlantic Trade: West Africa

**Week 12: November 27, 29**

The Atlantic trade continued (include states)

**Week 13: December 4, 6**

*Final Quiz: 10% of final grade (December 6 Thursday class)*

**DEFERRED EXAMS:**

A student who is absent from a test for legitimate reasons must discuss an alternative course of action with the instructor. Deferral of the final exam requires Registrar approval. The instructor at their discretion may transfer the percentage weight for the test to the final examination, if there is a final examination in the course, set another test, etc. Documentation supporting the reason for missing an exam may be required. Deferred exams may be in a different format than the regularly scheduled exam, e.g. essay style questions instead of multiple choice questions. Students must be aware that they are responsible for payment of any charge associated with the medical assessment and documentation as this service falls outside the realm of services provided by the Provincial Health Care Plan

**PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING**

Plagiarism: “to steal and pass off the ideas or words of another as one’s own” (Webster’s). Plagiarism will not be tolerated and will automatically result in a failing grade for the submission. Any student caught plagiarizing will also be subject to

additional University sanctions. Students are expected to be familiar with the University of Calgary's policy on intellectual honesty

## **ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS**

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy>

Students needing an Accommodation because of a Disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Students needing an Accommodation based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to the instructor of this course.

## **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

Academic integrity is essential to the pursuit of learning and scholarship in a university, and to ensuring that a degree from the University of Calgary is a strong signal of each student's individual academic achievements. As a result, the University treats cases of cheating and plagiarism very seriously. Non-academic integrity also constitutes an important component of this program.

For detailed information on what constitutes academic and non-academic misconduct, please refer to the following link: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-2-1.html>

All suspected cases of academic and non-academic misconduct will be investigated following procedures outlined in the University Calendar. If you have questions or concerns about what constitutes appropriate academic behaviour or appropriate research and citation methods, you are expected to seek out additional information on academic integrity from your instructor or from other institutional resources.

Where there is a criminal act involved in plagiarism, cheating or other academic misconduct, e.g., theft (taking another student's paper from their possession, or from the possession of a faculty member without permission), breaking and entering (forcibly entering an office to gain access to papers, grades or records), forgery, personation and conspiracy (impersonating another student by agreement and writing their paper) and other such offences under the Criminal Code of Canada, the University may take legal advice on the appropriate response and, where appropriate, refer the matter to the police, in addition to or in substitution for any action taken under these regulations by the University

## **TEACHING EVALUATIONS / USRIS (Universal Student Ratings of Instruction)**

At the University of Calgary, feedback provided by students through the Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRIS) survey provides valuable information to help with evaluating instruction, enhancing learning and teaching, and selecting courses. **Your responses make a difference, please participate!** Website: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/usris/>

## **WRITING ACROSS THE CURRICULUM**

Writing skills are not exclusive to English courses and, in fact, should cross all disciplines. The University supports the belief that throughout their University careers, students should be taught how to write well so that when they graduate their writing abilities will be far above the minimal standards required at entrance. Consistent with this belief, students are expected to do a substantial amount of writing in their University courses and, where appropriate, members of faculty can and should use writing and the grading thereof as a factor in the evaluation of student work. The services provided by the Writing Support, part of the Student Success Centre, can be utilized by all undergraduate and graduate students who feel they require further assistance

**Emergency Evacuation Assembly Points:** In the event of an emergency that requires evacuation, please refer to the following link to become familiar with the assembly points for the class: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

## **Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act: Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act**

The University of Calgary is committed to protecting the privacy of individuals who work and study at the University or who otherwise interact with the University in accordance with the standards set out in the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. Please refer to the following link for detailed information:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip>

The Department of Anthropology and Archaeology's FOIP (Freedom of Information and Privacy) policy requires all reports/examinations to be returned to students during class time or the instructor's office hours. Any term work not picked up will be placed in the Anthropology and Archaeology Office (ES620) for distribution. Any student not wishing to have their work placed in the office must make alternative arrangements with the course instructor early in the term.

**Safewalk Information:** Campus Security, in partnership with the Students' Union, provides the Safewalk service, 24 hours a day to any location on Campus including the LRT, parking lots, bus zones and University residences. Contact Campus Security at (403) 220-5333 or use a help phone, and Safewalkers or a Campus Security Officer will accompany you to your campus destination.

**Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources:** Have a question, but not sure where to start? Arts Students' Centre

The Faculty of Arts Students' Centre is the overall headquarters for undergraduate programs in the Faculty of Arts. The key objective of this office is to connect students with whatever academic assistance that they require.

In addition to housing the Associate Dean, Undergraduate Programs and Student Affairs and the Associate Dean for Teaching and Learning, the Arts Students' Centre is the specific home to:

- program advising
- the Faculty's Co-operative Education Program
- the Arts and Science Honours Academy

- the Faculty's Interdisciplinary Programs
- a Student Help Desk

Location: Social Sciences Room 102

Phone: 403.220.3580

Email: [ascarts@ucalgary.ca](mailto:ascarts@ucalgary.ca)

Website: [arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate/](http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate/)

For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Library Block.

Contacts for Students Union Representatives for the Faculty of Arts:

[arts1@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts1@su.ucalgary.ca)

[arts2@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts2@su.ucalgary.ca)

[arts3@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts3@su.ucalgary.ca)

[arts4@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts4@su.ucalgary.ca)

**Ombudsman's office:** <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ombuds/>