

## ARKY439 African Complex Societies

**Dr. Diane Lyons**

**Lectures: Tuesday/Thursday 3:30-4:45 PM SH 284**

**Office Hours: ES 854 Wednesday 1-2 pm or by appointment**

**Phone: 403-220-6370**

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The course examines ancient African complex societies with an emphasis on state development south of the Sahara. Lecture topics will include why these states developed, their participation in internal and international systems of exchange, technological developments, belief systems that supported power structures, and the reasons for their collapse.

**Text:**

Connah, Graham. 2001. *African Civilizations (2<sup>nd</sup> edition)*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.

**Note: A list of required and supplementary readings is provided. Articles are available as online journals in the library, hardcopy in the department library or on reserve in the department library.**

### Section 1: Introduction

**Week 1: January 10, 12**

Lecture: Course Introduction, and Introduction to the Continent

*Readings:* Connah: The context

**Week 2: January 17, 19**

Theoretical perspectives on the emergence of complexity in Africa

Background to the emergence of African complex societies

***Supplementary Reading***

Connah, Graham. 2008. Urbanism and the archaeological visibility of African complex societies. *Journal of African Archaeology* 6(2):233-242.

### Section 2: Northeast Africa: Egypt, Nubia and Ethiopia

**Week 3: January 24, 26**

Ancient Egypt: pre-dynastic, Old Kingdom

***Map quiz in Thursday class (10%)***

***Supplementary Readings***

Wengrow, David. 2003. On desert origins for the ancient Egyptians. *Antiquity* 77(297):597-601. (*online journal*)

Wenke, Robert J. and Deborah Olszewski. 2007. Chapter 9. The Origins of Complex Societies in Egypt. *Patterns in Prehistory* (5<sup>th</sup> edition). Oxford University Press, Great Britain. *On reserve in department library.*

**Week 4: January 31, February 2**

Ancient Egypt: Middle and New Kingdoms

**Readings:** on reserve in archaeology reading room: Wenke, Robert and Deborah Olszewski. 2007. *Patterns in Prehistory*, 5<sup>th</sup> edition. Oxford University Press, Oxford. Read chapter 9 on the rise of Ancient Egypt.

**Week 5: February 7, 9**

Ancient Nubia

**Readings:** Connah chapter 2

Supplementary Reading:

Edwards, David. 2007. The archaeology of Sudan and Nubia. *Annual Review of Anthropology* 36:211-228.

**Week 6: February 14, 16**

Ethiopia

**Readings:** Connah chapter 3

**Exam 1 on Thursday class (25%)**

**Supplementary readings:**

Curtis, Matthew

2009 Relating the Ancient Ona Culture to the wider northern Horn: discerning patterns and problems in the archaeology of the first millennium BC. *African Archaeological Review* 26:327-350.

Fattovich, Rodolfo

2009 Reconsidering Yeha, c. 800-300 BC. *African Archaeological Review* 26:275-290.

2010 The development of ancient states in the northern Horn of Africa, c. 3000 BC-AD 1000: an archaeological outline. *Journal of World Prehistory* 23:145-175.

**Reading week February 19-24, no classes**

**Section 3: North Africa, the Sahara and West Africa**

**Week 7: February 28, March 1**

The Sahara and North Africa

Savannah kingdoms and empires of West Africa

**Readings:** Connah chapter 4

**Supplementary Reading:**

Nixon, Sam, Mary Anne Murray and Dorian Q. Fuller

2011 Plant use at an early Islamic merchant town in the West African Sahel: the archaeobotany of Essouk-Tadmakka (Mali). *Vegetal History of Archaeobotany* 20:223-239.

**Week 8: March 6, 8**

Savannah kingdoms and empires of West Africa continued

**Readings:** Connah chapter 4

**Week 9: March 13, 15**

West African Forest States

**Readings:** Connah chapter 5

**TERM PAPERS DUE IN CLASS ON THURSDAY MARCH 15**

**Section 4: Eastern, Southern, and Central Africa**

**Week 10: March 20, 22**

West African forest states continued

East Africa

**Readings:** Connah chapters 5,6

**Supplementary Readings**

Fleisher, Jeffrey and Stephanie Wynne-Jones

2011 Ceramics and the early Swahili: deconstructing the early Tana Tradition. *African Archaeological Review* 28:245-278.

LaViolette, Adria.

2008. Swahili cosmopolitanism in Africa and the Indian Ocean World, A.D. 600-1500.

*Journal of the World Archaeological Congress* 4(1):24-49.

**Week 11: March 27, 29**

**Exam 2 on Tuesday class (25%)**

Southern Africa

**Readings:** Connah chapter 7

**Week 12: April 3, 5**

Southern Africa continued

Central Africa

**Readings:** Connah chapter 7, 8

**Week 13: April 10, 12**

Central Africa and wrap-up

**Readings:** Connah chapters 8, 9

**Final Quiz in Thursday class (10%)**

**Course evaluation**

Map Quiz 10%

Exam 1 25%

Exam 2 25%

Final Quiz 10%

Paper 30%

Paper writing and topics will be discussed in class in week 2. Students are required to submit a paper topic to the instructor by the 5<sup>th</sup> week of classes.

**Grading Scheme**

96-100	A+
91-95	A
86-90	A-
81-85	B+
76-80	B
71-75	B-
66-70	C+
61-65	C
56-60	C-
53-55	D+
50-52	D
below 50	F

## ADDITIONAL CONTENT OF THE COURSE OUTLINE

### 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, instructors can and may use writing and the grading thereof as a factor in the evaluation of student work. The services provided by the Writing Centre in the Effective Writing Office can be utilized by all undergraduate and graduate students who feel they require further assistance.

### Academic Accommodation Policy

The purpose of academic accommodation is to provide students with documented disabilities equal opportunity to master the essentials of a post-secondary education. Students with disabilities at the University of Calgary have met all admission requirements but may have done so with the use of accommodations. Similarly, they are expected to meet all academic and non-academic requirements. Adaptive technology and other academic accommodations do not relieve students of their responsibility to develop the essential skills and abilities expected of all students.

Please refer to the following web link for detailed information: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/drc/node/71>

### Disability Resource Centre Accommodations

It is the responsibility of the student to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at (403)220-8237.

Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. Students are also required to discuss their needs with the instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of the course.

### 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/secretariat/system/files/foip%20overview.pdf>

### Academic Misconduct

Academic dishonesty is an unacceptable activity at the University of Calgary and students are **strongly advised** to read the Student Misconduct section of the University Calendar. Quite often, students are unaware of what constitutes academic dishonesty or plagiarism. The most common are:

- 1) Presenting another student's work as your own
- 2) Presenting an author's work or ideas as you own without proper referencing
- 3) Using work completed for another course

This activity will not be tolerated and students conducting themselves in this manner will be dealt with according to the procedures outlined in the University Calendar.

For detailed information on what constitutes academic misconduct, please refer to the following link:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-2-1.html>

## **Plagiarism**

Plagiarism involves submitting or presenting work as if it were the student's own work when it is not. Any ideas or materials taken from another source written, electronic, or oral must be fully and formally acknowledged. Plagiarism includes but is not limited to:

- (a) The work submitted or presented was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting or presenting the work (this includes having another impersonate the student or otherwise substituting the work of another for one's own in an examination or test),
- (b) Parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author,
- (c) The whole work (e.g., an essay) is copied from another source, and/or,
- (d) A student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course (although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved.

While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted. Plagiarism is an extremely serious academic offence.

It is recognized that clause (d) does not prevent a graduate student incorporating work previously done by him or her in a thesis or dissertation.

## **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>

## **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? The new Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (PIC) is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS110, call us at 403-220-3580 or email us at [artsads@ucalgary.ca](mailto:artsads@ucalgary.ca). You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> which has detailed information on common academic concerns.
- For program planning and advice, contact the Student Success Centre (formerly the Undergraduate programs Office) at (403) 220-5881 or visit them in their new space on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library.
- 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.

## **Contact Information for Student and Faculty Representation**

Student Union Vice President – Academic

Phone: (403) 220-3911

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

Student Union Faculty Representative

Phone: (403) 220-3913

Email: [socilsciirep@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:socilsciirep@su.ucalgary.ca)

Student Ombudsman's Office

<http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/services/student-services/students-rights.html>

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)

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