

~~541.02~~ 541.02
~~543~~

African American & African Studies xxx/ History-541.2: History of Islam in Africa

Instructor: Ahmad Sikainga
Office: Dulles Hall 171

The main objective of this course is to give the students an overview of the history and the role of Islam in African societies. The course will discuss the manner in which Islam spread in different parts of the continent as well as its political, economic, and cultural impact. It will explore such topics as the interaction between Islam and local African beliefs; the development of Islamic political institutions and legal systems, Islamic literature and art, impact of Islam on gender relations, and the development of Islamic revivalist movements in the nineteenth century. The last part of the course will examine the impact of European colonial rule on Muslim societies in Africa and the role of Islam in the post-colonial period.

Required Readings

AAAS 643/History 541.02, available at COP-EZ .

In addition, the following required readings are placed on reserve at the main library:

Mervyn Hiskett, The Course of Islam in Africa, 1994.

Nehemia Levtzion and Randall Pouwels, The History of Islam in Africa, 2000.

Randall Powuels, Horn and Crescent: Cultural Change and Traditional Islam on the East African Coast, 800-1900, 1987.

Course Requirements

Students are required to:

1. Attend and participate in class discussion.
2. Take two written examinations (a midterm and a final).
3. Write a paper of 2000 words. Students will chose from a list of topics that will be provided by the instructor. An outline of the paper and a bibliography are due in class on **October 25**. The final version is due in class on **xxx**. The paper must follow the MLA documentation style. Copies of the manual will be distributed in class. Failure to follow these guidelines will severely affect your grade.

Additional Rules:

Students must:

1. Come to class on time and refrain from disruptive activities while the class is in session.
2. Submit their assignments on their due date.

Grading

Attendance and class participation: 15%

Midterm: 25%

Paper: 30%

Final: 30%

Course Outline

Week 1: **Introduction**

Week 2-3: **Background: The Rise and the Expansion of the Muslim Empire**

Readings

"Traditional Muslim Attitude to political power," Reader

"Islam as News," Reader

"The Coming of Islam and the expansion of the Muslim Empire," Reader

Egypt and North Africa

Readings

"Stages in the Development of Islam and its Dissemination in Africa," Reader
Hiskett, pp.1-25, 53-66

West Africa

Readings

Hiskett, pp.92-109

Northeast Africa

Readings

Hiskett, pp.67-71, 135-150

East and Southern Africa

Readings:

Hiskett, pp. 151-176

Randall Pouwels, pp.6-62

Week 4: Islam and African Beliefs

Readings

- "Islam as a social system in Africa since the seventh century," Reader
 "Islam and traditional belief and ritual," Reader
 "Kaidara: Islam and traditional religion in a west African narrative of initiation," Reader.
 "Prayer, Amulets, and Healing," in Levtzion and Pouwels, 477-484.
 "Sufi Brotherhoods in Africa," in Levtzion and Pouwels, pp. 441-468

Week 5: Islamic political and legal systems in Africa

Readings:

- "Islam and political systems," Reader
 "Islamic law and customary practice," Reader
 "Islamic law in Africa," in Levtzion and Pouwels, pp. 373-388.

Week 6: African Women and Islam

Readings

- "Muslim Women in African History," in Levtzion and Pouwels, pp. 397-413.

Week 7: Muslim education, literature, and art

- "Islamic Education and Scholarship in Sub-Saharan Africa," Levtzion and Pouwels, pp. 419-433.
 "Islamic art and material culture in Africa," Levtzion and Pouwels, pp. 489-514
 "Islamic literature in Africa," Levtzion and Pouwels, pp. 519-540

Week 8: Islamic Revivalist Movements in Africa

Readings:

- Hiskett, pp.71-75, 109-114

Week 9: Muslim Societies in Africa under European Colonial Rule

Readings

- Hiskett, pp.25-44, 60-75, 114-126, 164-166
 "Islam in West Africa under the colonial administration," Reader.
 "Islam and the European occupation of West Africa," Reader.
 "Islam in Africa under French colonial rule," Levtzion and Pouwels, pp. 169-182

Week 10: Islam in the post-independence period

Readings

Hiskett, pp.44-53, 60-67,75-92,

143-151, 126-135, 166-174

“Islam in West Africa: Radicalism and the new ethics of disagreement, 1960-1990,” Levtzion and Pouwels, pp. 189-204

“Religious pluralisms in northern Nigeria,” Levtzion and Pouwels, pp. 290-221

“Muslim-Christian Conflict and Political Instability in Nigeria,” Reader.

“Islam and National Integration in the Sudan,” Reader.