

HUM2420:001 African Humanities

Fall 2023 Tuesday and Thursday Building P Room 265

Professor: Dr. Sarah Cervone
Office: L-238
Phone: 352-395-5670
Email: sarah.cervone@sfcollge.edu
Zoom Link: <https://sfcollege.zoom.us/my/cervoneoffice>
Office Hours: Tues and Thurs 11:00-12:00, 4:00-6:00



Course Description

HUM2420 is an introductory survey of the humanities of Africa. It draws from interdisciplinary sources to examine the histories, cultural systems, political structures, economic arrangements, social relationships, and geographies experienced by the diverse populations of people connected to Africa from prehistory to the present. Students will critically analyze and evaluate the ways unique social and historical experiences, ideas and cultural values are communicated through humanistic activities and art forms.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of the course, students will be able to situate African cultural artifacts (from prehistory to the present and both in and beyond the continent) within unique social and historical circumstances to interpret the diverse ways that culture, ideas and experiences connected to Africa are communicated through the humanities.

- identify and describe different geomorphic, social and political geographies of Africa and compare the ways geography has shaped and continues to shape social and cultural experiences in Africa
- recognize and explain significant historical events in Africa, from prehistory to present, and examine the ways historical circumstances influence individual, group and societal experiences and perspectives,
- situate cultural artifacts within specific social and historical contexts and interpret the ways that diverse experiences, ideas and cultural values connected to Africa are communicated through humanistic activities and art forms,
- explain how globalization processes have connected Africa to the worldwide arena to formulate a position on the complexity and diversity of cultures, societies and people throughout the world

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Readings and Technology

- All readings will be available for free on the course [website](#)
- This course requires access to a computer and reliable internet connectivity. Students who need a laptop can apply to Tyree Library loan program [here](#).

Course Design and Organization

This course is organized into two parts: The first part of the course will establish the historical foundations that have shaped contemporary social and cultural phenomena in Africa. The second part of the course will explore the ways that people connected to Africa express unique social and historical experiences through a wide range of diverse cultural expressive mediums in the humanities such as music, art, dance, poetry and literature.

The course is organized into six Modules in Canvas, and each module includes lessons comprised of readings and an online discussion activity. Each module ends with a timed quiz consisting of multiple choice and true-false questions and a brief writing assignment. There are two timed exams, a Midterm and a Final, and both consist of multiple-choice and true-false questions. The exams are not cumulative. The semester ends with a final research-based project consisting of a paper and a digital poster. There are several experiential extra credit activities available throughout the semester.

Course Design and Organization

Activities in this course will take you through simple to complex orders of cognitive thinking; from recognize and identify, to define and describe, to analyze and evaluate, to formulate and produce.



Quizzes and Exams: Identify and Recognize

Online timed quizzes and exams consisting of true/false and multiple-choice questions are designed to help students identify and recognize terms and concepts related to African Humanities. All quizzes and exams are 'open note' and students are encouraged to create an outline of each lesson to study beforehand and use as a 'cheat sheet' during

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the assessment. The quizzes and exams are *not* cumulative. Students are responsible for ensuring adequate connectivity and should not take the assessments at the last minute. In the event of technical difficulties, students must contact Canvas to troubleshoot (see contacts below) and notify me immediately of the problem. Assessments are not reset without documentation of Canvas technical issues by SF tech support.

Online Discussions: Analyze and Evaluate

Online discussion activities at the end of each web lesson are designed to help students analyze and evaluate new information and gain insight on different ideas and perspectives through online conversation. *To receive credit for online discussion activities, students must follow the directions in the discussion prompt; use terms and concepts introduced in the lesson, reply to at least two other student posts, and complete the response prior to the designated deadline.* Late submissions will not receive credit.

Writing Assignments: Synthesize and Create

Writing assignments at the end of each module are designed to assist students in applying new information from this course by creating a brief writing summary that synthesizes the unique experiences, histories, and circumstances within the broader social and historical phenomena that shape African culture. The assignments and projects will be graded according to 1.) writing, grammar, and composition; 2.) content and use of material presented in the readings and in class; 3.) ability to present and discuss in class or online; 5.) use of academic sources

Failure to use and include formatted academic citations and/or a Turnitin score greater than 10% will result in an automatic '0'. Please refer to the course website for assignment descriptions and resources for completing the assignment. Assignments must be turned in via Canvas before class time on the specified due date. **Late assignments will not receive credit.**

Research Paper and Poster: Formulate and Produce

The final project paper will assess the student's ability to meet the GELO for Critical Thinking: 'Demonstrate the skills necessary for analysis, synthesis, evaluation, decision-making, critical and creative thinking, and the creative process.' (GE Humanities) Review the assignment description and the GELO assessment rubric in the [Final Project Module](#) for more information.

Grading and Assessment

Final letter grades are based on the total number of points earned in the class by the end of the semester, *not* the percentage. The distribution of points and the corresponding letter grade is listed below. The Total Column in the Canvas gradebook will automatically calculate the sum of points earned throughout the semester. **NOTE:** The

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Canvas phone app will show you the percentage, not the total number earned. You must use a computer to review the points earned in your Gradebook.

Point Distribution

Table showing breakdown of assignment categories and their respective points.

Activity	Points Available
Writing Assignments (four x five points each)	20
Discussions (20 x 1 point each)	20
Exams (two x 20 points each)	40
Quizzes (four x five points each)	20
Research Paper and Poster (ten points each)	20
Extra Credit	>10

Final Letter Grade Scale

Points Earned	Letter Grade
94 and up	A
88-93.9	B+
84-87.9	B
78-83.9	C+
74-77.9	C
68-73.9	D+
64-67.9	D
>64	F

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Tracking Progress and Withdrawing from the Course

Students are responsible for tracking progress in the course by reviewing the [Grading](#) page in Canvas to calculate total overall score in the course. Students must be aware of the withdrawal deadlines located at sfcollege.edu/records.

Communication and Contact Information

The Announcements section in Canvas will archive weekly updates and reminders throughout the semester. It is a good idea to adjust your notification, so you receive the announcements by clicking on Account>Settings>Notifications and selecting your preferences. I can be reached via email, phone and Zoom. Please provide at least 48 hours for a response.

All students must use and regularly check their go.sfcollege.edu email account for updates, emails and notifications. Professors are prohibited to responding to external email addresses such as Gmail, Yahoo, etc.

Preferred Names: You can designate your preferred name at Santa Fe by submitting your preference at the [How to Change Your Name](#) web page on the SF website. You can change your display name in Canvas by clicking on Account>Settings>Edit Settings.

Technical Difficulties

Students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with Canvas and resolving technical difficulties. This is particularly important for online courses, and problems associated with Canvas, personal computers, or personal internet connections should be remedied prior to designated deadlines. Late work is not accepted due to personal technical difficulties.

For questions or difficulty navigating Canvas, please contact the SF College Canvas Help team.

- **E-mail:** canvashelp@sfcollege.edu
- **Telephone:** (352) 395-7344
- **Visit us at:** P-138 (Northwest Campus)
- **Web:** [Report a Problem Online](#)

The Santa Fe website also provides a Student Tech Guide to help resolve common technical issues: [Click Here](#)

Attendance and Participation Policy (for On-site and Virtual Sections)

Attendance is not mandatory, yet students with at least 75% *active participation* will receive five participation points at the end of the semester. This means 25% of missed

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meetings are automatically excused. (Excused absences fall within the 25% allowable absences.)

- *Active participation* is defined as being actively engaged and paying attention during the entire designated time.
- Students engaging in any activity that is not related to the course will not be counted as having attended.
- Students arriving or logging in later than 15 minutes will be marked tardy and receive partial credit and after 30 minutes will not be granted access to the class.

Zoom Etiquette and Participation Criteria (for Virtual sections)

Students participating virtually via Zoom are expected to follow the same professional practices and protocols for face-to-face courses in order to receive participation credit. This includes, but is not limited to:

- keeping the camera on at all times (Yet it is appropriate to briefly turn off camera and excuse yourself in chat to address immediate needs (ie bathroom, children, blow nose, etc.)
- being properly dressed,
- sitting upright at a desk or table (students lying down or walking around will be removed from the meeting),
- refraining from non-class-related activities during class time,
- keeping friends and family outside the view of the camera,
- including complete and properly spelled screen name,
- remaining actively engaged throughout the entire duration of class
- refraining from eating on camera

Students experiencing harassment via chat during class meetings should take a screenshot the chat and immediately send it to me for departmental review.

Time Management and Class Schedule

Time management is critical to success in this course. All activities and deadlines are loaded into Canvas by the first day of classes, and students are encouraged to work ahead of schedule to avoid missed work due to unforeseen medical emergencies, arrests, car troubles, internet connectivity loss, unreliable childcare, etc. Students are encouraged to download the course calendar from Canvas and into a personal calendar on a smart phone and/or set the calendar to send deadline reminders.

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Extra Credit

There are at least 10 additional extra credit points available to students through a variety of activities in Canvas. These points can be used to replace points missed in discussions, assignments, assessments and in the final project. Since final grades are based on the sum (addition) of points earned in class, not percentage, a zero grade on an extra credit activity does not impact the total score for the course. In light of the extraordinary amount of extra credit in this course, final grades are never bumped to the next letter.

Etiquette and Professionalism

All students are expected to conduct themselves in a professional and respectful manner both within the classroom and online. All points of view are welcome, yet they must be expressed in an intelligent and non-offensive manner and framed within an academic context. Students who revert to personal attacks, slurs and/or insults in discussions will be removed from the class. Please refer to the Santa Fe College [Student Conduct Code](#).

Accessibility Statement

Santa Fe College values diversity and inclusion and is committed to fostering mutual respect and full participation for all students. The Disabilities Resource Center (DRC) facilitates reasonable accommodations for students who encounter disability-related barriers in the learning environment. If you have a disability that may affect your work in this class and think you need accommodations, please contact the DRC to schedule an appointment and start a conversation about reasonable accommodations. Our Disabilities Resource Center is located in Building S, Room 229 at the Northwest Campus and appointments are available at all College locations. Visit the 352-395-4400, or email drc@sfcollege.edu.

Academic Honesty

Authenticity of student work will be verified through the Turnitin electronic database. Plagiarized work will receive a failing grade, and evidence of plagiarism will be submitted to the Department of Humanities as well as the college administration. For information about plagiarism and how to avoid it, visit the Tyree Library [Plagiarism Webpage](#) for more information.

Discrimination / Harassment Policy

SF prohibits any form of discrimination or sexual harassment among students, faculty and staff. For further information, refer to [College Rule 2.8](#).

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Student Rights & Responsibilities

The purpose of this document is to provide students with a general overview of both their rights and responsibilities as members of the Santa Fe Community. [Click here](#) for a complete list of students' rights and responsibilities.

Athletics and Scholarships

Students participating in SF athletics or receiving grade-dependent scholarships are responsible for achieving the grade necessary to maintain eligibility. Student-athletes and scholarship recipients will not receive special benefits. Any student, or person affiliated with a student, who requests special benefits due to athletic or scholarship status will be reported to the appropriate agency.

Emergencies and Disaster

In the event of disruption of normal online activities due to an emergency such as hurricane, pandemic or other unforeseen event or combination of events, the format of this course may be modified to enable completion of the course requirements. In that event, you will be provided an addendum to this syllabus that will supersede this version. It is your responsibility as a student participant to be proactive during any emergency to find instructions that I will post on Canvas.

Counseling Services

Santa Fe College recognizes that there may be times, as a college student, when personal stressors interfere with your academic performance and your daily life. The Santa Fe Counseling Center supports students by addressing mental and emotional well-being, and provides FREE and confidential short-term individual, couples, group counseling, crisis intervention, outreach and referral services. To schedule an appointment, call 352-395-5508 or email counseling@sfccollege.edu with your SFID# and a telephone number where you can be reached. Our Counseling Center is located in Building R, Room 227 on the Northwest Campus. Visit [Counseling Services](#) webpage to learn more about their services and resources.

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Class Schedule

Schedule of Activities and Their Point Value

Date	Module	Lesson	Associated Activities	Points
Week One				
August 21	Welcome	Course Overview	Extra Credit Syllabus Quiz	1
August 22	Intro	Introduction to African Studies	Intro and Country Selection	1
August 24	Intro	Cartographies of Africa	Physical Maps	1
Week Two				
August 29	Intro	Social Geographies of Africa	Social Maps	1
August 31	Intro	Writing Assignment and Presentation	Country Background Report	5
September 1	Intro	Module Assessment	Quiz	5
Points in Introductory Module (without extra credit)				13
Week Three				

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September 5	Early Histories	Prehistory and Empires	An African Empire	1
September 7	Early Histories	Skywatchers of Africa in Planetarium	Film Response	1
Week Four				
September 12	Early Histories	Africa and Europe before 1900	European Relations	1
September 13	Early Histories	Module Assessment	Quiz	5
Points in Early Histories Module (without extra credit)/Total Points in Course So Far				8/21
September 14	Recent Histories	Colonialism	Colonizer in Country	1
Week Five				
September 19	Recent Histories	Colonialism, Power and Representation	Outsider Representation	1
September 21	Recent Histories	Independence	States of Independence	1

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Week Six				
September 26	Recent Histories	Modernization and Development	<i>What are we doing here?</i> Case Study	3
September 28	Recent Histories	Writing Assignment	Socio-Historical Contexts	5
September 29	Course Assessment	Cartographies, Early Histories and Recent Histories Module	Midterm Exam	20
Points in Recent Histories Module and Exam/ Points in Class so Far (without extra credit)				31/52
Week Seven: Culture and Society				
October 3	Culture and Society	Languages in Africa	An African Language	1
October 5	Culture and Society	Livelihoods in Africa	An African Livelihood	1
Week Eight				
October 10	Culture and Society	African Music	Music Analysis	1

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October 12	Culture and Society	African Cinema	Film Analysis	1
Week Nine				
October 17	Culture and Society	Religion in Africa	An African Religion	1
October 19	Culture and Society	Philosophy in Africa	An African Philosophy	1
Week Ten				
October 24	Culture and Society	Art in Africa	African Art Analysis	1
October 26	Culture and Society	Environment	African Plant or Animal	1
October 27	Culture and Society	Assessment	Quiz	5
October 27	Culture and Society	Writing Assignment	Cultural Analysis	5
Points in Culture and Society Module / Points in Class so Far (without extra credit)				18/70
Week Eleven				

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October 31	Global Africa	Globalization	Glocalization	1
November 2	Global Africa	Africa in America	Africa in Florida	1
November 3	Global Africa	Module Assessment	Quiz	5
Points in Culture and Society Module / Points in Class so Far (without extra credit)				7/77
Week 12				
November 7	Final Project	Research in the Humanities	Project Topic Peer Review	1
November 9	Final Project	Writing in the Humanities	Annotated Bibliography	1
Week Thirteen				
November 14	Final Project	Writing in the Humanities	Paper Outline Peer Review	1
Week Fourteen				
November 21	Final Project	Writing in the Humanities	Paper Peer Review	1
Week Fifteen				

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November 28	Final Project	Presenting in the Humanities	Final Poster Peer Review	1
November 30	Final Project	Final Submission	Research Paper and Poster Due	20
Points in Final Project Module / Total Points in Semester (without extra credit)				25/102
Week 16 Exam Week (No Classes)				
December 7	Final Assessment	Writing Assignment	Final Exam	20
Points in Final Assessment / Total Points So Far in Semester (without extra credit)				20/122