

Course Code: HIS 129 (IAI S2 920N)

Course Title: History of Africa

Department: Arts, Media, and Social Sciences

Effective Date: Summer 2026

PCS Code: 1.1 - Baccalaureate/Transfer

CIP Code: 54.9996

Repeatability: 0

Credit Hours

Catalog Notation: 4-0-4

Credit Hour Distribution:

Lecture: 4

Lab: 0

Clinical: 0

Total: 4

General Course Information

Catalog Description

Origins and development of major geographical, social, political, economic, and religious forces which have contributed to the history of Africa from the appearance of humankind to modern times.

General Course Objectives

To gain an understanding of the social, cultural, political, and economic history of Africa from earliest times to the present including ancient Egypt, empires, slavery, colonialism, and modern independence.

Minimum Placement Levels

English	Reading	Math
Placement out of ENG 098	Placement out of CCS 098	None

Prerequisites

None

Methods of Evaluation

Students take a midterm and a final exam; both are mixed objective-essay exams. Students are required to complete a reading and writing assignment which is usually a 2,000 word research paper which makes use of both primary and secondary sources.

Instructional Materials and Additional Supplies

History of Africa, Author: Kevin Shillington. 9781137504036

Course Content

General Learning Outcomes (GLOs)

- Critical Thinking and Information Literacy: Students will demonstrate the ability to evaluate perspectives, evidence, and implications, and to locate, assess, and use information effectively.
- Global Awareness and Cultural Reasoning: Students will demonstrate their understanding of global issues, gender and sexual orientation, and multicultural perspectives.

Course Segments and Student Learning Outcomes

Course Segment	Learning Outcomes	Lecture Hours	Lab Hours	Clinical Hours
Introduction and Background	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Locate major cultural and political centers. 2. Identify major ecological zones and understand their impact on cultural development. 3. Determine the theoretical bases of earlier studies and the impact on results. 	8	0	0
The Emergence of Humankind in Africa	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Describe the interaction between environment and human development. 2. Outline the development of cultural complexity among early African societies. 	8	0	0
The Development of Agriculture and the Beginnings of Permanent Settlement	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Discuss the effects of sedentary life. 2. Analyze the socio-economic effects of the domestication of plants and animals. 	7	0	0
The Iron Age and Early Migrations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Describe the process and impact of the development of iron working. 2. Discuss the expansion of the Bantu and their effect on cultural and technological development in Africa. 	7	0	0
Development of Traditional African Societies and the Rise of Kingdoms	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Outline the development of the state. 2. Contrast the characteristics and functions of state societies and smaller political groups such as bands and villages. 3. Examine major kingdoms and their contributions throughout Africa. 4. Describe the lifestyle of pastoralists and determine their impact within society at large. 	8	0	0
International Contact in Africa before 1870	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Determine the impact of international trade on the African economy. 2. Discuss the rise and conduct of the slave trade and slavery in Africa. 3. Discuss the contributions of scientific research conducted in Africa. 4. Identify positive and negative results of missionary work in Africa. 	7	0	0
The Scramble for Africa and Colonialism	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Analyze the philosophies and values of contemporary European nations and contrast them with African philosophies and values. 2. Identify cultural, economic, and political effects of European conquest on African societies. 3. Describe the nature of African resistance and the rise and impact of African Nationalism. 	7	0	0
Contemporary Africa	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Analyze political structures and economics of the contemporary African states. 2. Discuss the nature of traditional societies in modern-day Africa and analyze the institutions and changes in 20th century African nations: education, industrialization, urbanization, commercialism, revolution, succession, etc. 	8	0	0

Total Contact Hours

Lecture Hours	Lab Hours	Clinical Hours
60	0	0