SYLLABUS

HIST 386

Africans in World History:
Communities, Cultures, and Ideas

University of Wisconsin Milwaukee
Fall 2020

MW 11:00-12:15

Holton Hall 190

Prof. Rebecca Shumway   Office: Holton Hall #345
E-Mail: shumwayr@uwm.edu   Office Hours: TBD
                                                              …and by appointment!

Course Description:
A survey of Africa's history before 1850, emphasizing the enormous variety among African societies and exploring the diverse characteristics of sub-regions within the continent. Topics include African cultural features, African states and empires, trade and material culture, Islamic civilization, the trans-Atlantic slave trade and abolition.

Goals:
Students should come away from this course with a broad understanding of the early history of African societies. We will be able to distinguish the unique developments that took place in various sub-regions of the continent, including Southern Africa, East Africa, West-central Africa, West Africa, North Africa, the Middle Nile Basin (modern-day Sudan), and the Horn of Africa. We will also be able to explain long-term historical processes that connected these regions to one another. In the final section of the course, we will find ways of explaining why the trans-Atlantic slave trade infiltrated African economies in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, and how African societies responded to it.

Course Requirements:
1) Class Participation: Students are expected to do the assigned reading before coming to class, participate in discussions of all assigned readings and complete all assignments. (20% of grade)
2) Quizzes (20% of grade)
3) Paper (10% of grade)
4) Midterm Exam (20% of grade)
5) Final Exam (30%)
6) Approximate time spent outside of class doing the reading and preparing for class each week: four to five hours.

Books to Buy:

1. *Africa in Global History with Sources* (2018)*,* by Robert Harms

2. *Sundiata an Epic of Old Mali* (2006), by D. T. Niane, G. D. Pickett

NOTE: Additional reading assignments will be available on Canvas and noted with the following on the syllabus: [Canvas]