History 183
(formerly History 12A)

Introduction to African History, Prehistory to 1885
3 units; 3 hours lecture
Recommended Preparation: eligibility for English 1A
Credit, degree applicable Transfer CSU, UC

This course is a survey of Africa from human evolution to the eve of colonial rule. Emphasis will be given to the political, economic, and social development of the African continent. Topics to be analyzed include African trade relations with Europe and the world, the influences of Christianity and Islam in Africa, the Transatlantic slave trade, African Diaspora, and early European incursions.

Course objectives:

1. Evaluate historical evidence and differing interpretations of the African past.
2. Identify the major geographical features of Africa and assess their significance to the development of African societies.
3. Explain the process of human evolution through an analysis of fossil evidence found in Africa.
4. Discuss the development of African societies during the course of the Paleolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic periods.
5. Assess the importance of iron metallurgy for the development of Northeast and West Africa as well as its role in the Bantu migrations.
6. Identify and evaluate the achievements of the ancient Nile Empires.
7. Analyze the significance of the Trans-Saharan trade to the development of North Africa and the Sahel empires.
8. Explain the emergence of powerful West African states and analyze their political, economic and social organization.
9. Discuss the significance of the Indian Ocean trade to the development of East African coastal city-states.
10. Discuss and assess the impact of Islam on the evolution of African societies.
11. Compare and contrast the political, economic and social institutions of the major states of South Africa.
12. Identify the differing practices found within the institution of slavery that existed in Africa, the Middle East and the Americas.
13. Discuss the nature of the African slave trade and analyze the role of Africans in the Arab and Transatlantic slave trades.
14. Assess the political, economic, social, and cultural impact of slavery and the slave trade on the development of Africa.
15. Explain what is meant by the African Diaspora and give examples of African contributions to various world cultures.
16. Analyze the influence of Christianity in the development of African societies.
17. Evaluate the impact of the abolition of the Transatlantic slave trade on West African states.
18. Assess the significance of Muhammad Ali’s attempts to modernize Egyptian political, military and economic institutions.
19. Evaluate the importance of the revival and expansion of Islam in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries to West and East Africa's political and cultural development.
20. Discuss the process of state building in South Africa during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.
21. Identify and assess the extent of European incursions into Africa on the eve of the Berlin Conference of 1884-1885.

Student Learning Outcomes: Upon completion of Introduction to African History, Prehistory to 1885, students will be able to develop and persuasively argue a historical thesis in a written assignment that identifies and explains major social, economic, political and/or cultural historical themes or patterns in African history to 1885 and apply appropriate historical methods to analyze and use primary and/or secondary sources as evidence to support the thesis.

ADA Statement: El Camino College is committed to providing educational accommodations for students with disabilities upon the timely request by the student to the instructor. A student with a disability, who would like to request an academic accommodation, is responsible for identifying herself/himself to the instructor and to the Special Resources Center. To make arrangements for academic accommodations, contact the Special Resources Center.