

Images of Africa
Fall 2002 Tutorial
- Syllabus -

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Office Hours: 2:15-4:15 pm Tuesday, Thursday; or by appointment.

Class Meetings: Tuesday and Thursday: 8:00 – 10:00 am in Science 1021

Objectives: To continue developing skills that are integral to successful learning at Grinnell College: written and oral communication, information literacy and academic planning.

Context: John Reader compiled a remarkable history of Africa in his book *Africa: Biography of a Continent* (1996). We will use this volume as a central reference for our consideration of the origins of various Anglo-American images of an incredibly diverse continent and its people. In addition, we will examine recent fictional and non-fictional texts and films to explore the effects of these images on current perceptions of African politics, culture and environment.

Texts: (Note the abbreviations used to refer to each text in the course schedule below)

Reader, J. (1996). Africa: a biography of the continent. New York: Alfred A Knopf. **(R)**

Achebe, C. and Innes, C.L. (Eds.) (1991). African short stories. Oxford: Heinemann. **(A&I)**

Fulwiler, T. and A.R. Hayakawa (2002). The College Writer's Reference. (Third Edition). Upper Saddle River: Prentice Hall. **(F&H)**

Additional Reading and Visual Assignments: In addition to assignments from the above texts, I will also assign short readings from primary sources or periodicals (items marked with * below), as well as videos when they are relevant to our class discussions. Please also try to follow African news stories throughout the semester. Visit the library regularly to peruse the newspapers, or set up links to your favorite online African news sources. I advise that you choose a major British or American newspaper as well as a daily or weekly newspaper printed in Africa. We will establish a list-serve for the class and will thus be able to share news articles that inform our discussion throughout the semester.

Evaluation: Your performance in this course will be evaluated as follows:

Assignment	Points	Due Date
1. 1 page essay	15	29 August
2. Two 100-200 word arguments	30	5 September
3. 2-3 page essay:		
a. Thesis statement & outline	20	17 September
b. Final draft	70	26 September
c. Peer review exercise	35	1 October
4. Academic honesty exercise	15	19 September
5. 1-3 page essay (story interpretation)	50	19 November
6. 4-6 page essay:		
a. Concept note	20	17 October
b. Oral presentation: intro. & outline	40	21 & 26 November
c. Final draft	75	12 December
7. Discussion coordination	40	8 Oct.(A); 15 Oct. (B); 29 Oct. (C), 5 Nov. (D)
8. Participation	40	throughout semester
9. Portfolio: analysis & revision	50	18 December
Total:	500	

Course grades will be assigned as follows:

93-100% A	83-86% B	70-76% C
90-92% A-	80-82% B-	60-70% D
87-89 % B+	77-79% C+	< 60% F

I do not adjust student grades to fit an ideal curve, but may, at my discretion, alter the above assignment of course grades downwards. Your course letter grade may thus be higher than your earned percentage, but never lower.

If you are concerned about your grade, please contact me promptly so that we can evaluate your progress and consider ways to help you improve your performance on subsequent graded assignments.

Class Policies:

1. College policy should guide your conduct in this class (see The Grinnell College Student Handbook).
2. Each class period is an integral part of the course, and hence attendance and participation is essential. It is your responsibility to notify me as soon as possible if you must miss a class because of a college-scheduled event or any other unavoidable absence. An excused absence from class requires written verification from the Office of Student Affairs or the Student Health Service.
3. Papers and oral presentations missed without a verified absence will receive 0 points. Late assignments will be docked 5 points a day.

Class Schedule:

Below is an outline of the course schedule, providing perspective on when the various assignments are due. Note that all assignments should be completed by the day assigned and therefore it's important that you plan ahead to provide adequate time for revising written assignments and critical readings for class discussion. On Thursday of each week, I'll provide explicit details about next week's assignments (e.g. focus questions/ideas for the reading, deadlines for submitting your questions for discussion etc.)

Date

Assignments

I. Perspective

Week 1

Aug. 29: Discussion:

Introduction to course context & objectives
Introduction to the Writing Lab with Judy Hunter

Assignment 1 due
F&H: 3-14; 20-25, 127-129

Week 2

Sept. 3 Interactive group work:

Identifying Anglo-American images

Gordon: 110-117*
F&H: 15-19
Video: The African Queen

Sept. 5 Discussion:

Reader's perspective & thesis
Writing paragraphs: topic sentences and arguments
Further work on A-A images

F&H: 34-76; 135 -184
R: ix – xii
Assignment 2 due

II. Historical reckoning

Week 3

Sept. 10 Interactive lecture & library work (Kevin Engel):
Introduction to library resources

R: 1-98
F&H: 77-92; 97-103
2-3 ideas for Assignment 3

Sept. 12 Discussion **Structural analysis of R: Chaps. 2 & 5**
Analysis of Reader's writing style, considering
thesis and topic sentences, arguments, and organization.
Use all reading to date but focus on Chaps. 2 & 5.
Hand out academic honesty exercises (assignment 4).

Week 4

Sept. 17 Discussion **R: 99-189**
Reader's Part III: "African Options" **F&H: 104-112**
Using and abusing sources **Assignment 3a due**

Sept. 19 Discussion **Assignment 4 due**
Africa's earliest documented civilizations I **R: 193 -237**

Week 5

Sept. 24 Discussion **R: 239-288**
Early African civilizations II: Early trade & environmental realities

Sept. 26 Discussion **Assignment 3b due**
Early African civilizations III: Effects of commercial transactions **R: 289-322**
Video: the Lost City of Zimbabwe

Week 6

Oct. 1 Small group work: peer review **Assignment 3c due**
Peer review exercise of 2-3 page paper.
Establish discussion groups for Assignment 7

Oct. 3 Discussions **R: 325-369**
a. Learning from peer review and discussions
b. Early motives of Europeans in Africa
KJ works w/ Group A on discussion prep. for Oct. 8.

Week 7

Oct. 8 Student-led discussion **R: 369-445**
Group A leads discussion on the African slave trade **& primary sources TBA**

Oct. 10 Discussion **Videos: A son of Africa, (slave narrative)**
Critical analysis of visual media **Unearthing the slave trade**
Content of video
Critique of Group A's discussion
KJ works w/ Group B on discussion prep. for Oct. 15.

Week 8

Oct. 15 Student-led discussion **R: 449-524**
Group B leads discussion on the settlers of southern Africa

Oct. 17 Discussion **R: 525-578**
Review video **Assignment 6a due**
Introduce Assignment 5 and A&I **Video: Cry, The Beloved Country**
KJ works with Group C on discussion prep. for Oct. 29.

Fall Break 18th-28th

Week 9

Oct. 29 Student-led discussion **R: 579-624**
 Group C leads discussion on the partitioning of Africa

Oct. 31 Individual tutorials **Review plans and concept notes for Assignment 6**
 Meet with KJ regarding Assignment 6 (10-15 minutes)
 KJ works with Group D on discussion prep. for Nov. 5
 Students work on Assignment 5 (& 6)

Week 10

Nov. 5 Student-led discussion **R: 625-682**
 Group D leads discussion on the groundswell towards independence for all Africans

Nov. 7 Group advising meeting.
 Students work on Assignments 5 (& 6).

Week 11

Nov. 12 Individual advising meetings **Develop draft academic plan for discussion**
 Students work on Assignments 5 (& 6).

Nov. 14 Individual advising meetings **Develop draft academic plan for discussion**
 Students work on Assignment 5 **Revised Assignment 6a due for class distribution**

Week 12

Nov. 19 Individual advising meetings **Assignment 5 due**
Develop draft academic plan for discussion

Nov. 21 Oral presentations **Assignment 6b due**

Week 13

Nov. 26 Oral presentations **Assignment 6b due**

THANKSGIVING BREAK Nov. 27 – Dec. 2

Week 14

Dec. 3 Discussion **Critical review of class notes**
 Thematic analysis of origins of African images I.

III. Implications & Solutions?

Dec. 5: Discussion **Critical review of Reader**
 Review of Reader's thesis and objectives. Does he achieve his goal?

Dec. 10: Discussion **Video-taped interviews of Achebe, Gordimer & Mandela**
 How Africans view themselves **Reading: Rhode: "How we see each other"**

Dec. 12: Discussion **Assignment 6c due**
 New images on the horizon: why is the US interested in Africa now? **Various readings**

Finals Week: Portfolio due on 18 December (Weds). **Assignment 9 due**