



## INTRODUCTION TO THE HORN OF AFRICA

HSTAFM / NEAR E 288 -- Autumn, 2019

Lectures: Mondays and Wednesdays, 10:30-12:20 in More Hall 234

Sections: Fridays, 9:30-10:20 in Bagley Hall 108, or 11:30-12:20 in Savery Hall 166

This small lecture course explores the history, languages, and cultures of the Horn of the Africa. Beginning with prehistory and extending to the present, the course offers a broad introduction to the region comprising the modern countries of Ethiopia, Eritrea, Somalia, and Djibouti. Readings and assignments also explore the experience of diaspora communities from the Horn of Africa, including the Ethiopian, Eritrean, and Somali communities in the Seattle area.

### INSTRUCTORS:

Joel Walker, History

Hamza Zafer, Near Eastern Languages and Civilization

Keah Neal-Colluccie, Graduate Teaching Assistant

[jwalker@uw.edu](mailto:jwalker@uw.edu) | Smith Hall, 206B

[hmzafer@uw.edu](mailto:hmzafer@uw.edu) | Denny Hall 220

[keahr@uw.edu](mailto:keahr@uw.edu) | CMU 218

### READINGS:

- (1) Course Pack available at Rams Copy Center at 4144 University Way, and on course's canvas website. Purchasing a hard copy is strongly recommended. Bring hard copy to lecture and discussion sections.
- (2) *The Life of Walatta-Petros: A Seventeenth-Century Biography of an African Woman*, trans. Wendy Laura Belcher and Michael Kleiner; written by Galawdewos (Princeton University Press, 2018) \$15 paperback; Kindle \$10.
- (3) Abdi Nur Iftin, *Call Me American* (New York: Knopf, 2018), \$12 in hardback or paperback.

## LEARNING GOALS:

- 1) To become familiar with the geography, history, and diverse cultures of the Horn of Africa.
- 2) To develop your analytical skills with a wide range of primary sources.
- 3) To learn how patterns of migration have spread and transformed the cultures of the Horn of Africa.

## ASSIGNMENTS:

Assignment	Details	Grade	Due Date
Event Report	1-2 pages	15%	Nov. 25
Worksheets	Top <i>seven</i> count.	45%	Oct. 2, 7, 14, 21, and 28, Nov. 4, 11, 18, and 25, and Dec. 2.
Final	5-7 pages, or project.	25%	Dec. 13
Participation	Quality, not quantity	15%	n/a

**Final:** Instructions for the final will be posted on the canvas website. You have the option of writing a traditional paper (5-7 pages) or designing your own creative response to the course material (for instance, a mini-documentary or mapping project) in consultation with the instructor; collaborative projects are encouraged.

**Worksheets:** The worksheets will be graded on a 4-tier system:

- 0 points for no submission, or
- 75 points for worksheet submitted, but incomplete or with multiple mistakes, or
- 85 points for worksheet complete and thoughtful, with no major errors, or
- 98 points for worksheet that provides deeper historical insight.

Worksheet prompts will be posted on the canvas website and are due in hard copy each Monday. Your completed worksheet can be handwritten or typed, but it must be no more than one single-sided page. Double space all submissions and use 12-point fonts.

**LECTURES:** Each class session on Monday and Wednesday will have 2 lectures with a break in the middle. Regular attendance of all lectures and careful study of all assigned preparatory readings are vital for success in the course. Video links to preparatory content and digital copies of readings will be available on the canvas website. You are expected to watch the videos and prepare the readings *before* the lecture for which they are due. Lecture slides will also be posted on the canvas website and organized by class session (2 per session). This will allow you to look more closely at the maps, images, and quotations covered in lecture in order to prepare the weekly worksheets.

**Note:** Washington state law requires that UW develop a policy for accommodation of student absences or significant hardship due to reasons of faith or conscience, or for organized religious activities. The UW's policy, including more information about how to request an accommodation, is available at the UW Religious Accommodations Policy at:

<https://registrar.washington.edu/staffandfaculty/religious-accommodations-policy/>.

Accommodations must be requested within the first two weeks of the course using the Religious Accommodations Request form at: <https://registrar.washington.edu/students/religious-accommodations-request/>.

## SCHEDULE OF LECTURES AND READINGS

DATE	LECTURE	TITLE AND READINGS	PAGES
<b>WEEK 1</b>			
<b>ORIENTATION</b>			
Sept. 27	Section 1	Geography of the Horn of Africa	1-11
<b>WEEK 2</b>			
<b>ORIGINS</b>			
Sept. 30	Lecture 1	<b>PEOPLE AND PLACES</b> L1-A: Map of the Horn of Africa	12-21
	Lecture 2	<b>HUMAN ORIGINS</b> L2-A: McKie, <i>Dawn of Man</i> (2000) <i>Watch:</i> Documentary on Ethiopian history Documentary clips on hominid migration out of Africa.	
Oct. 2	Lecture 3	<b>ROCK ART AND ANIMAL DOMESTICATION</b>	22-25
	Lecture 4	<b>THE LAND OF PUNT</b> L4-A: Ancient Egyptian trade accounts L4-B: Herodotus (c. 440 BCE) on Ethiopia <i>Watch:</i> Frankincense video (CNN, 2014)	
Oct. 4	Section 2	Animal Relations in the Horn of Africa <i>Watch:</i> “Camel Facts”, “Plowing” Sada Mire on Somalia’s Rock Art (2014)	
<b>WEEK 3</b>			
<b>LATE ANTIQUITY</b>			
Oct. 7	Lecture 5	<b>THE RISE OF AKSUM</b> L5-A: The Periplus of the Erythraean Sea (c. 100 CE) L5-B: DAE 11, Ge’ez and Greek Inscription (c. 360 CE) L5-C: Ezana, the Fall of Meroe (mid. 4 <sup>th</sup> century) L5-D: Rufinus of Aquileia (d. 410 CE) on Christianization of Ethiopia L5-E: Francisco Alvarez (c. 1520 CE) on Aksum <i>Watch:</i> Mini-documentary on Aksum (2016) Start: “Ethiopia in the Footsteps of the First Christians” (2010)	26-43

	Lecture 6	<b>RED SEA WARS OF LATE ANTIQUITY</b> L6-A: Kosmos Indikopleustes (c. 600 CE) on Greek Inscription L6-B: Kaleb Inscription (c. 520 CE) L6-C: Procopius of Caesarea (c. 550 CE) on Red Sea Wars	
Oct. 9	Lecture 7	<b>CLASSICAL ETHIOPIC (GE'EZ)</b> L7-A: Excerpt from the Book of Enoch (c. 100 BCE) L7-B: The Sounds of Amharic L7-C: "Fidel" – the Ge'ez Alphabet <i>Watch:</i> "Ge'ez: The Life of a Dead Language"	44-61
	Lecture 8	<b>MECCA AND THE RISE OF ISLAM</b> L8-A: Quranic passage on the "Comrades of the Elephant" (Q 105) L8-B: Ibn Ishaq (d. 768 CE) on Abreha's Invasion of Arabia L8-C: Ibn Ishaq (d. 768 CE) on Migration to Abyssinia	
Oct. 11	Section 3	Christian and Muslim Origins Narratives <i>Watch:</i> "The Meccans meet the Negus" in <i>The Message</i> (1976)	
<b>WEEK 4</b>	<b>CHRISTIANITY AND ISLAM IN THE HORN OF AFRICA</b>		
Oct. 14	Lecture 9	<b>THE CHURCHES OF LALIBELA</b> L9-A: Anonymous, <i>Life of St. Lalibela</i> (c. 1300) <i>Watch:</i> "Lalibela as the New Jerusalem" (2015) "Lalibela: An Architectural Tour" (2016)	62-75
	Lecture 10	<b>THE SOLOMONIC DYNASTY</b> L10-A: Chronicle of Amda Tseyon "Gebre Mesqel" (d. 1344) L10-B: Kebra Negast account of the Queen of the South L10-C: Bible Passage on the Queen of the South <i>Watch:</i> Finish: "Ethiopia in the Footsteps of the First Christians" (2010)	
Oct. 16	Lecture 11	<b>ISLAM IN EAST AFRICA</b> L11-A: Ibn Battuta (c. 1330) on Yemen and Somalia L11-B: Al-Mas'udi (d. 957) on the Zanj L11-C: Ibn Hawqal (c. 10 <sup>th</sup> century) on Zanzibar L11-D: Al-Idrisi (d. 1166) on East Africa	76-91
	Lecture 12	<b>THE OROMO PEOPLE</b> L12-A: Hancock, "Spirit Worlds" (1990) <i>Watch:</i> Documentary clips about the Sufis of Mogadishu, Mosques of Harer, and the Tomb of Sheik Hussein.	

Oct. 18	Section 4	Christian and Muslim Pilgrimage Narratives	
<b>WEEK 5 EARLY MODERNITY</b>			
Oct. 21	Lecture 13	<b>THE ARRIVAL OF THE PORTUGUESE</b> L13-A: Alvarez (c. 1520) on Portuguese Arrival L13-B: Castanhoso (c. 16 <sup>th</sup> century) on Portuguese soldiers	92-107
	Lecture 14	<b>THE ADAL SULTANATE</b> L14-A: Arab Faqih (c. 1550) on the Muslim conquest of Abyssinia	
Oct. 23	Lecture 15	<b>GONDAR AND EARLY MODERN EUROPE</b> L15-A: Ludolf and Abba Gregorius invent Ethiopic Studies L15-B: Jesuit Jeronimo Lobo (17 <sup>th</sup> century) on Ethiopia L15-C: Yemeni Ambassador to Gondar in 1648. L15-D: Dr. Poncet (late 17 <sup>th</sup> century) on Gondar Start: <i>Biography of Walatta Petros</i> (Trans. Wendy Belcher) (2018)	108-131
	Lecture 16	<b>JEWS OF ETHIOPIA</b> L16-A: Stern, <i>Wanderings among the Falasha</i> (1863) <i>Watch:</i> BBC Documentary on the Jews of Ethiopia	
Oct. 25	Section 5	Life of Walatta Petros	
<b>WEEK 6 TRANSITION INTO MODERNITY</b>			
Oct. 28	Lecture 17	<b>ABYSSINIANS IN THE ISLAMIC WORLD</b> L17-A: Jahiz (d. 869 CE), <i>Superiority of the Blacks to the Whites</i> (online) L17-B: Ibn Sa'd (d. 845 CE) on Deputations of Bajilah and Himyar	132-141
	Lecture 18	<b>SLAVERY</b> L18-A: Pankhurst, "Ethiopian slave reminiscences" (1976)	
Nov. 30	Lecture 19	<b>EMPERORS TEWODROS II AND MENELIK II</b> L19-A: Plowden, <i>Travels in Abyssinia</i> (1868) L19-B: Vivian, "Menelik and His Capital" (1901) L19-C: Letters from Ethiopian Rulers (Early and mid-19 <sup>th</sup> Century)	142-160
	Lecture 20	<b>THE BATTLE OF ADWA, 1896</b> (Guest Lecturer: Ray Jonas) L20-A: Depiction of Battle of Adwa (A) L20-B: Depiction of Battle of Adwa (B) <i>Watch:</i> Teddy Afro's celebration of Adwa	
Nov. 1	Section 6	Depictions of the Battle of Adwa	

WEEK 7		MODERNITY	
Nov. 4	Lecture 21	<b>SOMALIA AND THE GREAT POWERS</b> L21-A: Afeworq Gebre Eyesus, <i>Traveler's Guide to Abyssinia</i> (1908) L21-B: Powell-Cotton, <i>Sporting Trip through Abyssinia</i> (1902) L21-C: Pankhurst and Ismaa'il, "Early Somali Autobiography" (1977)	161-207
	Lecture 22	<b>SECOND ITALO-ETHIOPIAN WAR (1935-1937)</b> L22-A: Haile Selassie, Speech to the League of Nations (1936) L22-B: Benito Mussolini, "What the Romans Did for Ethiopia" (1937)	
Nov. 6	Lecture 23	<b>EMPEROR HAILE SELASSIE</b> L23-A: Haile Selassie, "Towards African Unity" (1963) <i>Watch:</i> "Day in the Life of the King of Kings"	208-227
	Lecture 24	<b>THE RASTAFARI</b> L24-A: Marcus Garvey, "Ras Nasibu" (1937) L24-B: Bob Marley (d. 1981), "War" L24-C: Bob Marley (d. 1981), "Rasta Man Chant" <i>Watch:</i> Interviews with Rastafarians of Ethiopia "Teddy Afro tribute to Bob Marley"	
Nov. 8	Section 7	Early Somali Autobiography (L21-C)	
WEEK 8		MODERN SOMALIA	
Nov. 11	Lecture 25	<b>THE DERG AND THE SOVIET UNION</b> L25-A: Harding, <i>Mayor of Mogadishu</i> (2016) L25-B: Aberre Jembere, <i>Agony in the Palace</i> (2002) L25-C: Philip Marsden, <i>The Chains of Heaven</i> (2006) <i>Watch:</i> Mini-histories of Ogaden War	228-260
	Lecture 26	<b>THE SOMALI LANGUAGE</b> L26-A: Raage Ugaas, "To the Camels" (19 <sup>th</sup> century) L26-B: Cali Jaamac Haabiil, "The Death of a Friend" (20 <sup>th</sup> century) L26-C: Maxamed Cabdille Xasan (d. 1921), "A Fine War Horse"	
Nov. 15 <sup>1</sup>	Lecture 27	<b>MUSIC OF SOMALIA</b> (Guest Lecturer: Simon Okelo) <i>No Readings</i>	n/a
	Lecture 28	<b>MUSIC OF ETHIOPIA</b> (Guest Lecturer: Simon Okelo) <i>No Readings</i>	

<sup>1</sup> Recommended but not a formal class session.

Nov. 15	Section 8	Poetry and Music in the Diaspora	
<b>WEEK 9 NATIONS AND STATES</b>			
Nov. 18	Lecture 29	<b>THE AFAR PEOPLE</b> L29-A: Hancock, "The Desert at the Mountains' Feet" (1990) <i>Watch:</i> Clips on salt collection; wedding celebrations	261-272
	Lecture 30	<b>PEOPLES OF THE OMO VALLEY</b> L30-A: Transcription of Mursi / Hamar songs <i>Watch:</i> "Mursi Trilogy: In Search of Cool Ground" (1974-1985); Hamar bull-run ceremony "Sweet Sorghum" (Selection)	
Nov. 20	Lecture 31	<b>FAMINE IN THE HORN OF AFRICA</b> L31-A: Gill, <i>Famine and Foreigners</i> (2010) <i>Watch:</i> Clips on the Ethiopian famine.	273-283
	Lecture 32	<b>THE SOMALI CIVIL WAR</b> (Guest Lecturer: Rick Lorenz) L32-A: Begin Abdi Nur Iftin, <i>Call Me American</i>	
Nov. 22	Section 9	<b>Ethnography</b>	
<b>WEEK 10 21<sup>st</sup> CENTURY</b>			
Nov. 25	Lecture 33	<b>INDIAN OCEAN PIRACY</b> L33-A: Bahadur, <i>Pirates of Somalia</i>	284-291
	Lecture 34	<b>AL-SHABAAB</b> <i>No Readings</i> <i>Watch:</i> Clips on Al-Shabaab and African Union forces	
Nov. 27	Lecture 35	<b>THE ETHIOPIAN-ERITREAN WAR</b> L35-A: Selassie, "Conflict and Intervention" (1980)	292-305
	Lecture 36	<b>COFFEE AND KHAT</b> <i>No Readings</i> <i>Watch:</i> "Ban of Khat in the United Kingdom" "Coffee production in Ethiopia"	
n/a	Section 9	No Section	

WEEK 11		THE DIASPORA	
Dec. 2	Lecture 37	<b>DIASPORA IN EAST AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST</b> L37-A: Grayson, <i>Children of the Camp</i> (2017) <i>Watch:</i> Clips on Horn migrants in Sudan and Libya Somali-Turkish relations	306-348
	Lecture 38	<b>DIASPORA IN EUROPE</b> L38-B: Farah, <i>Voices from the Somali Diaspora</i> (2000) <i>Watch:</i> Clips on Horn migrants and the Mediterranean crossing Clips on Horn migrants in Italy, Sweden, and England	
Dec. 4	Lecture 39	<b>ETHIOPIAN-AMERICANS</b> L39-A: Mengestu, <i>Beautiful Things that Heaven Bears</i> (2007) ( <i>online</i> )	n/a
	Lecture 40	<b>SOMALI-AMERICANS</b> Finish: Abdi Nur Iftin, <i>Call Me American</i>	
Dec. 6	Section 10	Immigration from the Horn of Africa	