

Central Michigan University

Department of History

Spring 2014

# HST 377

## West African History

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**Professor Solomon Getahun**

**Tu / Th**

**2:00-3:15**

This course aims to provide participants with an opportunity to explore the richness and complexity of West African history, society, culture, and to examine historical circumstances that shaped West Africa's contemporary socio-economic and political developments.

West Africa is comprised of some seventeen independent states. The area roughly equals the size of the United States. Within this area, however, there is ecological, cultural, religious and linguistic diversity. Due to these diversities this course is designed to focus on major historical events that shaped West African history and society between the 19th and the 20th centuries. These major themes include, but not limited to, class, cast, gender, ethnicity and social inequality/equality; European and West African encounters; the role of religion such as traditional beliefs, Islam and Christianity in West African society; colonialism and resistance; and West Africa since independence.



*Size Comparison –  
U.S.A. and West Africa*