508:326 Islam in African History
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Much of sub-Saharan Africa has experienced sustained interaction with the Islamic world through trade and migration. A consideration of Islam in Africa sheds light on the development and transformations of the Indian Ocean and trans-Saharan trades. It helps us understand the growth of states and major urban centers. Islam is central to identity, ethnicity, and nationalism in much of Africa, even in regions where Muslims form a minority. Finally, Islam has contributed to the structure and negotiation of gender in much of Africa. We will study Islam in Africa to learn about a range of key religious, economic, political, social and cultural issues of importance to Africa as a whole. We will explore a range of sources for African history: poetry, travel narratives, memoirs, legal texts and oral life histories.