

A Return to Timbuktu

The seminar will review some of Africa's history, unearthed in the remarkable Arab libraries of Timbuktu. We will also examine the actions by Al Qaeda to destroy the volumes in those libraries, as well as recent attempts to save them from destruction.

Moderator:	Joan Wofford
Date and Time:	Thursday 10:00 AM - Noon 10 weeks, starting February 22, 2018
Format:	Seminar
Location:	Lathrop Northampton Meeting Room, Northampton

Description: Africa's history has long been denigrated as nonexistent, lacking the evidence of culture and literature. But the remarkable Arab libraries that have been unearthed in Timbuktu tell a different story. Based on the recent book *The Storied City: The Quest for Timbuktu and the Fantastic Mission to Save Its Past* by Charlie English (2017), we will trace many stories about Timbuktu since the 11th century in parallel with the detailed descriptions of remarkable efforts to save the libraries from destruction in 2012.

Role of participants: Participants will choose an aspect of the story of this fabled city and deliver a presentation on it. Topics will be suggested by the primary resource, *The Storied City*, as well as by the other volumes that the moderator will bring to the seminar.

Resources: *The Storied City: The Quest for Timbuktu and the Fantastic Mission to Save Its Past*, Charlie English (Available in new and used editions, as well as in libraries.)
In addition, the moderator will have other books on this general topic that will be available for borrowing.

About the Moderator: Joan Wofford has moderated two seminars a year for the last eight to ten years, many of them on Africa, and often exploring aspects of history that have recently emerged and were not included in what most of us studied in school/college. She has traveled widely to many of the seminar locations.

Maximum number of participants: 15

Emeriti accepted: yes

Course # 18SRT