ANTH 6: PERSPECTIVES FROM AFRICA

Foothill College Course Outline of Record

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Heading</th>
<th>Value</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Effective Term:</td>
<td>Summer 2022</td>
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<tr>
<td>Units:</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hours:</td>
<td>4 lecture per week (48 total per quarter)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Degree &amp; Credit Status:</td>
<td>Degree-Applicable Credit Course</td>
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<tr>
<td>Foothill GE:</td>
<td>Non-GE</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transferable:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grade Type:</td>
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<td>Repeatability:</td>
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Student Learning Outcomes

- Students will practice and apply understandings of historical and contemporary cultural diversity of Africa emphasizing its social, political and economic organizational structures.
- Students will critically analyze and interpret ethnographic data on the African Diaspora.
- Students will apply anthropological principles for solving human problems on the local, regional and world scales.

Description

An anthropological survey of the peoples of Africa. Issues addressed include: the colonial and Cold War experience and legacy in Africa; popular Western (mis)perceptions and portrayals of Africa and Africans; patterns of social organization, family, and kinship; political organization; economic systems; current political and economic conditions and ties to the global economy; conceptual systems; health and disease; popular culture; art and music; and social change. The course draws upon classic and contemporary anthropological research, research from other disciplines, ethnographies, and literature by African writers. A case study approach is used for some topics allowing in-depth analysis of particular African societies.

Course Objectives

The student will be able to:

a. Demonstrate an understanding of the cultural diversity of the peoples of Africa and their influence upon other world regions.

b. Discuss Africa’s past and present as a base of understanding its future, illustrating themes from both individual and societal points of view.

c. Interpret misconceptions and characterizations which perpetuate stereotypes of Africa and Africans.

d. Analyze the contemporary world as it exists in unity, diversity and interdependence and understand that restrictions on freedom and justice in any part of the world adversely affect international peace and order globally.

e. Compare and contrast the basic African organizational structures and institutions with the West and the United States, specifically in terms of:

   i. Family, kinship, and marriage
   ii. Sex and gender
   iii. Political and economic organization
   iv. Conceptual systems
   v. Health and disease
   vi. Popular culture
   vii. Art and music
   viii. Social change

Course Content

a. Introduction to the study of Africa
   i. Western representations and misrepresentations of Africa and Africans
   ii. The setting: African geography, environment, and early history

b. Colonial and Post-Colonial Africa
   i. Scramble for Africa and forms of exploitation and hegemony
   ii. Legacies of Colonialism
   iii. African resistance and independence
   iv. Legacies of the Cold War

c. Making a living
   i. Modes of production/subsistence
   ii. Land and labor
   iii. Trade and markets
   iv. Urbanization
   v. Food production, distribution, and crisis
   vi. Economic crisis and the legacy of structural adjustment
   vii. Development and development aid
   viii. Globalization

d. Power and political systems
   i. African conceptions of power
   ii. African nationalism
   iii. State and nation-building
   iv. Governance
   v. Ethnic and regional conflict
   vi. International relations

e. Social relations
   i. Family
   ii. Kinship
   iii. Marriage
   iv. Community
   v. African identity
   vi. Sex and gender

f. African conceptual systems
   i. Philosophy
   ii. Religion
   iii. Science

g. Health and healing
   i. Medical systems
   ii. Conceptions and experiences of health and illness
   iii. Death and dying: perspectives on the end of life

h. Popular culture and the arts
   i. Defining art
   ii. Visual art
iii. Literature
iv. Music
v. Radio
vi. Film

i. Dimensions of inequality and human rights
   i. “Race,” ethnicity, gender, and class
   ii. Conflict and conflict resolution
   iii. Conceptions of human rights and the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights

Lab Content
Not applicable.

Special Facilities and/or Equipment
When taught as an online or hybrid distance learning section, students and faculty need ongoing and continuous internet and email access.

Method(s) of Evaluation
Methods of Evaluation may include but are not limited to the following:

Written assignments:
1. Weekly analysis of readings and films
2. Research paper

Group work:
1. Class discussions
2. Group research and presentations

Quizzes and exams:
1. Quizzes
2. Mid-term exam
3. Final exam

Method(s) of Instruction
Methods of Instruction may include but are not limited to the following:

Lecture presentations
Class discussion
Films
Individual and group presentations

Representative Text(s) and Other Materials


Nthunya, M. *Singing Away the Hunger*. 1996.

Although these texts are older than the suggested “5 years or newer” standard, they remain seminal texts in this area of study.