

Prepared by the Department of Social Sciences, Behavioral Sciences, and Human Services

Date of Departmental Approval: October 13, 2011

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Effective: Fall 2012

1. **Course Number:** SOC230  
**Course Title:** Peoples and Cultures of Africa
2. **Description:** The course examines Africa's social, economic, political, religious and cultural institutions, as well as the origins, cultural practices, population dynamics, family structures, marriage, inheritances, values, ethnicity, gender relations and patriarchy, and inter-tribal and ethnic conflicts in modern Africa. Contemporary issues such as HIV/AIDS epidemic, poverty, and Africa's place in the global world are examined.
3. **Student Learning Outcomes (instructional objectives, intellectual skills):** Upon successful completion of this course, students are able to do the following:
  - Distinguish and discuss the various institutions of different ethnic and cultural groups in Africa
  - Examine and critique the sustaining rationales behind the role and status of women in relation to patriarchy, son preference, inheritance and other marriage practices in Africa
  - Identify and discuss the role of religion and supernatural beliefs in health and well-being in African societies.
  - Explain the historical development of political systems in Africa and how it relates to present-day politics
  - Discuss the process of social control and conflict resolution within tribal groups and the general pattern of social change
  - Identify and compare particular cultural practices of the selected African people and their uniqueness among global societies.
  - Determine how various institutions (family, marriage, religion, etc.) are interrelated and how they shape the lifestyles of African people
  - Define and discuss the relevance of African societies in the global community in terms of trade
  - Review and analyze data on HIV/AIDS pandemic in Africa and its effects on the general well-being and socio- demographic variables, such as fertility, mortality, migration, orphan-hood and child-rearing practices
4. **Credits:** 3 credits
5. **Satisfies a General Education Requirement:** Behavioral or Social Sciences
6. **Prerequisite:** SOC106 or ANT107 or HIS119 or HIS120
7. **Semester Offered:** Fall
8. **Suggested Guidelines for Evaluation:** The final grade is based on written papers, class participation, small group activities, video and documentary evaluation; examinations and a term paper.
9. **General Topical Outline:**
  - A. The African Continent: Introduction to the People of Africa - Map of Africa (size and people)
  - B. The Peopling of Africa - African Customs and Practices: Celebration, Kinship
  - C. African Marriage and Family System (marriage, birth and death), Case Study of the Patrilineal and Matrilineal System
  - D. Gender Stratification and Women Status: patriarchy and female circumcision etc.
  - E. African Music, Celebrations, Dances, and African beautification; arts and crafts
  - F. Inter-tribal Wars, Conflicts and Current Social Issues in Africa
  - G. Socio-cultural Practices with Health Implications and Social Treatment of Illness and Diseases
  - H. African Political & Economic Systems
  - I. African Religion System: Witchcraft and Sorcery
  - J. Case Studies of Selected African Societies