

NWC 109 ✓
African Cultures
Proposals to Change Name and Description

NWC 109

22

Revised
6/89

Proposal for a Name Change and Catalog Description Change
for NWC 109 African Cultures

Proposed Name Change: African Cultures: Equatorial Africa

Rationale: the proposed name more precisely describes the area of the continent actually covered in the course; we have recently created a separate course on the southern African region and some of the North African area is covered in the Middle Eastern Culture course.

Current Catalog Description: A historical-cultural approach to the study of the African cultures illustrating how the concepts of the various social sciences can be utilized in gaining an understanding of unfamiliar cultures.

Proposed Catalog Description: A multidisciplinary approach examining the geographical, historical and socio-political aspects of contemporary equatorial Africa (especially East and West Africa). Topics discussed include early state formation, colonial policies, "traditional" vs "modern" societies, political and economic development problems.

Rationale: This description gives the student much more information concerning the content of the course.

A copy of the current outline is attached which is essentially the same as the original outline in the generic topics covered. The original outline doesn't exist anymore.

Outline:

- A. Introduction
 - 1. Geographical features of the equatorial area
 - 2. Culture zones
 - 3. African languages
- B. African History: selected topics
 - 1. Migration and state formation
 - 2. Colonial period
- C. Contemporary Social Life
 - 1. Social organization: "traditional vs modern"
 - 2. Education
 - 3. Urban development
- D. Economic Change and Development
 - 1. Political change and one party politics
 - 2. Planned economic development after 1945

NWC 109/AAS 109 African Cultures

3 credit hours

Rationale: This course replaces the current Sub-Saharan African Culture and North African courses by incorporating material from both into one course. A new course to replace the course slot occupied by the North African Culture course (SS 108) will be forthcoming.

Prerequisites: None

Rotation: Every spring semester

Description: A historical-cultural approach to the study of African Culture illustrating how the concepts of the various social sciences can be utilized in gaining an understanding of unfamiliar cultures.

I. Introduction

- A. Africa: Problems and Perceptive
- B. Environment, Population and Traditional Society
- C. The Contemporary Map of Africa
 - 1. Geographical Pattern of Development in Africa
 - 2. Elements of the Natural Environment
 - 3. Development and Climatic Patterns

II. The African Past

- A. Reconstructing the African Past
- B. Africa's Prehistoric Past
- C. Two Basic Themes in African History:
 - 1. Migration
 - 2. State Formation
- D. The Spread of Islam
- E. European Rotations with African before 1870
- F. The Colonial Era
 - 1. European Imperialism and the Partion of Africa
 - 2. Racial and Cultural Domination under Colonialism
 - 3. Economics of Colonialism
- G. Decolonization and the Struggle for Independence
 - 1. Decolonization and Nationalism in Historical Perspective
 - 2. Intellectual Roots of African Nationalism
 - 3. African Nationalism and Independence

III. The Traditional in Contemporary Africa

- A. Social and Political Organization in Traditional Societies
 - 1. Marriage and the family
 - 2. Kinship and Descent
 - 3. Social Gratification
 - 4. Political Organization
- B. Economic Man in Africa
 - 1. Traditional Modes of Production
 - 2. Subsistence Farmers vs. Market-oriented Producers
 - 3. Methods of Exchange
- C. African World View and Religion

1. African World View
2. Nature of African Religion
3. African Conceptions of God
4. Symbolic Representation
- D. Traditional Arts of Black Africa
 1. Style and Form
 2. Arts of Security and Social Control
 3. Range of Arts
- E. Traditional Music of Africa
 1. Music Areas of Africa
 2. Music in African Societies

IV. The Forces of Modernization

- A. Economic Change in Contemporary Africa
 1. Before WW II
 2. Planned Economic Development After 1945
- B. Sociocultural Change in Contemporary Africa
 1. Family and Kinship
 2. Education
 3. Urban Development
- C. Political Change and Authoritarian Rule
 1. Elimination of Competitive Party Politics
 2. Mass Participation and Authoritarian Rule
- D. Modern Africa in Literature
 1. French African Literature
 2. English West African Literature
 3. East African Literature
 4. South African Literature in the Context of Apartheid
- E. African in World Affairs
 1. Emergence of Africa as an Active International Force
 2. International Involvement: The Issues
 3. Pan Africanism: Myth or Reality

The above outline merely reflects the content of the course and not the method(s) and order of presentation.

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