

Date Prepared: June 2007

New       Revised  
(Check One)

Effective Date: Spring '09

## COURSE OUTLINE

COURSE PREFIX and NUMBER: His 203

CREDIT HOURS: 3

COURSE TITLE: African Civilization

PREREQUISITES: (*Entry-level competencies required for enrollment*) None

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Examines major social, economic, political and religious developments from earliest times to the present. This is a summer in Ghana/Africa program which will enable our students to get a firsthand experience with the major social, economic, political, and cultural developments in Ghana/Africa from the earliest times to the present. Students will trace the origins and development of the continent's many societies, while studying the themes of ethnicity, relations with other peoples, the Atlantic slave trade, colonialism, and the challenges and opportunities in the post colonial period. Students will recognize the common heritage of peoples of African descent and their contributions to world culture and civilization. Lecture 3 hours per week.

### CONTENT:

- a. The geography of Africa
- b. Early African History including civilizations of upper Nile and North Africa
- c. The Bantu expansion and consequences
- d. Sudanese Kingdoms of West Africa
- e. The Jihads in West Africa
- f. Forest Kingdoms of West Africa including Oyo, Ashanti, Benin and Dahomey
- g. Africa and the trans Saharan trade
- h. The coming of Europeans and the Trans Atlantic Slave trade
- i. Europeans conquest and Colonialism in West Africa
- j. The Struggle for Freedom and the post colonial African society
- k. Africa in the contemporary world

### GENERAL COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Upon successful completion of the course, the student will be able to:

- a) Examine the geography, ethnic composition, economy, religion and culture of ancient and pre-colonial peoples of Africa.
- b) Understand the people and traditions of Africans and how they have survived economically for centuries, on primary industries like weaving, carving, cloth printing and bead making.
- c) Understand the role of the Portuguese, Danes, Dutch, French, British and African Kings in the Trans-Atlantic slave trade.
- d) Explain aspects of African culture which has eluded the Western intellectual in modern times.